

Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: August 18, 2020

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: August 31, 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, Ms. Melissa Brunner, and Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer

2/3: Public Comments: None

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

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

5: Review/Discussion/Action: Law Enforcement July bills paid in August

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve vouchers, second by Mr. Sendelbach. Motion carried.

6: Review/Discussion/Action: Communications/Corrections Officer reimbursement policy

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed the reimbursement policy in the deputy's union contract. He contacted other counties to see what policies they have in place and presented the committee with two options. Mr. Grisen made a motion for the reimbursement language to read for a period of three years, reimbursement up to \$1,500, second by Mr. Nelson. Motion carried. Language will need to be brought to HR as an employee handbook change.

7. Discussion/Action: Purchase of insurance replacement squad

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that one of the owned squads was in a car v. deer accident on July 16th and was recently deemed totaled by the county's insurance company. A replacement squad was located for under \$42,000, partially-equipped. So, basically, the county will get the replacement squad for the amount of the \$5,000 deductible. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the replacement of the totaled squad car, second by Mr. Sendelbach. Motion carried.

8. Review/Discussion/Action: Law Enforcement current Expenditure Report

Sheriff Schmidtknecht presented committee with current Expenditure/Revenue report, on track for both patrol and jail. Even though the county is saving on salaries for the jail due to it being short-staffed, over-time is up in order to cover the open-shifts. Mr. Taylor accepted reports.

****MOVED #10 ITEM AHEAD DUE TO MEETING CONFLICT**

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

Chief Deputy Engfer discussed both jail and patrol reports for July. Two significant events for July, train v. pedestrian fatality and squad v. deer damage, which totaled the squad. There were no significant events for the jail for July. Bookings have gone up; there has been an uptick of more aggressive types of calls and arrests. Mr. Taylor accepted reports.

9. Review/Discussion/Action: Proposed 2021 Law Enforcement/Jail Budget

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed that many of the budgeted items are in relation to contracted services that cannot be negotiated, together with fuel and the jail meals that are also not within his control. He advised that he believes that Covid-19 will affect both patrol and jail budgets. Mr. Grisen motioned to accept presented 2021 budget as a prelim, second by Mr. Nelson. Motion carried. Move budget to Finance.

****MOVED #10 ITEM**

11. Review/Discussion/Action: Emergency Management current Expenditures Report/Written Report

Mr. Fuerbringer presented his current expenditures to the committee, currently at 35% for the year due to Covid. No written report available. He noted that next year's emergency exercise has already been determined. He's been busy handing out PPE to the county. Covid has affected both salary and part-time budgets, as there was no part-time actually budgeted. Mr. Taylor accepted report.

12. Review/Discussion/Action: Proposed 2021 Emergency Management Budget

Mr. Fuerbringer advised the committee that LEPC will be presenting their own budget. He advised that he will be receiving several grants. There was discussion of taking grant funds from EM budget to pay for sheriff's office or courthouse defibrillators. Need to discuss with Sonya Hansen if other purchase plans have been made for the courthouse defibrillators. There was discussion of whether to use full grant amounts or to put partial unused funds into a contingency fund, even if not known what the funds will be used for.

Mr. Grisen made motion to approve Emergency Management 2021 Budget at \$55,000, second by Mr. Nelson. Motion carried. Move budget to Finance.

13: Review/Discussion/Action: Next Meeting Date

September 15, 2020 at 9:00am.

14: Adjournment

11:15am, Mr. Sendelbach made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Grisen. Motion carried to adjourn.

Melissa Brunner, Secretary