

**Columbia County  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
November 9, 2020**

**Present:** Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl  
**Also Present:** Vern Gove, James Foley, Joe Ruf, Shonna Neary, Kathy Johnson, Angela Hinze, Katelyn Schara, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim 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 Pufahl to approve the agenda as posted. Seconded by K. Miller. 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 Long. 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 thanked the Veterans present at the meeting and provided the committee with "What Is a Veteran?" handout. Chair Polzer discussed the opportunities available on the Columbia County Crime Stoppers Board. He asked those present to encourage individuals they know who might be interested in volunteering to contact Chris Polzer or a Crime Stoppers Board member for more information.

**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 meeting binders. Discussion. Johnson presented her report and highlighted the following topics: October brought another large rainfall event. After about a week or so, the levels began receding and no slow, no wake orders were authorized. Johnson updated the committee on funds received by Town of Randolph and applications and paperwork filed by Town of Lewiston, Village of Pardeeville, and City of Portage. UVC disinfecting units have been received and are being deployed throughout the county buildings. Due to its size and training, the Skytron will remain in the Jail. Johnson brought in a UV unit for the committee members to view and ask questions about its use. Johnson also advised that although it thankfully was not needed, the election day security plan was ready.
- 3) **Acquisition/Demolition Project.** Johnson advised that a Town of Dekorra family requested. Work is being done and coordinated with the family and FEMA.

**Medical Examiner.** (Hinze, Schara)

- 1) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Discussion. Hinze discussed her monthly report highlighting that call volumes were above-average for October and donations are down for the year as case-related criteria are not being met. This will impact budget numbers. Hinze mentioned Covid testing is being done when possible. Hinze reported that October brought an increased death toll for Covid-related deaths reported to the ME office. She advised that the number in her report is not representative of just Columbia County residents, but all reported deaths in the county stating that if a Marquette County resident dies in a local hospital, that individual is counted in her totals.
- 2) **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 L. Miller. Motion*

*carried unanimously.*

**MAT Program Update:** The monthly update was emailed by DHHS/Kate Young on Thursday, 11/05/20. This message was forwarded to the committee via email as well as provided in meeting binders.

**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 K. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. The Sheriff provided October highlights to include: The use of deadly force policy has been updated. An inmate versus jailer fight in the jail occurred. The jailer was able to gain control. The Sheriff advised of two Huber inmate walk-aways where the inmates simply did not return after work. Huber law discussion. During a traffic stop, an impaired driver fled from his vehicle and into a cornfield. Law enforcement was unable to locate. However, on another traffic stop, a wanted subject fled the scene, but was later located and apprehended by a K9 unit. The Sheriff spoke about an increased lack of respect from some in the community and how his staff are experiencing that daily. During a domestic incident, a felon shot himself in the leg during a fight with his girlfriend. A fatal crash occurred on Patchin Road where the driver lost control and struck a tree. A second arrest was made locally in the militia group involved in the MI Governor kidnap plot. Although apprehended, MI did not come and get him. From a donation from Two Rivers Signs, autism awareness signage was placed on a Columbia County squad car. Covid cases are circulating among staff, but recovering and only one is currently out/quarantined. The Sheriff personally thanked his administrative staff who utilized their own money to purchase candy for the deputies to distribute on Halloween. A quick response and proper wound care by deputies likely helped keep a male alive who accidentally discharged his gun at a campsite in the Town of Caledonia. A recent sex-trafficking case is being investigated with a 15-year-old female and a 30-year-old male suspect. An elderly male was located after he wandered off in Arlington. The Sheriff advised that the Sheriff's Office does have a program called Project Lifesaver to assist with the elderly, dementia- and autism-afflicted citizens. October had a total of 33 impaired driver arrests and 25 domestic-type arrests. The Sheriff advised that his office is experiencing more and more high-speed chases. Some are caught and others cannot be caught due to high risk and citizen safety issues. The Sheriff reported that through Court Services, Emergency Management, and patrolling deputies, election security was great. All polling locations went smoothly.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 114. The federal inmates are down slightly, but state inmates are up. Captain Stilson wished to thank and commend the health services staff with not only their normal duties, but also with the heightened Covid concerns. Stilson advised that the 17 isolation cells are full and mostly with inmates with alcohol concerns. The body scanner has arrived and training for jail staff begins this week.
- 4) **Revised Employee Evaluation Form(s).** The evaluation forms for Deputy Sheriff, Jailer, Dispatchers, and Secretaries were reviewed. Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the revised employee evaluation forms as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Jail Deputy.** Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement request for Jailer Nicole Epstein. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Position Replacement Request – Part-Time Secretary.** Discussion. *Motion by Long to approve the position replacement request for Part-Time Secretary Marsha Neef. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

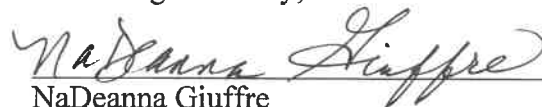
**Meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.**

Next meeting date: Monday, December 14, 2020 at 9 a.m.

Secretary of Record,

Recording Secretary,

  
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Supervisor Liz Miller  
Committee Secretary

  
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NaDeanna Giuffre  
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

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

Approved