

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
October 10, 2022**

Present: Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Theresa Valencia, Mike Weyh, Troy Ryan
Also Present: Chris Polzer, Joseph Ruf, Jodi Burmania, Shonna Neary, David Drews, Bob Koch, Madeleine Meeker, Heather Gove, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, Ryan Ringelstetter, 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. Item #4 under Medical Examiner was requested to be moved to the last item of the meeting. *Motion was made by L. Miller to approve the agenda with the noted change. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Weyh 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)

Gove explained that the MAT Program will no longer exist as it once had. With no funding and down two staff members, the program cannot continue. Those candidates who qualified for the program were moved to CCS division and the others were released. The next grant funding will only serve those without insurance. Because of no resources in Columbia County, 46 candidates remain on the wait list.

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 L. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by Valencia. 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 September. Koch further advised that he performed a county-wide insurance inventory. Poynette Safety Days was a great success. Chair Polzer further commented how well-attended the event was and how well the county was represented by staff who volunteered their time to help educate at the event. Koch advised that he and Maier attended the WI EM Management Association Conference in Stevens Point. Koch advised that Maier is updating the Project Lifesaver and it is moving forward successfully. Options are being researched to include a more modern GPS system. Findings will be proposed to the Sheriff and Chief Deputy. The Southern WI Integrated Warning Team Workshop was held on 09/27/22. This workshop consisted of EM managers, National Weather Service, and news stations weather forecasters who met to discuss better ways to reach the homeless, deaf, and non-English speaking citizens with warnings. Koch also advised that the E-MABAS trainings have begun for Fire and EMTs. Training for dispatch is upcoming.

Koch provided the quarterly mileage report. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the quarterly mileage report as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.*

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 Weyh to approve the report. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Meeker provided highlights for the month stating that there were a total of 37 calls, including one drowning, one overdose, one fatality involving a juvenile, and one Covid death. There were two autopsies and two Versiti donations. For the first time ever, ME staff attended and setup a booth display at the UW Platteville Career Fair on 09/28/22. Along with EMS and law enforcement, ME staff also attended a debriefing session following the juvenile fatality. More resources are being assemble with Health and Human Services for the NOK interview packet. Staff have been registered for the Fall 2022 WCMEA Conference.
- 3) **Request Authorization to Hire LTE.** Burmania discussed the proposal to retroactively begin from 08/26/22 and to conclude 12/31/22. Discussion. *Motion by K. Miller to support and recommend the hiring of an LTE for the Medical Examiner's Office as proposed. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) **Medical Examiner's Office Management and Organization.** This topic was tabled to the last topic of today's 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. Discussion. 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 continual struggles with mental health and drug with more and more inmates coming into the jail while under the influence. The jail staff are also not immune from critical incidents. The Sheriff spoke about a recent incident involving a female who smuggled in a knife. The internship program was a success from this past summer. The involved a female who is currently attending FVTC wants to come to Columbia County upon completion of her program. The hiring process and the involvement from Human Resources has been incredible. It is not uncommon to have short-noticed interviews where HR staff drop what they are doing and attend the interviews. The standards and expectations of candidates remain high. Following a suspicious death, the Sheriff commended the detective division for their dedication and pursuit of evidence. Some staff were on duty and working the scene for 36+ hours. A critical incident debriefing was held following the recent child-related fatality. Several deputies, dispatchers, and other first responders attended. The Sheriff thanked Chair Polzer for allowing the Sheriff's Office to hold the recent swearing-in ceremony at the beginning of the September County Board meeting. Calls for service are high, and the higher than they have been in the past 10 years, except during the pandemic. Welfare checks totaled 155. The Sheriff spoke about a recent problem that developed at Aspirus Divine Savior Hospital ER when even though a warrant was issued, the medical staff refused to do a thorough cavity search on an inmate who was thought

to be concealing contraband and they proceeded to send the inmate back to jail. It was later found that the inmate did in fact have enough drugs hidden and concealed in their body cavity to kill them. The hospital's refusal to do their job and follow a court order is alarming. If they refuse to do their job, the Sheriff's Office will still do theirs. The Sheriff spoke about an email received from the Land Information Department indicating that after losing a position through the budget process, they would no longer be able to fulfill certain duties. The Sheriff advised that these are crucial and critical duties that affect the operations of the Dispatch Center. They deal with address accuracy when someone dials 911. Not having this department to do these duties is not an option. The GIS entries for the Next Gen 911 project must be done as the upgrade cannot move forward without them. A new plan must be determined so these duties are still covered by the county. The Sheriff met with LI Dean Kaderabek and EM Bob Koch to try to come up with a Plan B.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Counts: 162. There have been 233 bookings and 232 released. The temporary medical RN's term is ending as Traci Bartels is back. The replacement RN starts 10/17/22. There has been a notable uptick since summer with inmates who consumed drugs and the necessity of medical clearances before placing them into the jail.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Patrol Deputy.** Discussion. *Motion by Weyh to approve the position replacement request for Deputy Chad Lovelace as presented. Seconded by L. Miller Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Dispatchers.** Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the position replacement requests for Dispatchers Hanna Hathorne and Robert Johnson as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Line Item Transfer.** Request for \$50,000 from Prisoner Food and \$46,500 from Medical/Physicals be transferred to Sheriff's Office Outlay-Autos to purchase squad cars. These monies will be used in 2022 or requested to be carried over into 2023 if vehicles are not available this year. *Motion by L. Miller to approve this Line Item Transfer as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 7) **2023-2024 Sheriff Sworn Union Contract.** Burmania spoke about how the negotiations were successful and the tentative offer was ratified with the union. Now the committees must review and forward it onto the County Board. Chair Polzer thanked the Sheriff's Office and the committee for their professionalism. *Motion by K. Miller to approve the 2023-2024 Sheriff Sworn Union Contract as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Medical Examiner.

- 4) **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 10:08 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.

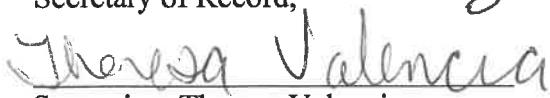
Motion by L. Miller to return to open session at 10:31 a.m. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by L. Miller to accept the considerations made in closed session. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting date: Monday, November 14, 2022 at 9 a.m.

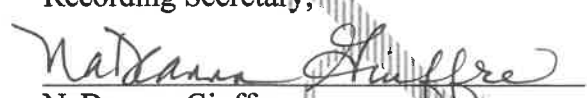
Motion by L. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary of Record,



Supervisor Theresa Valencia
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,



NaDeanna Giuffre
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

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

APPROVED