

Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: October 20, 2020

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: October 30, 2020

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

1: Call to Order/Roll Call:

Mr. Mike Taylor, Mr. Larry Grisen-Excused, Mr. Nathan Nelson, Mr. John Sendelbach-Excused, and Ms. McDonough

Others present: Sheriff Mike Schmidtknecht, Chief Deputy Lee Engfer, and Ms. Melissa Brunner

2 & 3: Public Comments: None

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

Motion to approve September minutes made by Mr. Nelson, second by Ms. McDonough. Motion carried.

5: Review/Discussion/Action: Law Enforcement August bills paid in September, September bills paid in October:

August bills paid in September-Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised that some grant funds were received and some restitution costs were recovered. Sheriff wanted to make one correction to the bills on line five, The Uniform Shoppe should read "85 badge" not 97. Motion made by Mr. Nelson to accept bills as corrected, second by Ms. McDonough. Motion carried.

September bills paid in October: Motion made by Mr. Nelson to accept bills as presented, second by Ms. McDonough. Motion carried.

6: Review/Discussion/Action: Purchase of UPS battery backup:

Sheriff Schmidtknecht provided the committee background regarding the UPS battery and expressed its need due to power surges/outages that have caused havoc on the dispatch/recording equipment, which could become a liability. He explained that with not being fully staffed within the jail/dispatch center, funds will be available to purchase the UPS battery this year versus in 2021. Motion was made by Mr. Nelson to transfer funds from the jail "salaries" line item (10.02.52710.0000.111) to law enforcement "capital outlay" for the purchase of the UPS battery, cost up to \$35,000, second by Ms. McDonough. Motion carried.

7 & 9: Review/Discussion: Update to 2021 Law Enforcement/Jail Budget and current Expenditures Report:

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that due to not being fully staffed in the jail, funds are able to be put towards the purchase of the UPS battery for 2020. Covid has affected the budget in several ways. There was discussion of current expenditures. Training for both patrol and jail has been affected due to Covid. The insurance line item is over due to several squad versus deer crashes. Overall, on track with the budget.

8: Review/Discussion: Update for Night differential pay for communications/corrections officers:

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed the status of the night-pay differential for the communications/corrections officers. It was decided by Human Resources that an overnight shift would be the hours of 5pm-6am with a .50¢ per hour increase but staff must work the full over-night shift in order to receive the increase.

10: Review/Discussion/Action: Chief Deputy, Jail Administrator, and Sheriff's monthly reports:

Lieutenant Mikelson presented her report. Year to date as of the end of September, there have been 218 bookings. Due to Covid, most inmate court is being held virtually from the jail. Covid has affected all inmate programs at this time. All Huber inmates have been put on electronic monitoring, at no cost to the county. In August, the jail went live with a video/messaging program for approved inmates. 12.60 inmate daily head count for the jail for the month of August, 11.23 inmate daily head count for the month of September. Dispatch calls year to date as of the end of September are 27,473, 1771 of those calls were emergency.

Chief Deputy Engfer presented his report. There has been several motorcycle crashes, speed was a common factor. There has been a rash of crashes throughout Pierce and Pepin Counties, not just in Buffalo County. He discussed the fall flood run overtime. Having visual law enforcement presence tends to be a deterrent for other questionable activity and keeps activity in-check. Covid has affected some over-time opportunities. Year to date as of the end of September, there have been four fatalities, which is up two from 2019. The sheriff's office received a generous monetary donation from Ye Old Schoolhouse to purchase life jackets for patrol. Due to the timing of the donation, prior authorization to accept the donated funds was given by Ms. Sonya Hansen.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that the new communications/corrections officer is working out really well. The sheriff's office has received donations to put towards needed equipment from Marie Marquardt in memory of her son, JJ Ramey.

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

Sheriff Schmidtknecht read Mr. Fuerbringer's written report. Covid is a daily issue but he is continuing to work with WEM to aide in the distribution of PPE to emergency personnel. 2020 grant closeouts are a top priority. Once closeouts are approved by the State, they will issue a reimbursement check from FEMA grants for 50% of the expenditures. Mr. Taylor accepted report.

12: Review/Discussion/Action: Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting currently set for December 8, 2020 at 9:00am.

13: Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 9:45am made by Ms. McDonough, second by Mr. Nelson. Motion carried.

Melissa Brunner, Secretary