

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
September 14, 2020**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Nancy Long

Excused Tardiness: Liz Miller (arrived at 9:20 a.m.)

Also Present: Vern Gove, Jessica Hale, Shonna Neary, Kate Young, Lori King, Kathy Johnson, Angela Hinze, Katelyn Schara, Roger Brandner, 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 Long. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by K. Miller to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Polzer. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) Public Input: n/a.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: Chair Polzer advised that filling the Public Safety Committee vacancy upon Supervisor Doug Ferguson's resignation is underway. Chair Polzer also reiterated that any absence or tardy notices should be sent to Chair Polzer directly.

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 Long. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in binders. Discussion. Johnson presented her report and highlighted the following topics: Wisconsin Disaster Fund updates, the scheduled Lake Mason draw down, and the UVC and Fit testing kit purchasing. County Board Chair Gove commended and thanked Johnson for her research in finding and purchasing comparable disinfecting UV devices for more of the county buildings. These devices can and plan to be used throughout the upcoming cold and flu seasons and well into the future. A policy for usage will be developed in order to protect our staff.

Medical Examiner. (Hinze, Schara)

- 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 unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in binders. Discussion. Hinze discussed her monthly report and highlighted that due to state-waived fees, approximately \$4,284 have been returned to the funeral homes. This will have an impact on her budget.

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

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made 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 binders. The Sheriff provided highlights stating that the Sheriff's Office patrol activity continues to be heightened. In addition to a weekend of back to back dangerous calls as well as a hazardous situation on the interstate, deputy and secretarial overtime hours continue to rise. The Sheriff stated there were 44 impaired driving arrests, 44 domestics, an ATV fatal, and an accident involving a golf cart where a 17-year-old was the victim in August. The Sheriff's Office advised the office is receiving continued positive reinforcement and support

from the public from the Back the Badge sign sales as well as further mentioned a recent occurrence involving Sheriff's Office Deputy Zenk where children at a local park engulfed her with hugs and the parents asked to take a photo which was later shared with the Sheriff. An additional large sum donation from a local business will match up to \$20,000 for an additional K9 Unit for the Sheriff's Office. The selection process for that fourth K9 handler for a dual-purpose dog has begun. The Sheriff advised that the Sheriff's Office was awarded an unprecedented \$50,000 third annual drug trafficking grant for more equipment. Two more license plate readers will be purchased. Recent drug activity included a meth drug bust which resulted in two deputies fighting with the suspect and ultimately one deputy was injured. Also, following a tip from a county employee who had witnessed suspected drug activity in the City of Portage, several ounces of meth were recovered. To better assist with detecting concealed drugs before they are brought into the jail, the Sheriff discussed the possibility of a body scanner being purchased and implemented in the jail. This body scanner can also be used to detect viruses to include Covid or other illnesses before an inmate enters the jail. Because Covid assistance funds are still available for Columbia County, the Sheriff was instructed to research body scanner options, costs, and contact the Accounting Office.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 104. Stilson advised that monthly bookings were at 197 and 208 releases. Medical visits included 77 doctor visits, 353 nursing screenings, and one ER visit. MATC programming has always been a great program for inmates and has since resumed. From an unusual incident this past weekend, an inmate, while utilizing a concealed personal piece of body art, damaged a jail cell window with using the piece of metal. With the persistent uncertainties of the courthouse reopening and many staff still working from home, Zoom continues as primary modes for most hearings.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request - Jailer.** Discussion. *Motion by Long to approve the position replacement request for a jailer as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Line Item Transfer.** Following last month's budget discussion, a line item transfer is needed to purchase a vehicle that was not included in the 2021 budget. This request has already gone before the Finance Committee contingent to today's vote. *Motion by K. Miller to approve the Line Item Transfer of \$72,000. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Radio Tower Project Update.** Discussion. Through much dedication and follow-up, CD Bisch was able to secure half of the upgrade payment from AT&T. More towers are being erected in the county and should improve reception. The Sheriff's Office and County Highway have been meeting to discuss a law enforcement channel where they will have access to mobile data. Testing and studies continue. If all goes as planned, tower construction on Wall Street Road should be done by 09/18/20.
- 7) **Village of Pardeeville Police Contract Update.** The Sheriff's Office is working with Accounting to secure a better and more equitable price for police services. As part of this updated contract, a lieutenant will oversee and three deputies will be needed to adequately cover work in the village. The village board met and agreed to the changes.

Advisory Items:

Supervisor Liz Miller requested that based on previous discussions, she wished to possibly have Health and Human Services be placed on the next PSC agenda to begin discussions what law enforcement needs from their office. The Sheriff advised that law enforcement needs better service from HHS on Chapter 51.15s as well as care for those citizens suffering from dementia issues. Unfortunately for our citizens, the common trend has been where law enforcement becomes saddled with these types of clients without the proper support. The Sheriff and Captain Horn plan to meet with the newly appointed director to discuss moving forward with protocols, concerns with Northwest Connections, etc. before the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

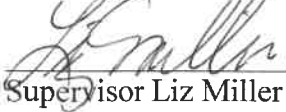
wards. Chair Polzer mentioned that he would be presenting a volunteer award this evening and challenged the committee along with our citizens to bring forth and nominate those worthy of such recognition. The Sheriff advised those new to the committee that the Sheriff's Office also hosts an annual Awards Banquet where a

committee is charged with evaluating and awarding citizens and law enforcement through established criteria. The nomination form can be found on the Sheriff's Office website.

Motion by K. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 a.m. Seconded by Long. Motion carried unanimously.


Next meeting date: Monday, October 12, 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