

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
November 8, 2021**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl
Also Present: Vern Gove, Jim Foley, Joseph Ruf, Shonna Neary, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, Kathy Johnson, Katelyn Schara, Madeleine Meeker, David Drews, 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 Pufahl. 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 stated that while at Madison College Career Fair, he felt the Sheriff's Office represented Columbia County very well. Polzer further commended and thanked Captain James Stilson for follow-up with a UW-Platteville student who showed interest in Columbia County. We are our own best advocates in pursuing new staff. The Sheriff mentioned a different officer at the fair representing their own department who actually sought additional information about the Sheriff's Office and even put in an application for patrol. Chair Polzer further complimented the committee for their communication with him.

Emergency Management. (Johnson)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed and provided in the meeting binders. *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.** The monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Discussion. Johnson presented her report and highlighted the following topics: WI Disaster Relief Fund update that Town of Otsego filed for an extension to file by 12/31/21 for reimbursement from July 2021 wind/tornado storm. Columbia County staff training was recently conducted for the Admin and HHS staff on 10/26/21 to include emergency response, Q&A, evacuation, and accountability drills were done. WRPCO Functional Exercise focused on the downstream affect from the Wisconsin River especially in the Portage area. PIO Training has been secured for February 2022 in Columbus. The Fox River acquisition/demolition project should be finalized 12/31/21. After the Towns of Newport is concluded, the WI River Slow No Wake Order sign project will be finalized. Covid 19 vaccination/testing sites update provided. Numbers of those signing up or participating in these events do not support utilizing the National Guard for assistance. Booster vaccinations are also moving forward at HHS.

Medical Examiner. (Schara, Meeker)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed and provided in the meeting binders. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made by Long to approve the report.*

Seconded by L. Miller. Discussion on cremation expense from a 2019 case. *Motion carried unanimously.*

- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** ME Schara introduced Madeleine Meeker as her new Chief Deputy ME.

Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Discussion. Schara highlighted that October had 38 total cases, two suicides, one UTV accident of a young female which resulted in a tissue donation, two COVID deaths, and likely two ODs pending toxicology results. Work continues with DHHS for suicide and OD referrals. The Child Death Review Team met recently and identified some good resources for public, especially safer sleep habits. Staffing update was provided. Schara advised that her staff are working together to make the office more efficient with better case flow and further preparation for the new case management software in 2022. One per diem staff member is off due to Covid-related complications. An intern student from Baylor in Texas will be here working during school breaks and summer of 2022. The first Versiti donation went well. Office furniture discussion. Schara was working with Facilities Management. Chair Gove will also reach out to Facilities Management for a status of the project. Schara will meet with Emergency Management staff regarding Mass Fatality Plan updates before the end of the year. Schara distributed the donor registry of Wisconsin to committee members.

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

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Report was reviewed and provided in the meeting binders. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by K. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by K. Miller.* Discussion about buy monies in Drug Education budget. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Sheriff Brandner provided highlights of the monthly report to include a recent officer involved shooting incident and the follow-up being done by the Sheriff's Office and Department of Criminal Investigation. All Sheriff's deputies have been cleared to return to full duty. Following the promotional process, Journey Dodge was selected as the replacement Jail Sergeant after Joshua Priske voluntarily reverted to a Jail Deputy. A recent Portage Daily Register article regarding a juvenile sexual assault victim was completely unprofessional, revictimized the victim, and after publication, the suspect committed suicide the next day. For the fourth year in a row, the Sheriff's Office was awarded another drug grant totaling \$50,000. There were eight ODs in October with one being saved with the use of Narcan. The Jail is partnering with PARCC to initiate a program that will provide released inmates additional steps to receive addiction assistance. Staffing updates: the patrol unit is in good shape with outside experienced officers from other jurisdictions inquiring about the Sheriff's Office. Jail: hiring process is ongoing, but moving along with more communication upfront and getting job shadows scheduled with potential candidates. Dispatch: there is one opening. The background is underway for the top candidate from interview process. Chair Gove commended both Marquette County Sheriff's Office K9 Handler Blake Brandner as well as providing kudos to Sheriff Brandner for his continued efforts in his role as Sheriff.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 128. Captain Stilson advised that staff had a busy weekend with many arrests. Over the course of October, there were 218 bookings and 208 releases. There were 58 doctor visits, 441 nurse screens, and one ER visit. There were over 40 detox assessments done including both drug and alcohol screens. Covid updates: one Huber inmate tested positive. This inmate and others affected were immediately isolated. As of this

morning, all tested negative. Contraband being located and identified as intake include crystal meth, cocaine, and ecstasy. Most inmates are giving up contraband before even being scanned or strip searched. A notable arrest from this weekend included an out of control female who was physically resistive to the arresting deputy, jail staff, and then struck a jail deputy during changeover.

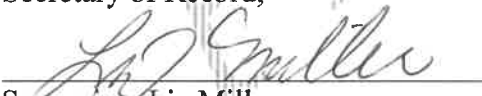
- 4) **Line Item Transfer.** Discussion. Due to holding fewer inmates and having a surplus in Prisoner Food, the Sheriff wishes to purchase two squad cars with those funds. If approved, in order to better offset the 2023 budget, these funds will be requested to be carried over and purchase 2023 models later in 2022. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the transfer of these funds to purchase squad cars for future. Seconded by Long. Motion carried unanimously.* Chair Polzer commended Sheriff Brandner for keeping Chair Gove informed and requesting his guidance with upcoming needs and purchases.
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Jailer.** Due to the resignation in lieu of termination of Cody Foster, a replacement jailer position is being requested. *Motion by Pufahl to replace the jailer position. Seconded by Long. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Resolution – 2022 Transfer Funds for Jail Staff Compensation.** Discussion. This resolution has already been reviewed and approved through Finance, Human Resources, and Executive Committees. *Motion by K. Miller to approve the Resolution – 2022 Transfer Funds for Jail Staff Compensation as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 7) **Position Description – Emergency Management Coordinator.** Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the updated position description for Emergency Management Coordinator as presented. Seconded by Long. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 8) **Position Replacement Request – Emergency Management Coordinator.** The Sheriff explained that this has been a great joint effort with staff and county board support for this replacement process. Twenty-three applications were received. *Motion by Long to approve the position replacement request for retiring Kathleen Johnson. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.* Upon the successful candidate being hired, it is the hope to have this individual begin working with Johnson as soon as possible before her retirement in January 2022.

Per Chair Gove, a protective status meeting will be set with Sheriff's admin to discuss the progress and how he wants it to move forward.


Next meeting date: Monday, December 13, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Motion by L. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary of Record,


Supervisor Liz Miller
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,


NaDeanna Giuffre
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

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