

Minutes of the Wood County Public Safety Committee

DATE: December 13, 2021

PRESENT: Bill Winch, Dennis Polach, Brad Hamilton, Mike Feirer, Joe Zurfluh

EXCUSED:

NOT

PRESENT:

OTHERS

PRESENT: Bill Clendenning, Trent Miner, Ed Newton, Erik Engel, Kelli Trzinski, Quentin Ellis, Ted Ashbeck, Charlie Hoogesteger, Shawn Becker, Lori Heideman, Sarah Christensen, Alexa Acker, Kim McGrath, Peter Kastenholz, Lance Pliml, PaNiya Yang

LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse

1. Call to Order:

Mike Feirer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Review minutes of November 8, 2021:

Motion by Hamilton, second by Polach to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments:

Trent stated there was an acknowledgement from the Chief of the Pittsville Fire Department directed towards Emergency Management for the assistance in getting grant funds for them to use.

4. Set date, time and location of next meeting:

January 10, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Wood County Courthouse Room 114

5. Communications Department:

a. Communications November 2021 Claims:

The Committee reviewed the Communications November 2021 claims. Clarification was given on Tessco and Belco payments

b. Communications Report:

The Committee reviewed the report. Erik stated that there may be a possible carryover of 2021 budgeted funds to 2022 due to equipment delays.

6. Emergency Management Department:

a. Emergency Management November 2021 Claims:

The Committee reviewed the Emergency Management November 2021 claims.

b. Emergency Management Activity Report:

The Committee reviewed the Emergency Management report. Talked about looking into possible grants for townships and fire departments.

7. Dispatch Department:

a. Dispatch November 2021 Claims:

The Committee reviewed the Dispatch November 2021 claims.

b. Dispatch Activity Report:

The Committee reviewed the Dispatch report. Stated the past couple of weeks have been focused on working with Fire Departments on updating their emergency service numbers due to changes that will begin in 2022. Elaborated on staff shortages, expects the end of March should be fully staffed/trained.

8. Coroner:

a. Coroner Report:

The Committee reviewed the Coroner reports.

b. November 2021 Claims:

The Committee reviewed the Coroner November 2021 claims.

c. Repayment of Overpayment of Wages:

Kim McGrath from Human Resources spoke to the Committee regarding an overpayment to former Coroner Scott Brehm. Mr. Brehm would like to have another meeting with Corporation Counsel, Finance, and Human Resources. The Committee agreed to allow for another meeting.

d. Resolution-Coroner & Deputy Coroner Wages/Per Diem and Fee Increase:

Motion by Hamilton, second by Zurfluh to adjust the per diem rate of the Coroner for the next term of office, restate the per diem amounts for Deputy Coroners, and adjust certain charges of the Coroner. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Humane Officer

a. Humane Officer Report:

The Committee reviewed the Humane Officer Report.

b. Discuss Technology Needs:

Kim McGrath discussed the need for new technology for the two humane officers. Currently Nanci Olson only has a County issued cellphone. The Committee reviewed a handout from Kim and removed the monitor, dock, and desk phone from the list of items needed.

Motion by Hamilton, second by Polach to move recommendation for technology on to operations committee with the amended changes and the understanding the fees will need to come out of the contingency fund. Feirer-yes, Hamilton-yes, Winch-yes, Polach-yes, Zurfluh-No

10. Sheriff's Department:

a. Correspondences:

Sheriff Becker commended Lt. Scott Goldberg, Inv. Sgt. Kyle Pleet, and Inv. Sgt. John Matthews for a search warrant that was executed on Thursday December 9, 2021. This was the culmination of an investigation that yielded a large quantity of drugs, cash, and jewelry. He also thanked the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department's SWAT team and Chief Blevins for the assistance.

Sheriff Becker discussed housing for our current mental health counselor for the jail. Currently the mental health counselor is staying with a local pastor and Aspirus Health asked if the department could provide some funding for a hotel room instead.

Motion by Winch, and second by Hamilton to pay 50% of hotel costs for the mental health counselor with the hotel being chosen by the Sheriff's Department. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Wood County Rescue:

The Committee reviewed the Wood County Rescue report.

c. Crime Stoppers:

The Committee reviewed the Crime Stoppers report.

d. K-9 Project:

The Committee reviewed the K-9 report.

g. November 2021 Claims:

The Committee reviewed the Sheriff's Department November 2021 claims.

h. Hiring Process:

Sheriff Becker stated Jessica Terch, who worked in the jail, has resigned with over ten years of service. He also stated Deputy Christopher Downs has started with the department and is going through field training at this time.

i. Boat/ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Patrol:

The Committee reviewed the Boat/ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Patrol report.

j. Overtime:

The Committee reviewed the overtime reports.

k. Courthouse Security:

The Committee reviewed the Courthouse Security report.

l. Jail Items

- i. Inmate Daily Population: Reviewed.
- ii. EMP: Reviewed
- iii. Safekeeper Housing Numbers: Reviewed
- iv. Kitchen Report: Reviewed
- v. Body Scanner: Reviewed
- vi. Maintenance: Nothing to Report
- vii. Inmate Programs: Nothing to Report
- viii. Jail Study: Sheriff Becker stated the new jail schematic designs are almost completed. He stated the County is still working with the City of Wisconsin Rapids on re-zoning.

11. November 2021 Claims: Communications, Emergency Management, Dispatch, Sheriff, Coroner, and Humane Officer:

Motion by Hamilton, second by Zurfluh to approve the November 2021 claims of all Public Safety Committee Departments. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

None

13. Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85(1)(c), the Committee may go into closed Session for performance evaluations of the department heads/employees the committee oversees.

Motion by Hamilton, second by Zurfluh to go into closed sessions at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried unanimously. Winch-Yes, Polach-Yes, Zurfluh-Yes, Feirer-Yes, Hamilton-Yes

14. Return to open session

Motion by Hamilton, second by Polach to return to open sessions as 10:51 a.m. Motion carried unanimously. Winch-yes, Polach-yes, Zurfluh-yes Feirer-yes, Hamilton-yes

15. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m. by Chairman Feirer.

Minutes taken by the Wood County Sheriff's Department and Wood County Emergency Management