

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
July 13, 2020**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Doug Ferguson
Also Present: Vern Gove, Jim Foley, Susan Fisher, Shonna Neary, Melissa Schneider, Kathy Johnson, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, James Stilson, 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 K. Miller to approve the agenda as posted. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by K. Miller to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried.*
- 5) Public Input: n/a.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: Chair Polzer spoke about a great book that would be a great resource-Police Administration on Organizational Theory. He has a copy and willing to share with anyone interested. Polzer also encouraged the supervisors to schedule ridealongs with our deputies and job shadow in the dispatch center. The Sheriff was thanked for the deputies who deliver the county board packets as it serves as a great opportunity to get to know our deputies.

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.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in binders. Discussion. Johnson reviewed department activities and highlighted that the PPE order requests continue to be sent out every Monday, compiled and submitted on Wednesdays, and delivers the following week. Supplies are being stored and distributed from the JRRCR to other agencies. The EOC weekly virtual calls continue. It was learned that approximately 24,000 masks and an undisclosed number of thermometers will be delivered to both public and private schools over the next several weeks. School reopening discussions and plans continue. The WI Disaster Fund applications were submitted from the storms in early June 2020 in Portage and Pardeeville areas and both are eligible for reimbursement.

MATRS Update. (Schneider)

Melissa Schneider introduced herself to the committee and gave background into the program stating that referrals can be done by anyone, but primarily come in from law enforcement, jail staff, Probation and Parole, and interested participants/clients themselves. Schneider works with Divine Savior, Jail HSU, transport, and the vivitrol program. Labs are done at the jail and then coordination occurs with DHHS, jail staff, clinic, and Madison Trauma Therapy. Most providers are in Portage, but more providers are being sought. Schneider advised that Lori King was hired as the new MAT Program Coordinator. Schneider advised that she is the case manager for the jail only and follows participants for 60 days. Following the 60 days, participants are transferred to Madison Trauma Therapy. If individuals seek suboxone, those candidates are also transferred to Madison Trauma Therapy. Chair Polzer reiterated that monthly appearances are not required, but a monthly written report would be appreciated.

Medical Examiner. (Brandner. Hinze was unable to attend meeting due to an ongoing call.)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made to approve the report by K. Miller. Seconded by Long. Motion carried.*

- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in binders. Discussion. Brandner provided a brief overview of what Hinze provided in her monthly activities identifying that autopsies are up as well as fatal crashes and suspicious deaths. A different transport van will be requested in the 2021 budget process. Should anyone have specific questions, please contact ME Hinze directly.

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

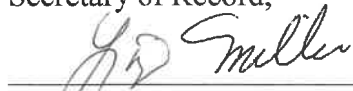
- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made L. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity reports were provided in binders. The Sheriff provided highlights stating that the Sheriff's Office and patrol activity are extremely high. Columbia County's fatal crashes are up with seven in seven days and 43 OWI/impaired driving arrests in June. The Sheriff informed the committee that the methamphetamine problem in Columbia County has sharply increased with 73 calls involving meth since January 2020. Education and prevention are much more effective than treatment after the usage and addictions begin. The drug unit is working hard to do what they can, but the detective assigned to do drug work has been pulled away to work other investigations. Referrals are made to the MAT Program when possible, but the program and communication have not been the same since Davenport's departure. Whenever children are involved in these drug calls, Human Services and DEC are brought in as soon as possible. Supervisor Ferguson commended and thanked the Sheriff's Office and further asked that with the increased calls, officer safety, and uptick in drug activity are additional deputies needed. The Sheriff thanked the committee and the County Board for their continued support and advised that future requests for additional staff may be necessary. Sheriff Brandner spoke of a recent traffic stop where there was an accusation of racial profiling. After reviewing the audio and video of the traffic stop, the accusation was proven to be false. The Sheriff's Administration takes these complaints very seriously and encourages people to ask the questions and not make assumptions. K9 units were recently deployed to train and sniff as part of an ongoing drug investigation in the jail. From this investigation, many felony drug charges and a possible vehicle seizure are being worked on. The Sheriff spoke to the committee about the Sauk and Columbia County Peer Support/Critical Incident Stress Debrief team and further commended Captain Stilson for his contributions on that team.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 126. Stilson advised that it is a balancing act, but the decision was made to allow Huber inmates to go back out to work with many added precautionary measures to protect themselves, fellow inmates, and jail staff. Stilson advised that county holds are up as well housing nine federal inmates. Monthly medical visits included 69 doctor visits, 300 nursing screenings, and four ER visits. Following a recent allergic reaction in the jail, new jail RN Jordan Holst completed EpiPen training for all jail staff. COVID screenings at the courthouse will be done. Facilities Management will be installing barriers and CSU will be wearing masks.
- 4) **Resolution: Create Sheriff's Office Patrol Commander Captain Position.** Todd Horn was assigned to more patrol admin duties approximately two months ago due to heightened concerns with ongoing homicide and serious investigations in the detective division and increased liability concerns in response to the protests and rioting problems involving the patrol division. The Sheriff proposed that the separation of duties and adjusting the command structure at this point in time, would not only benefit the office, but the county as well. The financial impact for 2020 is \$1,660 for this position change. The Patrol Captain job description was drafted and forwarded onto Corporation Counsel for their review. Discussion. *Motion by K. Miller to approve the Resolution: Create Sheriff's Office Patrol Commander Captain Position as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried.*
- 5) **2021 Position Revision Requests.** a) Reclassing Patrol Lieutenant to Patrol Captain (estimated fiscal impact for 2021: \$3,780). b) Part-Time Secretary from 20 hours to 32 hours/week without health insurance (estimated fiscal impact for 2021: \$14,640). Discussion. *Motion by K. Miller to approve these position revisions as presented. Seconded by Long. Motion carried.* c) Dispatch Sergeant from Step 7 to Step 10 (estimated fiscal impact for 2021: \$5,030). Discussion. *Motion by K. Miller to approve this position revision as presented. Seconded by Ferguson. Motion carried.* Chair Gove commented that he is a

proponent in keeping good staff. The Sheriff advised that the transparency component is imperative to him and is making sound decisions with the entire county in mind.

Motion by K. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Seconded by Long. Motion carried.

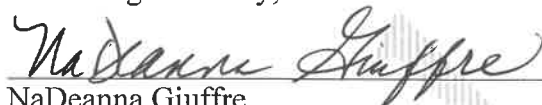
Next meeting date: Monday, August 10, 2020 at 9 a.m.

Secretary of Record,



Supervisor Liz Miller
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,



NaDeanna Giuffre
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

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

Approved