

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
December 12, 2022**

Present: Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Theresa Valencia, Mike Weyh
Absent w/Notice: Troy Ryan
Also Present: Chris Polzer, Shonna Neary, David Drews, Jessica Hale, Bob Koch, Madeleine Meeker, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jon Stefonek, 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. *Motion was made by L. Miller to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by L. Miller 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: Chair Miller advised of the upcoming COSO Awards Ceremony being held on 01/26/23 at 5 p.m. at the County Administration Building. Nomination forms are on the website and open to all to submit for the Awards Committee's consideration.

Emergency Management. (Koch)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. *After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure report, a motion was made by Weyh to approve the report as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities:** Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee and made available during the meeting. Koch presented his report and highlighted ongoing and upcoming training, meetings, and projects for November and December. Koch reiterated the urgency and need to replace the opening in the Land Information Department. Accurate response location entries are critical and are not currently being done or updated. The current staff in the LI department and dispatch center are not qualified or skilled to perform those duties. In the event these duties must be contracted through another company, the Sheriff provided rough monthly (\$83,849) and quarterly (\$30,370) costs for an outside agency such as Motorola to complete them. Although expensive, monthly push outs would be preferred as they are timely and more accurate for public safety. Regardless, the county is not currently getting addresses, business names, new construction, fire/EMS district changes or any updates since Land Information Director Kaderabek left. Chair Miller assured EM Koch and the Sheriff that they have named an interim director and posted the position for hire. The new ID badge printer and server are ordered and will serve all county employees for ID badges and building access. A full-scale, county-wide exercise is being planned for 12/20/22 in the City of Portage. Koch thanked the coordination and efforts of County Highway during the recent PFAS collection for the county fire departments.

Medical Examiner. (Meeker)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made by L. Miller to approve the report as presented. 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 and made available during the meeting. Meeker provided highlights for

the month stating that there was a total of 42 calls. Of those, there were three traffic fatalities, two in-custody deaths at CCI, one overdose (pending toxicology), two autopsies, and seven Versiti donations. Meeker advised that a background packet is being completed for a deputy ME position. Shelving for the archive room has been ordered. With joined efforts with Columbia County Health and Human Services, the next of kin grief/interview packet is being worked on.

- 3) **Accounts Receivables Write-Off.** Review and discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the A/R Write-off in the amount of \$490.90 as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by Weyh to approve the report as presented. 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 and made available during the meeting. Sheriff Brandner advised that through the use of an Enbridge grant and donated funds, an UTV was purchased, equipped for rescue, and ready for use. Dispatch updates: with an unprecedented staffing challenge, the dispatch center has six new employees. With two more long-standing, experienced employees retiring in the next couple of months, this will continue to be an incredible challenge. Through the recent information of 911 Coordinator Liz Schutz also resigning, it is very apparent that our great staff are constantly be recruited to other departments and outside businesses in the private sector. As most county departments are struggling with this growing problem, the Sheriff encouraged the committee to support the across-the-board wage study for all county employees as well as shift differentials for those who work hours outside of dayshift Monday-Friday hours. Sheriff Brandner stressed that more must be done with incentives for those departments that operate 24/7. Responding to Supervisor Valencia's question about what would be a reasonable starting point, Sheriff Brandner felt \$2/hour shift differential would be a starting point to pay the staff who work night shift hours. The Sheriff advised that when posted, the Sheriff's Office is only receiving one or two applications for promotions that include working the night shift as it has been learned that no one wants to leave their dayshift hours for \$.45 extra. This past Saturday was another widely successful Shop with a Cop event held at the Portage Walmart with gift wrapping and donated lunch back at the Law Enforcement Center. The Sheriff thanked his staff and their family members as well as the other participating law enforcement officers from Portage, Fall River, Wisconsin State Patrol, Rio, Columbus, and the DNR who all donated their time and efforts. Events like these are extremely important, memorable for the kids, and beneficial for the families in need. The jail staff uniform has been updated to include a much safer and more comfortable fit and will be less expensive for upkeep. All brass attachments and badges are being replaced with stitched emblems. Calls for service continue with a seven-year all-time high except for the Covid year of 2020. Proactive law enforcement drives these numbers higher. Staffing updates: patrol and dispatch are currently at full-staff; the jail are still down three staff members even with a couple hired and one in background process. There seems to be an increase in flat or punctured squad tires. The Sheriff was unsure if these are intentional, coincidental, or if the roadways just have more damaging debris. All Narcan doses this past month were successful resulting in no overdose deaths. Because of differing policies and philosophies, the Sheriff's Office and MIS received some mediation assistance from ACC Jessica Hale to address ongoing project solutions. Resolutions are underway. Supervisor L. Miller commented that the extra patrols in Caledonia have increased and thanked the Sheriff's office for their extra efforts and the patrolling of county and town roads.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 144. There have been 211 bookings and 221 released. There were 75 doctor visits and 551 nurse screenings. Recruitment continues and Sheriff Brandner thanked HR for their nearly on-the-spot assistance with new applicant interviews. Being short-staffed also affects revenue in the jail, but staff and other inmates' safety are critical.

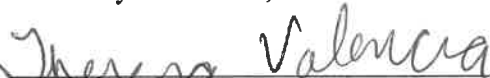
- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Jailer.** After 17+ years, this staff member is leaving for a position that is Monday-Friday and a higher wage. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the position replacement request for Jailer David Wenger as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **LIT-K9 Squad.** With remaining 2022 funds and to offset the 2024 budget, the Sheriff was requesting a LIT and then to carryover the funds into 2023 to purchase a K9 police package 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe and equipment in May 2023. Discussion. *Motion by Weyh to approve the line item transfer of \$65,000 from Jail Prisoner Food (\$40,000) and Jail Medical/Physicals (\$25,000) to Sheriff's Administration Capital Outlay - Autos as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

PSC Chair Miller extended his thanks and great appreciation for law enforcement. County Board Polzer reiterated his gratitude for the Sheriff's Office and all those staff members who continue to work and miss family time on the upcoming holidays. Chair Polzer thanked the PS Committee and department heads for their open and prompt communication as issues arise.

Next meeting date: Monday, January 9, 2023 at 9 a.m.

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