

**Columbia County  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
December 14, 2020**

**Present:** Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Barry Pufahl  
**Excused w/Notice:** Nancy Long  
**Also Present:** Vern Gove, James Foley, Bob Koch (@ 09:55), Joe Ruf, Shonna Neary, Kathy Johnson, Katelyn Schara, Stephanie Wittrock, 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 L. 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: a) Chair Polzer thanked the Sheriff's Office staff who stepped up and volunteered their time for this year's Shop with a Cop event. The Sheriff reported that Portage Stock & Field went above and beyond, were completely accommodating, and even their staff raised funds and donated to each family. This proved to be another difficult year with over 90+ families seeking assistance. With the generous donations, 29 families were assisted this year. Chair Polzer advised that from his involvement with the Poynette Police Department event, 13 families were assisted. b) Chair Polzer encouraged the committee, post-Covid times, to be sure to schedule ridealongs with the department heads and walk-throughs of each division will also be scheduled.

**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 L. Miller. 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: total number of those participating in the Covid testing sites are dropping. COVID Community Testing Site Schedule was provided to the committee. WI Disaster Fund updates provided. The All-Hazard Mitigation Planning grant is now closed out. UVC disinfecting units are circulating throughout all county buildings and more staff are receiving training on their use. Additional assistance is available to other law enforcement and fire agencies if disinfecting are requested. The permanent No Wake sign project is being carried over into 2021 until ordinance updates are finalized. Continuous change is occurring daily with COVID vaccines. Stay tuned to the Columbia County Health Department's email updates on the ever-changing status of Columbia County residents and administration and distribution of the new vaccines.

**Medical Examiner.** (Schara)

- 1) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Katelyn Schara gave a short introduction and PowerPoint presentation about herself for the committee. Schara discussed the monthly report highlighting the call volume was above average for November. Tissue donations are down as case criteria are not being met. COVID is also affecting these donations. COVID testing will continue depending on scene investigation and autopsy

scheduling. Schara advised that they are testing 2-4 cases per month and further stated that all cases going to autopsy need a COVID test. Results of those tests typically take up to 48 hours. November's COVID death toll continues to rise. The number includes all deaths that are reported in Columbia County. The ME Office received two small UV decontamination machines for use in the office, morgue, and vehicles.

- 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 Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 3) **Versiti Tissue Donor Recovery and Referral Agreement.** This agreement has previously been reviewed by Corporation Counsel. This is an agreement to utilize the Columbia County morgue facilities for human tissue donation, recovery, and transplantation services. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the Tissue Donor Recovery and Referral Agreement between Versiti Wisconsin Inc. and the Columbia County Medical Examiner as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

**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 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. The Sheriff provided November highlights to include: 49,348 calls for service to-date is an all-time high for the office. During a traffic stop and determining that the individual had a warrant, the subject began to fight and subsequently punched a female deputy in the head. Both the Sheriff's Office deputy and a Portage Police officer sustained injuries, but were able to place the subject into custody. The Sheriff spoke about several recent investigations. One included joint efforts with the Medical Examiner's Office involving a six-month old baby death. Those cases are very difficult on all involved. An arrest was made in a child porn case in the Lodi area. The state takes a very aggressive stance on these cases. The ongoing death investigation that occurred at Didion in Cambria was serious and two detectives are assigned. There has been a spike in burglaries in the Caledonia area. From a stolen vehicle complaint, an arrest was made after the vehicle was spiked. Due to fortunate timing and Sheriff's Office secretarial staff typing a backlog of reports this past weekend, they were alerted to and took immediate action with a subject in the law enforcement center lobby who was having a medical event. Growing disdain with law enforcement was proven again on a recent traffic stop with a suspected drug dealer where the driver fled the scene and unfortunately the vehicle was subsequently lost into Dane County. Because increased criminal activity, including suspected drug activity, human trafficking, prostitution, and fighting are occurring at a local establishment, heightened proactive work is being done by area law enforcement. The Sheriff advised that 11 overdoses were reported and all were saved. Additionally, there were 25 domestic-related arrests and 32 impaired driving arrests. An Enbridge grant was applied for and the Sheriff's Office was awarded \$7,500. These monies will be used to purchase a UTV. Although internal procedures are being followed, COVID is taking its toll on his jail staff and those on the frontlines. Supervisor Pufahl extended his appreciation and Chair Gove commended the Sheriff's Office for holding the line and their proactive stance and efforts to keep our citizens safe. Chair Gove asked if Narcan usage is down. The Sheriff reported that because Narcan is more readily available now, most families tend to have it and use it before law enforcement or EMS even arrives on scene. The new radio transmissions following the conversion sound a bit robotic, but transmissions are much better quality.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 112. Captain Stilson reported 155 bookings and 157 releases for the month of November. There were 57 doctor visits, 355 nurse visits, and eight emergency room visits for the previous month. Two Huber walkaways were reported, found, and re-arrested; one in Ohio and the other in Kentucky. From an out of control

inmate incident, a jailer was spit on and the inmate wrecked a jail cell and broke a window. Intoxicated and resistive subjects that originate out on the streets, carryover into the jail as well. The body scanner is proving to be an effective tool so far in detecting foreign objects and keeping inmates and staff safer.


- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Patrol Deputy.** Following a transfer from patrol back to the jail, a deputy vacancy needs to be filled. The HR Committee already reviewed and approved this replacement. Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement request for Patrol Deputy as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Jail Booking Officer.** With the approaching retirement of longstanding employee Shelley DuVall in February 2021, the jail booking officer vacancy needs to be filled. *Motion by K. Miller to approve the position replacement request for Jail Booking Officer as presented. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Position Description – Jail Booking Officer.** Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the updated position description for Jail Booking Officer as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 7) **Line Item Transfers.** These three LITs were previously presented and approved at the Finance Committee meeting.
  - A) Telephone overage. Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the \$10,900 telephone overage. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
  - B) Body camera project. Discussion. *Motion by K. Miller to approve the \$41,500 funds for the body camera project and carry them over into 2021. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
  - C) Squad cars. Discussion. *Motion by K. Miller to approve the \$90,000 funds for purchasing two 2022 model squad cars and carry those funds over into 2021. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

**MAT Program Update:** The monthly update was emailed by DHHS/Lori King on Wednesday, 12/02/20. This message was forwarded to the committee via email as well as provided in meeting binders. Chair Gove commended the new DHHS department head on the transition into her new position.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.*

Next meeting date: Monday, January 11, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Secretary of Record,

  
Supervisor Liz Miller  
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,

  
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