

Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: July 21, 2020

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: July 28, 2020

Meeting called to order by Mr. Taylor at 9:00am.

1: Call to Order/Roll Call: Mr. Mike Taylor, Mr. Larry Grisen, Mr. Nathan Nelson, Mr. John Sendelbach, and Mr. Dennis Bork

Others present: Ms. Carol McDonough, Sheriff Mike Schmidtknecht, Chief Deputy Lee Engfer, Lieutenant Diane Mikelson, Ms. Melissa Brunner, Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer, and Ms. Sonya Hansen.

2/3: Public Comments: None

Mr. Fuerbringer asked the Chair to be moved up in the agenda due to a meeting conflict.

4: Review/Discussion/Action: Approval of June minutes

Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve minutes as presented, second by Mr. Nelson. Motion carried.

5: Review/Discussion/Action: Appointment of committee member to serve on LEPC Committee

Mr. Fuerbringer briefly explained to the committee the functions of LEPC. Mr. Nelson made a motion nominating himself to serve on the LEPC Committee, second by Mr. Grisen. Motion carried.

15: Review/Discussion/Action: Emergency Management current Expenditures Report/Written Report

Mr. Fuerbringer discussed his written report. Just like many other departments, he's waiting to see what impact Covid-19 will have on the county. PPE continues to be requested and distributed to the Department Heads. Some activities that were previously placed on hold due the pandemic are moving forward once again. Mr. Taylor accepted the report.

6: Review/Discussion/Action: Proposed ATV/UTV policy

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed the issues he foresees with the policy. Not all law enforcement are able to enforce ATV/UTV violations; ATV/UTVs have a different set of Wisconsin Statutes and penalties in comparison to other motor vehicles. Chief Deputy Engfer advised that staff would have to be trained by the Department of Natural Resources in order to enforce violation laws, however, law enforcement would field any calls that come into the dispatch center.

7: Discussion: Donation policy for the county

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that with the new donation policy in place, that he needed to inform them of a received donation of \$500.00 from the Nelson Cheese Factory for the K-9 program.

8: Review/Discussion/Action: Resignation and backfill of Communications/Corrections Officer

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised committee of resignation of CCO, Dustin Steele. However, he is willing to remain working as a part-time officer. Sheriff explained some complications of hiring a part-time, untrained individual. A part-time, untrained person would still have to be jail certified by attending, and successfully completing a 5-week jailer school in order to work in the jail. Mr. Grisen made a motion to accept resignation and backfill CCO position, second by Mr. Nelson. Motion carried.

9: Discussion: Covid testing for staff

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that if it becomes required to have courthouse staff tested for Covid-19, the county may want to look at paying staff to have it done if they are not on-duty. Law Enforcement is exempt from receiving any other paid time-off for Covid related matters other than if that individual contracts it themselves. He also explained that there are safety precautions put into place for the deputies/and dispatch/jail staff. There was discussion of the air filtering system in dispatch and what can be done to improve it.

10. Review/Discussion/Action: Reimbursement policy for Communications/Corrections Officer if they voluntarily separate from employment

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed a handout with the current union contract policy for the deputies in relation to employment separation. Maybe there could be a possible addendum to the current employee handbook similar to the union contract language so that the county is not completely out funds if someone voluntarily decides to leave after their training period has ended. Mr. Grisen made a motion to draft language for a Communications/Corrections Officer reimbursement policy and to have it presented to the committee at the next meeting in August, second by Mr. Nelson. Motioned carried.

11: Review/Discussion/Action: Purchase of UV light for jail/law enforcement center, court equipment for inmate appearances due to Covid

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that one UV light has been ordered and should be delivered by the end of the month. Another UV light, more compact in size, is being looked at to be used specifically in the squad cars.

Currently, the jail is not equipped to conduct an inmate court appearance by video, only audio. Equipment that is purchased needs to be compatible with the courtroom equipment and allow multiple callers call-in access for court appearances.

12: Review/Discussion/Action: Law Enforcement June bills paid in July

Sheriff Schmidtknecht explained some of the larger bills were contractual and budgeted for. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve vouchers, second by Mr. Sendelbach. Motion carried.

13: Review/Discussion/Action: Law Enforcement current Expenditure Report

Sheriff Schmidtknecht presented committee with current Expenditure/Revenue report through July 31st. He reminded the committee that some fees are contracts and they have been paid upfront. Revenues have been minimal due to Covid. Covid has also affected escort services i.e. oversized loads, Xcel Energy projects, etc.; they have basically been shut down. Mr. Taylor accepted report.

14: Chief Deputy, Jail Administrator, and Sheriff's Monthly Reports:

Chief Deputy Engfer presented the committee his current report. He explained there was nothing really out of the ordinary for over-time. There was an arrest for homicide of a missing woman from 2016, and a motorcycle fatality.

Lieutenant Mikelson presented the committee her current report. So far, only one individual has violated being on electronic monitoring, this is a service prompted by Covid, and is completely funded by the inmate. New equipment was installed for inmates to use email services, another service completely funded by the inmate.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that there was a train fatality over the past weekend. He also advised the committee that Deputy Nic Scholl has promoted to the replacement Patrol Sergeant, and that he was asked by the Finance Department to look into contracted gasoline prices through Countryside Cooperative. Countryside doesn't have the equipment capability to offer contracted rates at the pump, but hopefully in the near future.

Mr. Taylor accepted all reports.

16: Review/Discussion/Action: Next Meeting Date

August 18, 2020 at 9:00am. Meeting to be held at the Highway Shop due to conference room conflict.

17: Adjournment

10:30am, Mr. Grisen made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Sendelbach. Motion carried to adjourn.

Melissa Brunner, Secretary