

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
June 14, 2021**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl
Also Present: Vern Gove, James Foley, Joe Ruf, Lois Schepp, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, David Clark, Kathy Johnson, Katelyn Schara, ME Ridealong Kim McClyman, David Drews, NaDeanna Giuffre, Portage Daily Register Reporter

Monthly Agenda Items:

- 1) Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. by Polzer.
- 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 K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Long to approve the previous 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 Polzer mentioned today's tour of the jail will immediately follow the meeting portion. Chair Polzer also advised that applications for the Crime Stoppers Board are available.

Emergency Management. (Johnson)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure report, a motion was made by K. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Discussion. Johnson presented her report and highlighted the following topics: discussion on mental health programs available for staff members to include EAP, debriefings, trauma informed care, and the chaplain program. Citizen interest in the Covid vaccination is declining in Columbia County as well as statewide. Tabletop and in-person exercises are resuming.

Medical Examiner. (Schara)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made by K. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Katelyn Schara was congratulated on her being selected to fill the Chief Medical Examiner position for Columbia County. Schara then presented the monthly report and highlighted the following topics: 44 calls for service, one Covid-19 death at the hospital, and more staff are still needed. Schara advised that Lisa Wallenkamp was hired as a new deputy, Pam Stock and Stephanie Wittrock are helping with the administrative duties as time permits, and the office currently has two individuals interested and doing ridealongs. The new van's appointment was expedited and already back and inservice. The old van will be sent to auction. Schara advised the committee that she has been researching capital outlay items to include a web-based case management system, new cots, and updating the grief handbook.

- 3) **Accounts Receivable Write-Off Request.** Discussion. *Motion by Long to approve the Accounts Receivable Write-Off Request for \$250.20 to cover the death certificate and cremation fees on an unclaimed decedent. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by L. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by K. Miller. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Sergeant David Clark provided the committee with an explanation and footage retrieved from one of our body cameras being tested. Clark explained that this body camera links with our current Arbitrator system, has an auto-triggering mechanism, but can also be manually started as well. With the assistance of the MIS Department, remote downloading locations and storage issues are being researched. Remote downloading will enable deputies to download their recordings at alternate locations in lieu of all deputies having to respond to the law enforcement center to download their recordings. Carried over monies will be used for this purchase. No state funding is available yet, but police reform acts may change that.

Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Sheriff Brandner provided highlights of the report to include: J&J vaccinations were offered and administered to interested inmates in the jail. Because there was interest, it is likely more doses will be offered to the inmates again in the future. Following a rip drug deal and subsequent robbery with the use of weapons, shots were fired and two individuals were arrested. With the assistance of the Accounting Office, Lt. Matt Menard, and the Pardeeville Village Board some language was updated and another police protection contract was signed between the village and Columbia County. The Sheriff mentioned that impaired driving arrests keep climbing with 39 in May and three more just this past weekend where all three were 4th offense or higher. There were 10 overdoses in May with two being fatal. A local farmer suffered a great loss when a subject went off-roading in his bean field. The Sheriff's Office's first Cops & Bobbers event in May was a huge success with happy kids who caught fish, 22 staff members who volunteered their time, and many donations and continued support from local businesses. A Huber inmate recently walked away and while doing so, stole a vehicle, caused more thefts, started a high-speed chase, went the wrong way on highway, and subsequently crashed. Thankfully none of these actions resulted in serious injuries to her or any law enforcement officer and she is back in custody. Multiple law enforcement responded to the report of a military plane crash, but later learned inaccurate coordinates were provided and did not occur in Columbia County. The office's goals to provide additional supervisory training is being fulfilled by sending Captain Jason Kocovsky as well as Lieutenant Matt Menard. Following an internal sergeant promotional process, David Clark moved from the detective division to the patrol division and Brian Johnson was promoted to Detective Sergeant. The Sheriff received positive feedback following the highly attended swearing-in ceremony of our new seven staff members on June 1. The Sheriff thanked those from the County Board who were able to attend as that type of public support of his staff members sends a strong message of support to all county staff and their families.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 100. Captain Stilson advised that with fewer secure and Huber inmates being housed in the jail, it is impacting the kitchen staff as well as will negatively impact the anticipated revenue. Supervisor Long further added that with fewer eligible Huber inmates available to work, other county departments such as Solid Waste are also adversely affected. Body scan and searches continue to be done on all intakes with many

drugs being found and seized before they are introduced into the jail. Captain Stilson stated that there were 221 booked and 204 released. There were 65 doctor visits, 506 screenings by the nursing staff, and two ER visits. Inmates with mental health issues persist. Following a recent incident where an inmate was out of control, a jail deputy was punched in the face, another jail deputy suffered a knee injury, and the inmate was placed, remained, and ultimately needed to be transported in the restraint chair.

- 4) **Law Enforcement Social Worker Discussion.** Following a request to research this topic, Sheriff Brandner found that some police departments have a social worker within their departments, but very few counties have made this move. This could perhaps be considered in the future for supplemental help for citizens as there would be a need to help our community and to reduce deputy time on these types of calls. Chair Polzer mentioned at this point in time with the newly energized collaboration between the Sheriff's Office and the Columbia County Health and Human Services Department, this would likely be a duplication of services already provided by Health and Human Services. Efforts to continue this positive working relationship between the two offices were encouraged.
- 5) **Purchase From Another Unit of Government (Arbitrators).** Discussion. The Sheriff's Office was presented with an opportunity to purchase seven used Arbitrators and necessary accessories from DeForest Police Department at a much-reduced cost. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the purchase of the used Arbitrators from DeForest Police Department for \$5,000. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Position Replacement Request - Jailer.** Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement of Jailer Jessica Rodenkirch. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 7) **Resolution – 2021 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant.** Following last month's Public Safety Committee acceptance of the grant process, Captain Todd Horn wrote and the Sheriff's Office was successfully awarded funds for an additional body scanner. *Motion by K. Miller to support the 2021 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant awarded to the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$144,000. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 8) **Jailer Protective Status and Wage Review.** *Motion by Pufahl to enter into closed session at 10:05 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 [Jailer Protective Status and Wage Review]. The Committee will return to open session following the closed session discussion. Seconded by L. Miller. Roll call: Polzer, K. Miller, L. Miller, Long, Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*

Others present: Gove, Foley, Ruf, Schepp, Brandner, Bisch, Stilson, Giuffre.


Closed session.

Motion by K. Miller to re-enter into open session at 10:34 a.m. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by L. Miller to immediately begin the process for Columbia County Jailers to receive protective status. Seconded by K. Miller. By vote: Polzer-yes, K. Miller-yes, L. Miller-yes, Long-yes, with reservations, Pufahl-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m. following tour of jail.
Next meeting date: Monday, July 12, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Secretary of Record,



Supervisor Liz Miller
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,



NaDeanna Giuffre
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

cc: Public Safety Members
Chair Gove, 1st Vice Chair Foley, 2nd Vice Chair Koch
Internet

Approved