

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
December 13, 2021**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl
Also Present: Jim Foley, Jessica Hale, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, Kathy Johnson, Katelyn Schara, HNG News Jonathan Stefonek, 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 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. 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 Emergency Management Coordinator Kathy Johnson for her years of service with Columbia County. Chair Polzer thanked Executive Secretary NaDeanna Giuffre for accurate minutes, agendas, and keeping the committee informed and in compliance. Chair Polzer further thanked the leadership at the Sheriff's Office as well as Chair Gove for his leadership and involvement as the County Board Chair. Polzer explained that he is convinced that the overwhelming success is determined by how well we all treat each other. Pufahl then thanked Chair Polzer for his leadership with the Public Safety Committee.

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: update on the COVID-19 Vaccination clinic and testing sites are wrapping up. Columbia County along with the help of the WI National Guard have given almost 6000 vaccinations. The future of clinics is unknown as WI National Guard are downsizing on the number of troops assigned. Supervisor Long and Chair Polzer commended Johnson for her exemplary efforts, work, and dedication through the COVID-19 pandemic. Communication was critical. Johnson advised that she was asked if schools offered any additional safety courses now that driver education classes have been removed from the schools. Following a survey, about half of the county schools continue to offer a class covering traffic safety through different resources such as safety lessons in their health class, contracting for a presentation through Save a Life Tour, and driving simulators. DARES training update: Johnson advised that this training will continue with the new EMC and the Deputy Coordinator in 05/03/22-05/04/22. Grande Cheese Company tabletop exercise was held 12/08/21 and included 36 participants. This was the first step in the exercise series which will lead to the full-scale exercise later in 2022. Acquisition/ Demolition project update: Johnson advised that after County Highway calculates all costs and all invoices related to the Fox River Road property, the grant reimbursement will be done. Any remaining funds from the grant total will be distributed per the grant guidelines.

Medical Examiner. (Schara)

- 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 Pufahl to approve the report. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Discussion. Schara highlighted that there was a total of 63 calls in November. There was one traffic fatality (pedestrian v. SUV), one tissue donation, seven COVID-19 deaths (all with past medical history), one Versiti tissue donation, and one county-waived fee. Collaborative work between Health and Human Services and the ME office continue with suicide and overdose referrals. Basic death investigation education has been offered to Arlington EMS and Fire in January 2022. It will also be offered to other EMS in the future. Schara advised that office structure and procedures are being updated within her office. All proposed forms have been reviewed by Corporation Counsel/HR and were provided to the committee for their review. ARPA funds will be used for the purchase of the updated case management system. Schara is working with Accounting on that purchase. Conference table and chairs were ordered. Furniture for lobby is coming. Pufahl added that he is proud of the inter-county department cooperation.

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 Pufahl.* Discussion about heroin grant. *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 busy month with background investigations. Each investigation takes approximately 40 hours to complete. Since some other municipalities are running short on staff, the Sheriff's Office is supplementing coverage. High speed chases continue. A recent chase began in Lodi, proceeded into Dane County, and the vehicle with two occupants got away. The Sheriff's Office continues with professional photographing of new staff. There were eight drug overdoses with six saves. The two deaths are being investigated. Jail staff update: Another staff member resigned today. Jail work is a tough job and the recruit pool is dwindling rapidly. Despite all of this, the Sheriff thanked the committee for their support. Discussion about Brown County's situation of losing 1/3 of their staff and the possibility of utilizing a private security company in Columbia County. The Sheriff explained that all correctional jobs are struggling. Having to work holidays, weekends, and missing special family events weigh heavily on families. Recruitment is ongoing. To gather more information, exit interviews are conducted with each staff member who leaves for different jobs. Shop with a Cop 2021: This year, Columbia County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies were able to shop and assist 25 kids and their families. This is just one of the many events the community supports through donations and the Sheriff's Office staff donates their time. Great feedback was again received. Chair Polzer thanked the Sheriff's Office for all they do for the community.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 121. Captain Stilson advised that November had 222 bookings, 216 releases, 81 doctor visits, 388 nurse screenings, and one ER visit. Stilson further explained that the Jail is partnering with PARCC and Sartori House where exit kits will be offered to inmates being released. These exit kits will offer Narcan, counseling, and resources and expanded services to families and friends of the inmate in hopes that they encourage the inmate to take advantage of this supplemental assistance. Chair Polzer advised that he will again seek a MAT Program update at the next committee meeting to ensure all available

county resources are available, offered, and utilized. Stilson advised that he and Lt. Kjorlie recently met with the new HHS staff and they all plan to work together.

- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Deputy (3).** Due to two resignations and a transfer back to the jail, three deputy positions need to be filled. *Motion by Long to approve the replacement of Deputy Mariah Vogel, Sergeant Brian Poulin, and Deputy Lukas Dexter.* Discussion. *Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Jailer (2).** Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the replacement of Jail Deputies Michael Schultz and Scout Bahr.* *Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Next meeting date: Monday, January 10, 2022 at 9 a.m.

Motion by K. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 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; Internet