

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
June 13, 2022**

Present: Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Theresa Valencia, Mike Weyh, Troy Ryan (*Arrived at 0912*)
Also Present: Chris Polzer, Denise Brusveen, Jessica Hale, Shonna Neary, David Drews, Bob Koch, Katelyn Schara, Heather Gove, Stephanie Nickel, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, John Stefonek, 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 posted. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Weyh to approve the previous month meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) Public Input: n/a.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: Chair Miller had no comments; however, Supervisor Liz Miller expressed extreme disapproval of discontinuing the paper copies of meeting paperwork at the meeting. Weyh expressed his interest in wanting paper copies of all paperwork at the meetings as well. Moving forward, paper copies of all paperwork will resume at the Public Safety Committee meetings.

Emergency Management. (Koch)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email and posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee. *After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure report, a motion was made by Weyh to approve the report. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee. Koch presented his report and highlighted his recent meeting with Portage Police Department Citizen's Academy and the Lodi Rotary Club. Great presentations and discussions. Koch met regarding the upcoming full-scale exercise that will take place in September 2022 involving Grande Cheese in Wyocena, Portage Fire and Wyocena Fire. Grant work with WI Emergency Management and neighboring emergency managers to satisfy state requirements for the annual grants. Koch advised he and the Red Cross assisted with a recent fire that occurred in the City of Portage.
- 3) **Review and Possibly Adjust Tower Lease Rate for Upcoming Tower Lease Renewal with Aspirus DSH.** Discussion about their renting space on our tower for their antenna. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the tenant cost of \$165 per month as rent. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) **Position Description – Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator.** Discussion of keeping item #2 Ability to maintain need and accurate sequential accounts under Knowledge, Skills, Licensure, and Experience Required as part of the position description. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the position description for Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator with the correction. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*

Medical Examiner. (Schara)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email and posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made by Weyh to approve the report. Seconded by L. Miller. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** ME Schara provided an overview of her office through a PowerPoint presentation. Chair Miller requested a copy of the presentation be sent to the committee members as well. Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee. Discussion. Schara provided highlights for the month of May stating that there was a total of 39 calls, one overdose death, one suicide, two Covid-related deaths, and nine Versiti donations. Schara discussed that two-five swabs are being done monthly for those cases displaying Covid-type symptoms. Schara and her staff attended a Wellness Retreat for Coroners/Medical Examiners as well as Narcan training that was done on 06/01/22 by Columbia County Health and Human Services Department. The ME intern has started and will be rotating shifts and responding to calls with staff for the summer. Schara further explained that a per diem staff member cut her hours with Columbia County due to conflicts with her full-time job obligations.
- 3) **2023 Position Requests/Revisions – Part-Time Administrative Assistant.** Review/discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the 2023 position request for Medical Examiner Part-Time Administrative Assistant as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) **Position Description – Administrative Assistant.** Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the position description as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **2023 Position Requests/Revisions – Deputy Medical Examiner – 36 hours per week.** Discussion. Viewed costings. *Motion L. Miller to table topics 5) and 6) until the end of the meeting when further 2023 budget numbers and proposed county appropriations could be presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **2023 Position Requests/Revisions – Deputy Medical Examiners (4) – 1000 hours per person per year.** Discussion. Viewed costings.

MAT Program Status Report. (Nickel)

Updates were emailed 06/03/22 and discussed at meeting. For the MAT Program, there are currently 15 consumers in intake, 23 consumers receiving case management, and one pending referrals/outreach. For NNAI, there are currently eight consumers open and one consumer preparing to transition to the MAT Program. Active outreach at the jail continues.

Sheriff's Office/Jail. (Brandner, Bisch, Stilson)

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email and posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by L. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by Weyh. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee. Sheriff Brandner provided highlights to include the following: the Sheriff proudly advised the committee that all new 2022 patrol deputies have successfully completed their field training and are on their own. After waiting close to one year without any applications, a court services deputy applied and following the background investigation was offered employment with the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff advised there were seven overdoses with two saves with the use of Narcan. During a domestic incident, the suspect was out of control,

resisted, and spit on staff resulting in some force needed to arrest and secure the suspect. From a call of a subject on the edge at Gibraltar Rock, through negotiations and quick response to the area, deputies were able to walk the subject down safely. Also, through swift response by Lodi Police Department and Sheriff's Office personnel, law enforcement quickly established rapport through negotiations and the subject with a knife to his neck only suffered minor injuries before surrendering. From an incident that occurred near the ferry, a suspect was arrested and charged with OWI-4th. The Sheriff advised that there has been an all-time high of 56 impaired driving arrests in May. Many years ago, these arrests were predominantly alcohol arrests, but now they are close to 50/50 with about half being alcohol impairment and half being drug impairment. Many of these arrests come from driving complaints or accidents. During a recent road rage incident, one suspect displayed a firearm which later turned out to be a play gun, but those incidents are taken seriously as they are extremely dangerous. Another road rage incident resulted in the suspect fighting with our deputy. Following the Sheriff's Office response to a domestic disturbance, not only were the subjects charged with domestic related charges, but also for their marijuana grow at their residence. With the use of the five K9 units, there has been an increase in drug arrests involving meth and cocaine. Following an incident where a neighbor had a handgun and was threatening, one deputy responded to the scene and was able to negotiate. To better understand the area covered by the four deputies on each shift, the Sheriff showed a geographical map and explained how often our deputies must to respond to incidents and their backup deputy or assistance could be miles away. With lengthier response times, Sheriff's Administration are researching a five-deputy minimum per shift. A threat and subsequent hit list were discussed that included a former Columbia County judge. Security was provided until the threat was resolved. Mental illnesses including dementia patients are rising. Recently a dementia patient walked away and later found by a neighbor. Project Lifesaver is a valuable tool that more citizens should be using to aid family and law enforcement keep their loved ones safe. Good news--DOJ Crime data showed Columbia County below the state average. Discussion about active shooters and incidents. The Sheriff assured the committee that Sheriff's deputies and other municipalities in Columbia County are trained to go in. Although extremely high risk and volatile, these incidents are a No-Win. Everyone tends to criticize all aspects in the aftermath. Training has been done and will continue with schools, businesses, and churches. The justice system must hold these individuals accountable. Supervisor Liz Miller commended Sergeant Cory Miller for his teaching moments during her ridealong. Further questions from Supervisor Troy Ryan about if suspects receiving Narcan are arrested and if further security will be added in the Administration Building by Supervisor Liz Miller were addressed.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Counts: 130. Captain Stilson advised that May had 226 bookings and 232 releases. Medical totals for May were as follows: 88 doctor visits, 570 nurse screens, and two ER visits. Court-ordered Huber privileges were explained. Annual Jail Inspections were explained and that the most recent inspection was just completed. Columbia County again was ranked as very good in areas such as atmosphere, cleanliness, records, medical and kitchen and interviews with inmates. Sheriff Brandner commended Captain Stilson for all he does. The inspector has noted that Columbia County is "one of the best county jails he inspects." Stilson further commended Lieutenant Brian Kjorlie, sergeants, and all staff for their hard work, dedication, and respectful interactions. A tour of the jail will be done for the committee members in the near future.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request - Secretary.** Discussion. After 25 years of serving Columbia County, Kimberly Stilwell is retiring. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the position replacement*

request for Secretary Kimberly Stilwell as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5) **Position Replacement Request - Jailer.** Discussion. Rohwer resigned and leaving to pursue a Monday through Friday position with the Department of Corrections. *Motion by Weyh to approve the position replacement request for Jailer Derrick Rohwer as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **2023 Position Requests/Revisions – Increase Hourly Rates – Court Security Unit Level II and Level III.** Discussion. *Motion by Weyh to approve the 2023 position request/revisions to increase the hourly rates for Court Security Unit Level II and Level III staff as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Medical Examiner. (Schara) Tabled topics from earlier continued at 10:42 a.m.

- 5) **2023 Position Requests/Revisions – Deputy Medical Examiner – 36 hours per week.**
- 6) **2023 Position Requests/Revisions – Deputy Medical Examiners (4) – 1000 hours per person per year.**

Following additional 2023 budget information sought from the Accounting Office and then presented to the committee, Schara provided further details regarding the fiscal impact of the Part-Time Medical Examiner Administrative Assistant, Deputy Medical Examiner (36 hours/week), and (4) Deputy Medical Examiners (1000 hours per person per year). Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Part-Time ME Administrative Assistant, the Deputy Medical Examiner (36 hours per week), and the (4) Deputy Medical Examiners (1000 hours per person per year) as presented with a total county appropriation of \$102,570. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*

Sheriff's Office/Jail resumed at 10:52 a.m.

- 7) **Communications Sergeant Wage Adjustment.** *Motion by L. Miller to enter into closed session at 10:53 a.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(c), considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility [Communications Sergeant Wage Adjustment]. If the Committee goes into closed session, it will return to open session. Seconded by Weyh. Roll Call: K. Miller, L. Miller, Valencia, Ryan, Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*

Others present: Polzer, Brusveen, Neary, Hale, Brandner, Bisch, Stilson, Giuffre.

Closed session.

Motion by L. Miller to re-enter into open session at 11:07 a.m. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by L. Miller to approve the proposed Communications Sergeant Wage Adjustment up to Step 4. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting date: Monday, July 11, 2022 at 9 a.m.

Motion by L. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary of Record,

Theresa Valencia

Supervisor Theresa Valencia
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,

NaDeanna Giuffre

NaDeanna Giuffre
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

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

Approved