

**Columbia County  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
August 14, 2023**

**Present:** Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Theresa Valencia, Mike Weyh, Troy Ryan  
**Also Present:** Chris Polzer, Denise Brusveen, Darren Schroeder, Joseph Ruf, Shonna Neary, David Drews, Bob Koch, Madeleine Groenier, Pamela Stock, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Lodi Enterprise Jonathan 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 presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Ryan to approve the previous month meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.*
- 5) Public Input: n/a.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: Chair Miller commented that following his review, the Sheriff's Office has been and is again under budget. Retention of staff should be one of the primary goals for this budget.

**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 Ryan. 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 July and August. Koch briefed the committee about his hosting the Southwest Regional Emergency Managers on 07/20/23. There was an aircraft crash on 07/21. Following the successful joint exercise with Marquette County Sheriff's Office, it was discussed that replacing the backup equipment will be required at some point in the future. Koch's office provided first responder refreshments during a MABAS call grass fire in Arlington. Motorola completed a walkthrough of the 911 system. There was a paging channel failure on 07/27 where the backup system through the phones was implemented. Baycom assisted in getting paging system back up and operational. Koch advised that he responded and assisted the Dispatch center with NWS communications for the severe weather that passed through Columbia County on 07/28-07/29. There were 40+ powerlines down and 200+ trees down. Off-duty dispatchers came into work to assist wherever they could. Safety measures were enacted and the citizens at the County fair were evacuated. Sheriff Brandner commended Koch for his quick response and dedication. Great partnerships with emergency personnel were once again displayed. Koch thanked Chair Polzer for his expedited action in the declaration of disaster. Through this, efforts in seeking restoration and recovery reimbursements have already begun. Chair Polzer also thanked Koch for his communication and great representation of his EM office and the county. The FirstNet and AT&T cell-on-wheels was deployed during a recent double drowning call where cell reception was spotty. Koch advised that he now has access to the Dashboard and thanked those involved who made that happen.
- 3) **Review/Approve 2024 Annual Budget.**  
Emergency Management (2115) Budget. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Emergency Management 2024 budget as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$96,390.

Emergency Management (451) Capital Outlay: \$149,500. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the 2024 Emergency Management Capital Outlay as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*

S.A.R.A (2116) Budget. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the S.A.R.A. 2024 budget as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$61,520.

Hazmat (2117) Budget. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Hazmat 2024 budget as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$0.

Hazard Materials Grant (2126) Budget. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the 2024 Hazard Materials Grant budget as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$0.

**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 July brought 47 calls to include one fatal motor vehicle accident and nine Versiti donations. Groenier advised that the on-call pay structure for FTE employees has been initiated. Following a very difficult traffic fatality, her office attended a debriefing that also included Arlington Fire, EMS, and Sheriff's Office staff. Groenier advised that Deputy ME Taylor Birkett started on 07/05.
- 3) **2024 Position Requests/Revisions: Full-Time Employee.** Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve one full-time employee beginning in 2024 as presented. Seconded by Weyh. K. Miller-no. Motion carried.*
- 4) **Review/Approve 2024 Annual Budget.**  
Medical Examiner (1270) Budget. *Motion by Ryan to approve the Medical Examiner 2024 budget as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$201,270.

Medical Examiner (101) Capital Outlay: \$51,460. Discussion. *Motion by K. Miller to postpone purchasing response vehicle, vehicle changeover, and vehicle equipment (tray for cots) until 2025 budget. Seconded by Weyh. K. Miller-yes, Weyh-yes, Valencia-yes, Ryan-yes, L. Miller-no. Motion carried.*

**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 Weyh. 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 began by discussing staffing. **Dispatch:** The Sheriff advised that four of the five openings in the dispatch center have been offered employment. Brandner thanked HR/Corporation Counsel and specifically Jessica Hale in their concerted efforts in making the interviews happen as well as helping to facilitate the wage increases for the dispatch center staff. The pay increase is the only thing that changed, so it made a difference in getting applications. **Patrol:** The Sheriff advised that the patrol division is now short five deputies and after a round of position postings, no certified candidates accepted the job. The Sheriff further advised that they currently do not have any certified candidate applications and that something needs to be done to attract qualified

applicants to Columbia County. The possibility of re-opening the sworn contract and increasing lateral wages and reduce the time it takes to reach top pay to retain the current staff was discussed. The committee was receptive to this and supported the Sheriff in proceeding. Discussions with the union representatives and county executives will be held this week regarding this possibility. Jail: The Sheriff advised that although some jail candidates are applying, many fail the background investigation. The jail is currently four jailers short. The Sheriff then highlighted the monthly report and spoke about the double drowning incident and the debriefing that followed. K9 Mattis retired. Following an error by the Sheriff's Office in destroying property deemed to be abandoned, a replacement bicycle was purchased for the subject. There were two high-risk calls involving firearms. Through the quick action and bravery by law enforcement, both incidents were resolved without injury. The Sheriff advised that a drug-addicted pregnant inmate requires daily transports to the methadone clinic in Madison. After the promotional process, Joshua Rider was promoted to Detective effective 08/19/23. The opioid grant for the jail was initially approved. A meeting will be set with Health and Human Services to discuss details and the Sheriff is hopeful to offset budget with some of the funds.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 146. There were 46 doctor visits, 541 nurse screenings, 43 detox assessments, and seven ER visits. Eighteen inmates are being held for revenue. The jail inspection report showed zero violations. Despite being short-staffed and increased inmates, high standards are continually met to reach this goal. The Sheriff commended all of the jail staff, jail leadership, as well as Facilities Management for this successful achievement. Supervisor L. Miller further thanked staff and recognizes and appreciates the work being done. Supervisor Valencia inquired about ideas to thank county staff, however per policy, gifts and gratuities cannot be accepted by county employees unless offered and given to all staff.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request - Jailer.** Discussion. Jailer Paige Mutchler returned to her former position at Adams County. *Motion by Ryan to approve the Position Replacement Request – Jailer as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried.*
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Deputy.** Discussion. Deputy Nicholas Willman transferred to Fond du Lac Police Department for an \$8/hour increase in wage. *Motion by Weyh to approve the Position Replacement Request – Deputy as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.*
- 6) **Position Replacement Request – Dispatchers (2).** Discussion. Dispatcher Spencer Trevorow is moving on to become a law enforcement officer. Dispatcher Tianna Hecht took a position with Sauk County for a Monday-Friday job. *Motion by Ryan to approve the Position Replacement Request – Dispatchers (2) as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.*
- 7) **LTE Dispatchers.** Discussion. Non-budgetary and if able to hire candidates, they would supplement staffing during shortages. *Motion by Weyh to approve the LTE Dispatchers as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.*
- 8) **Review/Approve 2024 Annual Budget.**  
Sheriff Administration (2222) Budget. Discussion. *Motion by Ryan to approve the 2024 Sheriff's Administration budget as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$6,159,680.

Boat Patrol (2224) Budget. Discussion. *Motion by Weyh to approve the 2024 Boat Patrol budget as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$11,620 including Capital Outlay Non-Pool: \$2,250.

Dive Team (2226) Budget. Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the 2024 Dive Team budget as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$39,150 including Capital Outlay Non-Pool: \$16,100.

Drug Education and Enforcement (2240) Budget. Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the 2024 Drug Education and Enforcement budget as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$82,850. Capital Outlay Non-Pool: \$0.

County Jail (2250) Budget. Discussion. *Motion by Weyh to approve the 2024 Jail budget as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$4,497,020.

(Supervisor Valencia left meeting at approximately 11:50 a.m.)

9-1-1 (2911) Budget. Discussion. *Motion by Weyh to approve the 2024 911 budget as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.* County Appropriation: \$1,601,160. Capital Outlay Non-Pool: \$0.

Capital Outlay:

8000.844000.345 Building Security/Camera System. Discussion. *Motion by Ryan to approve the Building Security/Camera System 2024 Capital Outlay request of \$84,050 as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*

8000.844000.401 Sheriff's Administration. Discussion. *Motion by Weyh to approve the Sheriff's Administration 2024 Capital Outlay request of \$56,580 as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.*

8000.844000.402 County Jail. Discussion. *Motion by Ryan to approve the County Jail 2024 Capital Outlay request of \$9,500 as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*

8000.844000.406 Sheriff-Autos. Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Sheriff-Autos 2024 Capital Outlay request of \$399,250 as presented. Seconded by Ryan.* Discussion. If possible, a LIT may be done later this year to offset the request. *Motion carried unanimously.*

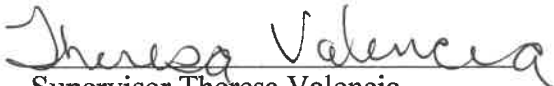
9) **2024 Position Requests/Revisions:**

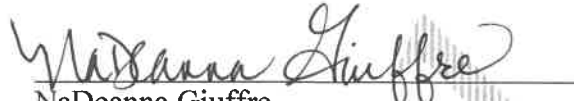
- **Change and Reclassify Qualifying Advanced Jail Positions with Compensation Grade Increases.** Discussion.
  - Jailer II position description reviewed and discussed. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Jailer II position description as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.*
  - Jailer II wage increase reviewed and discussed. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Jailer II wage increase totaling \$30,170 as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.*
- **Change and Reclassify Qualifying Advanced Secretary Positions with Compensation Grade Increases.** Discussion.
  - Secretary II position description reviewed and discussed. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Secretary II position description as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.*
  - Secretary II wage increase reviewed and discussed. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Secretary II wage increase totaling \$13,540 as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.*
- **One (1) Part-Time Court Services Unit Jail Transport Deputy.** Discussion. Sheriff Brandner withdrew the request for this position request.
- **Jail RN Nurse/Health Care Services Administrator Compensation Increase.** Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the compensation increase totaling \$5,870 as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.*

Next meeting date: Monday, September 11, 2023, at 9 a.m.at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, John Roche Community Room.

*Motion by L. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 12:26 p.m. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

  
Supervisor Theresa Valencia  
Committee Secretary

  
NaDeanna Giuffre  
Recording Secretary

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

Approved