

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
July 12, 2021**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl
Also Present: Vern Gove, James Foley, Joe Ruf, Jessica Hale, Shonna Neary, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, Kathy Johnson, Katelyn Schara, Pam Stock, David Drews, NaDeanna Giuffre

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 Pufahl to approve the agenda as posted. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Pufahl to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Long. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 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. (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: With the assistance and coordination with Melissa Waller, Covid vaccination clinics continue. Approximately 75 doses are ordered. Demographics of those being vaccinated are some from each age group. National Guard is scheduled to come back to assist, but will depend on numbers. Discussed effectiveness of tabletop exercises and Johnson stated they are very beneficial and much is learned at each.
- 3) **River Gauges.** Johnson spoke about the three river gauges in Columbia County: Wisconsin River in Portage, Haynes Bridge in Pardeeville, and the Crawfish River in Columbus. Their usefulness and effectiveness are beneficial to many in those areas and Columbia County as a whole. The current gauges were purchased and installed in 2012 and will likely need to be replaced in 2022 or 2023. Cost sharing with municipalities and potential grant monies was discussed.
- 4) **Review Quarterly Department Vehicle Mileage.** Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the Quarterly Department Vehicle Mileage Report as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Medical Examiner. (Schara)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made by Long 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. Schara presented the monthly report and highlighted the following topics:

below average 37 calls: 33 natural, two accidentals including one overdose by Imodium and a traffic fatality from March. There was one tissue donation, one suicide by CO poisoning, and one state case. Schara recently met with Versiti staff regarding the use of Columbia County facilities for tissue donations. It was estimated that our facilities will be utilized two to 10 times/month which will aid in revenue. Staffing: Kim McClyman accepted a per diem Deputy Medical Examiner position and started July 7. Another ridealong candidate will also be applying. Schara commended the Sheriff's Office for the successful resolution of the Lori Bringe homicide case. The old 2013 van is at auction. A meeting with DHHS Heather Gove and her crisis staff is set for the near future. Schara proudly informed the committee that Deputy ME Pamela Stock was recently awarded the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin's Crystal Vision Award for showing commitment and dedication to raising awareness and educating communities on the importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation.

- 3) **Review Quarterly Department Vehicle Mileage.** Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the Quarterly Department Vehicle Mileage Report as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously*
- 4) **Medical Examiner Office Complaint.** * (This topic will follow the Sheriff's Office portion of meeting.)

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 K. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by Long. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Sheriff Brandner provided highlights of the report to include: Bringe homicide from 1988 received a conviction verdict and finally brought justice to the family. Despite incredible persistence and great efforts with two deputies performing CPR for 1.5 hours, the individual unfortunately passed away. There was a motorcycle fatality. Following a traffic stop near the county line, a fatal accident occurred in Sauk County. Decisions to chase vs. non-chase are continual and must be very cautious in high speed pursuits. June had 37 impaired driving arrests, 47 domestic-related arrests, and a significant drug grow was discovered. A CCI inmate attempting escape was caught on the fence. Following an ERT call in Wisconsin Dells involving drug dealers selling meth, the suspect was ultimately detained in Sun Prairie. There were two drug overdose saves. The suspect in an attempted homicide is still in custody. The three-year Police Services Agreement with the Village of Friesland was approved. All required annual training for the sworn deputies has been completed for 2021. One CSUIII staff member was moved to CSUII position. Health and Human Services Department requested de-escalation and defensive tactics training. This will be done in the next several weeks. Kids' Safety Day held on 07/09/21 in the City of Portage was a huge success with 37 kids and many volunteers from law enforcement, EMS, and Fire personnel. Although not traditional police work, it is believed this will actively promote and educate kids in skills in emergency situations and build rapport with the youth in our communities. The Sheriff's Office also helped an autistic juvenile who loves cops celebrate his birthday. Sheriff Brandner spoke of his recent meeting with Representative Dave Considine regarding use of force and the facts and necessity of qualified immunity for law enforcement officers. Chair Gove was joined by all committee members in commending Sheriff Brandner for his leadership and vision for the future, but also the community efforts, the Village of Pardeeville deputies, Back the Badge signage, swearing-in ceremonies, and having Lt. Matt Menard on the CASA Board. Thanks to Dave Drews and the MIS department in getting the Spillman software app up and running for Fire and EMS admin. The upcoming body

camera project including downloading and storage of data are creating some infrastructure issues within the county, but the Sheriff's Office and MIS are working together for the best solution. This topic as well as the possibility of a broadband project are being discussed at the Executive Committee meeting today. As always, security of data is an ongoing concern. Expenditures for ARPA federal monies are being evaluated. The focus is to generate benefits for future years. Recruitment efforts continue for jail staff. The pre-employment background process has been re-evaluated and it was determined that those high standards and expectations will not be reduced.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 120. Captain Stilson advised with the count up, staff are busy. There were 241 inmates booked and 242 released. There were 75 doctor visits, 635 nurse screens, and three ER visits. The number and amounts of drugs being found and confiscated during the booking process are incredible. The types of drugs being seized from these individuals include THC, meth, heroin, and cocaine. Once seized, these drugs are then placed into evidence, used as part of that inmate's case, and eventually incinerated following the completion of the criminal cases. Chair Polzer commended Captain Stilson on the jail tour from last month. The facilities were clean and the staff very professional.
- 4) **Jail Food Contract.** Discussion. Following the bid process and with the anticipated 150-160 target/goal for housed inmates, the recommendation for the next three-year food contract is with Consolidated Correctional Food Service. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the Sheriff's recommendation of Consolidated Correctional Food Service for a three-year contract. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Medical Examiner (Continued.)

- 4) **Medical Examiner Office Complaint.** * *Motion by K. Miller to enter into closed session at 10:11 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 [Medical Examiner Office Complaint]. The Committee will return to open session following the closed session discussion. Seconded by Long. Roll call: Polzer, K. Miller, L. Miller, Long, Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously. Others present: Ruf, Hale, Giuffre.*

Closed session.

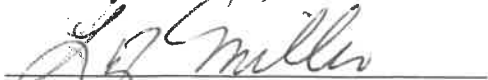
Motion by K. Miller to re-enter into open session at 10:37 a.m. Seconded by Long. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by K. Miller for Corporation Counsel to follow-up with complainant and Medical Examiner Office staff member with the investigation findings. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

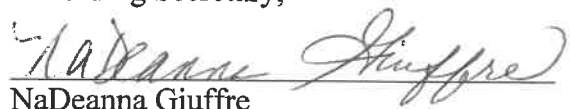
Next meeting date: Monday, August 9, 2021 at 9 a.m.

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