

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
September 12, 2022**

Present: Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Theresa Valencia, Mike Weyh,

Absent w/Notice: Troy Ryan

Also Present: Chris Polzer, Denise Brusveen, Joseph Ruf, Jessica Hale, Shonna Neary, David Drews, Bob Koch, Robert Maier, Madeleine Meeker, Heather Gove, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, Jon 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 posted. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.***
- 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 unanimously.***
- 5) Public Input: n/a.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: n/a

MAT Program Status Report. (H. Gove)

Monthly updates were discussed at meeting and provided in the meeting binders. The MAT Program continues to grow and while the program was fully funded initially, it no longer is. Discussions are being had on how to adjust for the increase in cost. Decisions will be made in the near future the best way to continue this program. Sheriff Brandner added that in order for programs such as MAT and NNAI to be functional and have positive success stories, the trifecta must occur – education, enforcement, treatment. Without any one of these functions, programs like these will fail our citizens.

Emergency Management. (Koch)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and during the meeting. ***After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure report, a motion was made by Weyh to approve the report. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.***
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee. Koch presented his report and highlighted ongoing training, meetings, and projects for August. Koch further advised that there was a keybox failure where all four keyboxes needed a reboot. The EPCRA and EMPG 15-month grant term is switching to a calendar year term cycle. The Hazard Mitigation Project on the Fox River Road is now closed out with the state. The new Deputy Coordinator Robert Maier started on 08/29/22 and was introduced to the committee.

Medical Examiner. (Meeker)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and during the meeting. ***After a review of the Medical***

Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made by L. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Meeker provided highlights for the month stating that of the 43 call in August. There was one suicide, six overdoses (pending toxicology), five covid19 deaths (each with comorbidities), four autopsies, and eight Versiti donations. Meeker advised that the new Deputy ME Courtney Miller started on 08/18/22 and the summer intern Shania's last day was 08/03/22.
- 3) **Medical Examiner's Office Management and Organization.** This topic was tabled to the last topic of the meeting.

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

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and during the meeting. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by L. Miller to approve the report. 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. Sheriff Brandner spoke about the \$161,235 revenue earned this far in 2022 from housing inmates from Dodge County. Supervisor Liz Miller spoke about the inmate food contract and how it was going. Sheriff Brandner reported that that was one area that was cut in the previous budget. Better inmate compliance surprisingly is impacted by the food quality and quantity. L. Miller commended that the county's proposal of "blanket cost cutting" will have ramifications that cannot be overlooked. Sheriff Brandner spoke about the current staff shortages, challenges being faced, and provided examples of what other county Sheriffs are doing to combat so few candidates even applying in Columbia County. Examples of what other counties are doing are providing lateral transfers with increased wages, time off, and sign-on bonuses. These are not cure-all solutions, but are getting candidates to at least apply. It seems that law enforcement interest in the field is decreasing. Discussion about golf carts on county and state roadways. The risk versus reward of usage of them on roadways must be scrutinized. The Sheriff spoke about another high-speed chase on USH 151 where the vehicle took off and as the chase ensued, passengers jumped out of the vehicle which resulted in injuries. The Dispatch Sergeant position was filled by current dispatcher Angie Haase. Welfare calls continue to increase with 139 calls in August. Although incident calls are at heightened levels, very serious crime remains low. The Sheriff advised that although the office has five detectives, one has been dedicated to performing background investigations as the hiring process in most divisions is ongoing. The standards for hiring new staff will not be softened and the results of them are one in three typically fail the strict standards.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Counts: 168. There have been 260 bookings and 163 released. Medical totals for August were as follows: 135 doctor visits and 756 nurse assessment/screens. Drug issues and overdoses persist. Jail staff have been vigilant as inmates are coming in or attempting to come into the jail with drugs. Searches, drug awareness (signs, side effects, etc), and mental health monitoring are crucial and ongoing.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request - Jailer.** Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the position replacement request for Jailer Steven Dittman as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.*

- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Jail HSU Nurse.** Discussion. *Motion by Weyh to approve the position replacement request for Jail HSU Nurse Jordan Holst as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Position Replacement Request – Deputy.** Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the position replacement request for Deputy Michael Rosecky as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 7) **Sick Time Donation Requests.** Discussion. A) First employee. All benefits were exhausted. Short-term request. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Sick time Donation Request for first employee. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.* B) Second employee. Due to being a newer employee, all benefits were exhausted and additional time off is needed. *Motion by Weyh to approve the Sick Time Donation Request for second employee. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 8) **Jail HSU Nurse Starting Wage.** Discussion. With only one applicant and the candidate being fully qualified, in order for her to accept the job, an increase is being requested.

Medical Examiner.

- 3) **Medical Examiner’s Office Management and Organization.** This topic was tabled from earlier in the meeting.

Motion by L. Miller to enter into closed session at 10:07 a.m. pursuant to WI State Statute Section 19.85(1)(c), Stats., considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility [Medical Examiner’s Office Management and Organization]. If the Committee goes into closed session, it will return to open session. Seconded by Valencia. Roll call: Weyh-yes, L. Miller-yes, K. Miller-yes, Valencia-yes, Ryan-absent. Motion carried.

Closed Session.

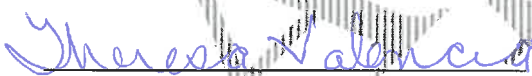
Motion by L. Miller to return to open session at 10:35 a.m. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.

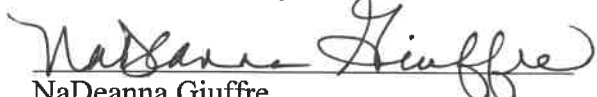
Next meeting date: Monday, October 10, 2022 at 9 a.m.

Motion by L. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary of Record,

Recording Secretary,


 Supervisor Theresa Valencia
 Committee Secretary


 NaDeanna Giuffre
 Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

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

ALC