

**Columbia County  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
October 11, 2021**

**Present:** Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl

**Late Arrival**

**w/Notice:** Liz Miller (arrived at 9:17 a.m.)

**Also Present:** Vern Gove, Jim Foley, Joseph Ruf, Jessica Hale, Jodi Burmania, Shonna Neary, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, Kathy Johnson, Citizen David Dwyer, 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 Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Long to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Pufahl abstained. 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 advised that Roberts Rule adjustments will be made to the Public Safety Committee meetings.

**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 Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** The monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Discussion. Johnson presented her report and highlighted the following topics: weather is now at a low danger level for fire and no long-term impacts from the spotty rainfalls in September. The Town of Otsego's WI Disaster Fund documents were filed at the end of September. Project finalization is planned for the end of October unless an extension is needed for any reason. Continued training and exercises for the DARES, Hazmat Emergency Planning, Incident Command System, and PIO are applied for and scheduling for them are upcoming. Demo project update: house has been burned down, further demo and clean up are still ongoing. WI River Slow No Wake project update: the City of Portage has placed their sign at the Sunset Point boat landing. Sign location points have been coordinated with Towns of Dekorra, Lodi, and Caledonia, and to be decided with Newport yet. Vaccination and testing sites continue to be requested and planned. It is anticipated that more testing will be demanded as some employers are requiring a negative test result before their staff will be allowed back to work. With the substantial increase in ID cards being issued, troubleshooting the ID card maker and Keywatcher systems are being done. Johnson announced her plan to retire from the county in January 2022. Brandner commended Johnson for her years of service and highlighted her relentless efforts in helping to manage the Covid pandemic for the county over the past many months. The Sheriff is hopeful that with Chair Gove's support, a replacement can be found and begin some training with Johnson before her departure in January.
3. **Review Quarterly Department Vehicle Mileage.** Reviewed and approved as presented.

**Medical Examiner.** (No representative present)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Medical Examiner 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 meeting binders. Discussion. Chair Polzer directed the committee to email ME Schara with any questions or comments regarding her monthly report.
- 3) **Line Item Transfer.** Discussion. *Motion by Long to approve the Line Item Transfer amount of \$2,920 from Autopsies to Cremations. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) **Change in Outlay.** Discussion. *Motion by K. Miller to approve the Change in Capital Outlay in the amount of \$1,500 as presented. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Review Quarterly Department Vehicle Mileage.** Reviewed and approved as presented.

**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 by K. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by Long. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Sheriff Brandner provided highlights of the report to include: Staffing: recent promotions included David Clark to Patrol Lieutenant and Darrell Ward to Patrol Sergeant. A jail staff member who was approached by a neighboring county to work for their agency, ultimately decided to stay with Columbia. The jailer hiring process continues and some background investigations have been started. Overtime in jail was over 300 hours last month and the strain on the jailers is ongoing. Following a suspicious vehicle observed by a deputy, suspects involved in burglaries, thefts, and a high-speed chase in the Selwood area were arrested. The 12-hour shift discussions for patrol deputies was voted down by the deputies, but will be implemented for the K9 deputies and Patrol Sergeants. Sexual assault and child abuse complaints, investigations, and arrests have drastically increased. Through a contract with Dodge County, some of their inmates will be held in our jail potentially through March 2022. This is extra revenue for the county and the Sheriff's Office is trying to do their part to pay for potential increase in jail wages to offset the budget. Sheriff Brandner reported that the recent jail inspection report was outstanding. After meeting with the jail inspector, the Sheriff was advised that it was the jail inspector's best report he has written ever for Columbia County and for the region of jails in Wisconsin. This glowing report was due to the great documentation by our jail staff. Toxicology reports are still pending, but speed was a factor in a recent fatal crash on STH 188. The process for Kathy Johnson's replacement in the Emergency Management office will be underway with HR as soon as possible. Chair Gove directed the Sheriff's Office to work with HR to post, interview, hire, and have the new staff member train with Johnson before her anticipated retirement in January 2022. The Emergency Management Coordinator position description is being reviewed. Chair Polzer requested a copy of the job description be sent to him for review as well. The Sheriff sought the committee's advice on how to proceed with a possible year end line item transfer for additional vehicles that will help alleviate anticipated squad shortages in 2023. Chair Gove stated the Sheriff needs to move forward and directed the Sheriff to bring the proposal to the November Public Safety Committee meeting. The Sheriff briefly discussed a critical incident that occurred on 10/10/21. The state will do the criminal investigation that our DA will review and the Sheriff's Office will do the internal investigation. Both reports and findings must

be done before the staff member(s) can return to regular duty. Adjustments and overtime will be done to ensure coverages are maintained.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 124. Captain Stilson advised that staff is busy due to staff shortages, additional Dodge County inmates, and ongoing training of newer personnel. There are 27 out of county holds and seven state inmates. There were 60 doctor visits, 546 nurse screens, and one ER visit. The second body scanner should be arriving and installed this week in the Huber Center. Supervisor Pufahl asked Captain Stilson to relay his gratitude for the job the jail staff continues to do despite the current challenges.
- 4) **Wisconsin Retirement System Protective Status for Jailer. \***
- 5) **Compensation Review for Jailers. \***

*Motion by Pufahl to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes section 19.85 (1)(c), considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility and/or Wisconsin Statutes section 19.85 (1)(e), deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session [Wisconsin Retirement System Protective Status for Jailers and Compensation Review for Jailers]. If the Committee goes into closed session, it will return to open session. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Closed session began at 9:33 a.m.

*Motion by Pufahl to return to open session at 0958. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*


*Motion by Pufahl to reclass the positions of Jail Deputy, Jail Sergeant, and Jail Lieutenant up one pay grade as proposed and begin this process as early as feasible following the appropriate approvals and a resolution is drafted. Seconded by K. Miller. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*  
Corporation Counsel/HR and the Accounting Office will work on the details of funding sources and draft the resolution.

*Motion by K. Miller to initiate the process for a resolution in support of the Wisconsin Retirement System Protective Status for Jailer for County Board approval. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

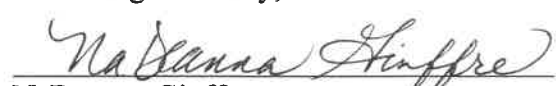
*Motion by Long to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Next meeting date: Monday, November 8, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Secretary of Record,

  
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Supervisor Liz Miller  
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NaDeanna Giuffre  
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

cc: Public Safety Members; Chair Gove, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Foley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Koch; Internet