

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
July 10, 2023**

Present: Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Theresa Valencia, Mike Weyh, Troy Ryan
Also Present: Chris Polzer, Jessica Hale, Robyn Preston, David Drews, Vicki Matula, Bob Koch, Madeleine Groenier, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, 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 Weyh to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by L. Miller to approve the previous month meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.*
- 5) Public Input: n/a.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: n/a.

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 L. Miller 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. Koch presented his report and highlighted ongoing and upcoming training, meetings, and projects for June and July. Koch briefed the committee about SW Wisconsin Emergency Managers meeting regarding upcoming trainings being offered and potentially hosting in Columbia County. The EM office assisted with several fires in the area and coordinated efforts as well as collect food and refreshment donations from area businesses. Kudos to Kwik Trip for once again aiding the first responders who were working the scenes. Koch attended meetings in preparation for the South Central Wisconsin HERC exercises and then held those exercises at area hospitals and Columbia Co Health Care Center. A I90/94/39 Flooding Potential Mitigation meeting was also held. Federal funds are being sought. A fire and fireworks safety media release was shared statewide. Supervisor Valencia asked for a status update on the EM's dashboard and cell phone access. Koch advised that the process with Corporation Counsel and the MIS office are moving along. Supervisor Valencia asked why the process was taking so long as it has been months since this topic was first discussed. Some changes to the MOU were needed and now being reviewed by Corporation Counsel. The Sheriff discussed a cell tower project in Sauk County that the Sheriff's Office may be able to take part in.
- 3) **Review/Approve Application for NextGen911 2024 GIS Grant.** Discussion. Koch discussed the details, outlined the benefits, and county responsibilities for this grant. This is essentially additional funding for a project already being worked on with EM, Sheriff, MIS, and Land Records Offices. Koch requested the approval to begin the application process. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the application process for the NextGen911 2024 GIS Grant. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*

Medical Examiner. (Groenier)

- 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 L. Miller to approve the report as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.*

- 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. Groenier spoke about her monthly report and that June brought 34 calls to include one fatal motor vehicle accident, one suspected overdose (pending toxicology), one suicide by gunshot wound, and a new record of 14 Versiti donations. Groenier advised that she, along with Stock and Peterson, recently attended the WI Coroner and ME Association Conference in Wisconsin Dells. Stock recently submitted her AMBDI exam application. A new per diem deputy was hired.
- 3) **Revision to the General Employee Handbook – Special Provisions for the Medical Examiner’s Office – On-Call and Call-In Pay.** Discussion. *Motion by Ryan to approve the Revision to the General Employee Handbook - Special Provisions for the ME’s Office for On-Call and Call-In Pay as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) **Resolution – Revision to the Personnel Manual for Management – Special Provisions for the ME’s Office – On-Call and Call-In Pay for Managerial Employees.** Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Resolution – Revision to the Personnel Manual for Management – Special Provisions for the Medical Examiner’s Office – On-Call and Call-In Pay for Managerial Employees as presented and previously approved by the Human Resources Committee. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*

Sheriff’s Office/Jail. (Brandner, Bisch)

- 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 Ryan to approve the report as presented. Seconded by L. Miller.* Discussion/questions answered. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- 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 highlighted the monthly report and spoke about the seven high-speed chases that occurred. In one particular and extremely serious incident, there were several stolen high-end vehicles from Minnesota enroute to Illinois. Some suspects possessed guns and ages ranged from 15 to 19 years old. With growing numbers and increasing citizen concerns, the Sheriff’s Office completed a six-month project and now has staff trained in the ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) program. This program provides the Sheriff’s Office with tips that are then investigated and evidence gathered. There were 64 impaired driving arrests for the month of June. This is once again hitting record highs in our zero-tolerance county. There were two overdoses – one was saved and one was fatal. As of this morning, the Sheriff’s Office was contacted by CP Rail where a female was found to be displaying signs of overdosing on suspected heroin and fentanyl. This female later concealed suspected drugs on her person, a warrant was issued, and most medical facilities failed to comply in removing. The female was later booked into the jail. Following a recent traffic fatality, it was learned that it was alcohol-related and would have been the driver’s seventh OWI offense. With so many new and young staff in many involved agencies, for many of the first responders who managed the scene, this was their first fatal crash incident. Debriefing and counseling were offered and held for those involved. There were 173 welfare checks in June. This confirms that mental health issues continue to grow.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 149. There were 47 doctor visits, 482 nurse screenings, and two mental health commitments from the jail. There were 240 bookings and 226 releases. The Sheriff discussed a recent Wisconsin Legislature vote to increase correctional officer wages and how it will impact jail staffing across the state. Staff shortages are countywide, but are nearing the breaking point for public safety. The Sheriff stressed that the county must take actions to retain staff. Overtime is increasing due to shift coverage. Staffing: currently five short in the jail. If inmate totals allow, the anticipated revenue for holding those federal inmates is projected to be about \$30,100/month. Supervisor Valencia discussed some of the preliminary results of the staff evaluation process and updated the committee regarding its status. The report is being compiled and will be presented. The Sheriff stated that based upon what the county will likely propose for across-the-board wage increases for its current staff

are not enough. In an effort to find good employees, the private sector has caught up or exceeded in competitive wages and now matching benefits as well. The Sheriff asked the committee to consider a significant pay increase for all employees to help with recruitment and retention.

- 4) **Review/Approve Application for NextGen911 2024 PSAP Grant.** Discussion. This is not a new application, but simply a renewal of a recurring grant. *Motion by Ryan to approve the application for the NextGen911 PSAP Grant as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Arlington Watertown Contract.** Discussion. This will renew a 10-year contract that expired in 2021. There is no cost to the county except for removal and reattachment of equipment by an outside vendor. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Arlington Watertown Contract as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Position Replacement Request – Deputies (2).** Deputies Leda Wagner and Nathaniel Fredrick resigned from the Sheriff’s Office. Wagner advised she is leaving law enforcement and Fredrick took a position with the Capitol Police Department in Madison for an \$8/hour wage increase. *Motion by Ryan to approve the Position Replacement Request – Deputies (2) as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.*
- 7) **Position Replacement Request – Jailers (2).** Discussion. Jailers Jill Ostrander and James Bates resigned from the Sheriff’s Office. Ostrander took a different position within Columbia County and Bates plans to return to the Department of Corrections. *Motion by Ryan to approve the Position Replacement Request – Jailers (2) as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.*
- 8) **Position Replacement Request – Dispatchers (2).** Discussion. Dispatchers Nicole Orange was terminated and Dispatcher Hannah Schoen resigned. Both dispatchers were employed with the county for less than six months. *Motion by Ryan to approve the Position Replacement Request – Dispatchers (2) as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.*
- 9) **Dispatcher Compensation Review. ***
- 10) **Sergeant – Supervisory Reorganization and Compensation Review. ***

**The Committee may go into closed session 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 [Dispatcher Compensation Review; Sergeant – Supervisory Reorganization and Compensation Review]. If the Committee goes into closed session, it will return to open session.*

Motion by K. Miller to enter closed session at 10:15 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 [Dispatcher Compensation Review; Sergeant – Supervisory Reorganization and Compensation Review]. Seconded by Valencia. The Committee will return to open session following the closed session discussion. Roll call: K. Miller, L. Miller, Valencia, Weyh, Ryan. Motion carried.

Closed session.

Motion by L. Miller to return to open session at 10:40 a.m. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.

Action on Closed Session Items:

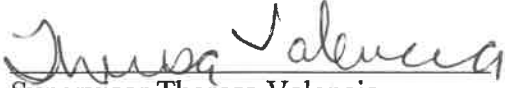
- 9) **Dispatcher Compensation Review.** *Motion by K. Miller to approve the proposal regarding Dispatcher Compensation Review as presented by Sheriff Brandner and discussed and approved in closed session. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.*
- 10) **Sergeant – Supervisory Reorganization and Compensation Review.** *Motion by K. Miller to approve the proposal regarding the Sergeant – Supervisory Reorganization and Compensation Review as presented*

by Sheriff Brandner and discussed and approved in closed session. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried.

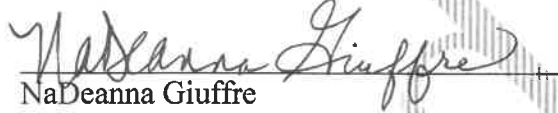
Next meeting date: Monday, August 14, 2023, at 9 a.m.at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, John Roche Community Room.

Motion by Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Supervisor Theresa Valencia
Committee Secretary



NaDeanna Giuffre
Recording Secretary

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

APPROVED