

**Columbia County  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
June 12, 2023**

**Present:** Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Theresa Valencia, Mike Weyh, Troy Ryan  
**Also Present:** Chris Polzer, Denise Brusveen, Shonna Neary, Jessica Hale, David Drews, Bob Koch, Pamela Stock, Roger Brandner, Jonathan Stefonek/Lodi Enterprise, NaDeanna Giuffre

**Monthly Agenda Items:**

- 1) Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. by K. Miller.
- 2) Compliance with Open Meeting Law. Posting compliance was met per Open Meetings Law.
- 3) Approval of Agenda. ***Motion was made by L. Miller to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.***
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. ***Motion made by Weyh to approve the previous month meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.***
- 5) Public Input: Co Board Chair Polzer welcomed Chair Keith Miller back.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: Chair Keith Miller thanked all who offered assistance and prayers in his absence.

**Emergency Management.** (Koch)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. ***After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure report, a motion was made by Weyh to approve the report as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.***
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee and made available during the meeting. Koch presented his report and highlighted ongoing and upcoming training, meetings, and projects for May and June. Koch briefed the committee about the various fires to include the Solid Waste fire and Fall River house fire simultaneously occurring on 05/14/23, Pardeeville and Columbus structure fires on 05/23/23, and Solid Waste fires on 05/24-05/25 and the after-action reviews on all was held on 06/01/23. Koch commended the Columbia County Dispatch Center for managing multi-faceted MABAS fire calls with over 30 different fire departments involved. Koch commended his Deputy Coordinator Robert Maier for his quick response, keen abilities, and coordinating food/refreshments donated by over 10 different businesses from the community. The contributing business list will be sent to Chair Polzer. Discussion on flood planning, stats, dam failures, and EM response times. Critical incident school access project continues. L. Miller requested a status on the motor vehicle barricade system that was originally proposed in August 2022 for ARPA funds. Koch advised that it was tabled at the Executive Committee. The status of the motor vehicle barrier system and ARPA fund proposal is unknown.

**Medical Examiner.** (Stock)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. ***After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made by Ryan to approve the report as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.***
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee and made available during the meeting. Chief Deputy ME Pamela Stock introduced herself, spoke about her monthly report, and that May brought 59 calls to include two overdoses (pending toxicology), one motor vehicle fatal, one suicide by gunshot wound, one ATSF donation, and a record of 11 Versiti donations. Deputy ME Courtney Peterson was recently released for solo responses. Both Groenier and Stock recently attended the Death Scene Investigations & Doll Reenactment Training

presented by Keeping Kids Alive in Wisconsin.

**Sheriff's Office/Jail.** (Brandner)

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by L. Miller to approve the report as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Discussion/questions answered. Motion carried.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee and made available during the meeting in binders. The Sheriff thanked MIS/David Drews with the GIS contract movement. The contractor was hired, will update data points, and moving the NextGen911 project forward. After contract discussions and hiring more jail staff, along with several other counties, Columbia County will also have the opportunity to house some US Marshal federal inmates. During a recent high-speed chase, K9 Jax sustained a broken leg. Insurance claim and restitution will be sought. Recovery time will be approximately three-five months. The Sheriff explained that Automotion weekend in the Dells resulted in many arrests and included multiple officers and deputies attacked during a fight. Supervisor Ryan commented that there is growing pushback from the local businesses as the event used to be a benefit to the local businesses, but it has evolved into a weekend filled with recklessness and increased crime. There were a record 55 impaired driving arrests in May. Many of these are the result of concerned citizens calling in complaints. Kourtney Fleischhacker rose to the top during the recent Detective promotional process. Calls for service are up again with May being the second busiest May in eight years. A high-speed chase that began in Juneau County, through Sauk, and Columbia successfully ended with a PIT maneuver just into Dane County by a Columbia County squad. Reportable squad damage was the result of the PIT. There were four overdoses, none were fatal. As directed by the Accounting Office, staff revisions/proposals were moved to August, therefore, the Sheriff's Office's requests for revisions for senior grade for Jail, Dispatch, and Secretary will be brought before this committee in August as part of the 2024 budget request.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 144. There were 36 doctor visits, and 576 nurse screenings. Of the 247 bookings, 74 of those were referred for drug/detox evaluations and services. Questions by Valencia about our jail and the possibility of more drug treatment options. Discussion. The Sheriff explained that jails versus prisons handle the drug addictions very differently due to the time most spend in the facilities. Jails are in/out facilities, while prisons are longer term incarcerations. The county is responsible for medical treatment while individuals are incarcerated and do attempt to recuperate some medical expenses from insurance and individuals upon their release. The sentencing judicial systems rarely order jail holds long enough for them to be fully free of the drugs. Jails are not drug treatment facilities, but the staff does their best to get those individuals the proper resources while incarcerated and for when they are released from custody. It also circles back to individual accountability. Some individuals respond well to treatment and utilize the resources offered, while others do not.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Jailers (2).** Discussion. Jailer Robert Zielinski is retiring after serving Columbia County since 2003. Jailer Journey Dodge has resigned for a position closer to her home. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Position Replacement Request – Jailers (2) as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.*
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Dispatcher.** Discussion. Dispatcher Marcia Levake is retiring after serving Columbia County since 2006. *Motion by Weyh to approve the Position Replacement Request – Dispatcher as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried.*
- 6) **Position Replacement Request – Deputy (2).** Discussion. Deputy Benjamin Oetzman and Deputy Craig Crary have resigned after serving Columbia County since 2006 and 2014, respectively. Both received lateral transfers to the City of Portage Police Department. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Position Replacement Request – Deputy (2) as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.*
- 7) **Position Description – Detective.** The proposed position description was reviewed and discussed. The Sheriff explained that although this will not have a cost for the next 1.5 years, when deputies re-negotiate

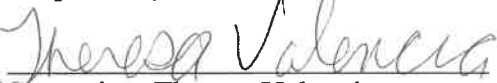
their union contract, they will likely move all Sergeants up in pay. This has previously been reviewed and approved by the Human Resources Committee on 06/09/23. **Motion by Weyh to approve the Position Description – Detective as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.**


- 8) **LTE Jailers.** With the staff shortages (usually 4-5 short) in the jail, these limited term employees will be covered under the current budgeted monies. If successful in locating and hiring these individuals, they will help cover jail shifts and transports when future staff shortages occur. This will be needed for future years as well if/when the jail is short-staffed. The Sheriff explained that even if full-time jailers can be hired and get to full staff now, the jail will still need the part-time jailers this year until the new jailers are trained. The monies are there for this year as the jail has been that short-staffed all year. This will be far less costly than overtime and will help prevent staff burnout. The Sheriff further explained that although this is not a line item in the budget process currently, it may be needed for future budgets. This topic was previously reviewed and approved at the 06/09/23 Human Resources Committee meeting. **Motion by Ryan to approve the LTE Jailers as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.**
- 9) **Opioid Abatement Efforts by Law Enforcement Agencies Grant.** Discussion. The Sheriff explained that this \$151,400 grant will cover a period starting 07/01/23 and ending 06/30/24 and is being sought for additional funding to support efforts in the jail to help combat and reduce drug dependency and addiction problems. If awarded, these funds will reimburse staff costs, equipment and supply needs, and training for both inmates and staff. **Motion by Ryan to approve the Opioid Abatement Efforts by Law Enforcement Agencies Grant as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried.**

Next meeting date: Monday, July 10, 2023, at 9 a.m. at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, John Roche Community Room.

**Motion by L. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 a.m. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Supervisor Theresa Valencia  
Committee Secretary

  
NaDeanna Giuffre  
Recording Secretary

cc: Public Safety Members; Chair Polzer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Brusveen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Rohrbeck; Internet