

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
October 12, 2020**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl
Also Present: Vern Gove, James Foley, Susan Fisher, Shonna Neary, Heather Gove (via conference phone), Kate Young, Lori King, David Drews, Kathy Johnson, Angela Hinze, Katelyn Schara, Roger Brandner, 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 L. Miller to approve the agenda as posted. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Long to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by L. 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: n/a.

HHS Updates. (H. Gove via conference phone, Young and King in-person) *This topic was taken out of order to accommodate the schedules of those presenting the update.*

Following a discussion at the September meeting, Supervisor Liz Miller's requested this topic be revisited. The Sheriff spoke about his recent meeting with new director Heather Gove and how both departments are on the same page with keeping lines of communication open and strive to make things better for our citizens. Frustrations with Northwest Connections continues from law enforcement, but also Health and Human Services as well; however, weekly communications with NWC's Katie Erb is helping build a bridge and increase education. When there are response delays, it forces law enforcement to do things that are not within their scope. Additional support for domestic-related or other mental health crises, may be something for the future for Columbia County, but with the resources needed for that, we are not there yet. However, with the current proactive leadership, positive changes are anticipated.

MAT Program Update. Chair Polzer requested a monthly report including concrete program numbers to be sent to PSC recording secretary NaDeanna Giuffre the week prior to the scheduled Public Safety Committee meetings. Giuffre will forward that report to the Public Safety Committee members. King advised that there are four in intake in the jail, four in the program/case management, and six active. Intakes continue wherever they are with Covid precautions in mind, utilizing telehealth appointments when possible, and telephoning and texting when applicable. Injectables are occurring in the jail. This grant is opioid specific and ended 09/30/20. Reapplication is done annually. The county is waiting for the award letter.

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.** Monthly activity report was provided in binders. Discussion. Johnson presented her report and highlighted the following topics: September 18 Covid testing site in Wyocena had 287 tests done. Next testing site with the National Guard's assistance will be 10/23/20 in Cambria. Some of the new UV Emitter units have arrived. A MOU has been drafted. The Portacount Fit Testing kit was received. The kit will be available for first responder agencies in Columbia Co. A MOU was

reviewed/approved by Corporation Counsel and also signed by City of Portage. The Triatomic Oxygen Ozone disinfectant unit has arrived and has already being used in squad cars. This has proven to be effective in removing offensive odors left behind in squad cars. From a grant applied for by South Central WI Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC), we received a small UV Emitter unit. Johnson reported that after closing out the 2019 EMPG grants, an extra \$1,987 was received with a total award equaling \$49,173.

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 Pufahl. 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 highlighting that call volumes were above-average for September; however, donations are down for the year. Hinze mentioned the possibility of a new revenue source from WI Tissue Services for using our facility. Approximately two to four cases monthly have been Covid-tested, but these are dependent upon scene investigation and pre-autopsy scheduling. Hinze also reported that her office is back to full staff.

Sheriff's Office/Jail. (Brandner)

- 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 September highlights to include two hunting accidents where in each situation, both were inadvertently shot by someone in close proximity to them. Two overdoses were reported and both were revived with the use of Narcan. A suspicious burglary occurred at a local church where threatening type evidence was left behind using Bibles to write a message. Detectives are working with the church leaders. Two CPR saves by our deputies were reported. More deputies and shortened response times are likely contributing factors in the successes of these emergency calls. Following reported damage to a railroad, a search warrant was sought and juveniles were arrested. The Sheriff spoke about a recent investigation where \$30,000-\$40,000 worth of high-powered firearms and body armor were located in the Blackhawk area and were later linked to burglaries that occurred in Sauk County. A deputy was recently injured from an incident where the suspect was resisting arrest. The Sheriff reported that there were 42 OWI/drugged driving arrests and 22 domestic-related incidents. The Sheriff reported on a potentially dangerous traffic stop occurred when a passenger female was carrying a loaded firearm and obstructing the deputy while he was arresting the driver. From several recent media releases, the Sheriff's Office learned of a domestic terror plot that occurred in Michigan. From that investigation, it was also learned that there was a potential training facility in Cambria. The Sheriff updated the committee that the body scanner topic is on the Executive Committee meeting's agenda for today bid review with the vendors. State-funded Covid monies need to be paid out by 11/04/20 with installs and completed projects by 12/30/20 to qualify for that funding. The next Columbia County Awards presentation is set for Thursday, 12/10/20 at 5 p.m. at the County Administration Building.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 105. The Sheriff advised that there have been 207 bookings in September. The medical staff had 94 doctor visits and 331 nurse visits and screenings. The ongoing issue of inmates secreting drugs in and on their persons and attempting to bring it into the jail continues. Many are being caught, but likely not all. The staff is hopeful that the body scanner will assist in detecting and confiscating more. A secure inmate with multiple felonies was being guarded at Divine Savior for approximately one week due to ongoing medical issues. The Sheriff advised that Huber revenues are anticipated to be down approximately 50 percent. After replacing two jailers, the jail should be back to full staff.
- 4) **Line Item Transfer.** The Sheriff's Office's burglary and stalking notification system recently failed and the older analog version can no longer be repaired. A replacement is needed. Discussion. *Motion by K. Miller to approve the Line Item Transfer of \$9,000. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*

5) **Tour of Dispatch Center.** Those who were able to attend, toured the Columbia County Dispatch Center as well as the 2nd floor of the Sheriff's Office.

Motion by L. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m. Seconded by Polzer. Motion carried unanimously.


Next meeting date: Monday, November 9, 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