

## **DRAFT**

### **Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes**

**Committee/Board:** LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** November 19, 2019

**Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date:** December 19, 2019

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Dennis Bork at 9:01am.

Members present pursuant to roll call: John Kriesel, Mike Taylor, Dennis Bork, and Butch Schreiner. Dwight Ruff-entered at 9:22am.

Others present: Sheriff Michael Schmidtknecht, Chief Deputy Lee Engfer, Lieutenant Diane Mikelson, Melissa Brunner, Deputy Mitch Zastrow, Deputy Nic Scholl, Officer Crystal Bauer-Wieczorek, Officer Matt Prieur, and Sonya Hansen

Public-None

Sheriff Schmidtknecht explained to the committee that on September 10, 2019 dispatchers took a 911 call that after several hours, ended in a life-saving event. The coordination of the dispatchers keeping communication open with the reporting party and updating the information to the deputies, the deputies were able to act quickly to formulate a plan of action, which ultimately resulted in an individual's life being saved. Sheriff Schmidtknecht explained to the committee that these types of calls are common in a way but usually do not rise to this type of level. He could easily hand out awards every other week but he tries to limit to extraordinary circumstances.

Officer Matt Prieur discussed the possibility of night-pay differential for the communications/corrections officers. He presented the committee with a handout which provided an overview of figures based upon a 10pm-6am shift, at which is equals out to be a maximum of 23 hours a day based upon 3 people working the night shift (3 people each rotation, which is a total of 6) (1 officer at 7 hours and 2 at 8 hours). However, he explained that over a year's time, people take time off and currently, Tuesday's are negotiated 8-hour days; therefore, there will never be a maximum payout for the year.

The committee discussed that initially, Cecilia Novinski presented the idea of pay differential. However, the idea was tabled by Human Resources due to budget time restraints. The committee was in agreement that a resolution should be moved forward to HR. If HR turns down the resolution, the resolution would still be moved forward to the full county board as an unbudgeted item.

Mr. Kriesel made a motion to move a resolution forward supporting 12-hours shifts, with a \$1.00 night differential pay for a fully worked 8-hour shift a month (52 shifts a year), which equals to be an \$8.00 differential pay, second by Mr. Ruff. Mr. Taylor expressed foreseen concerns of the board. Ms. Hansen followed up with concerns of other departments and keeping things fair and equal for all. All committee members in favor to move forward with resolution.

Committee wanted more information to be brought forward of a breakdown to include benefits/retirement.

**Minutes July 9, 2019:** Motion to approve the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes made by Mr. Kriesel, second by Mr. Schreiner. Motion carried.

Ms. Hansen discussed the restructuring of the CJCC committee. In Pepin County, the CJCC reports to the law enforcement committee one time a year. It just seems like a good fit to have CJCC to Buffalo County's law enforcement committee since they share the same clientele. CJCC committee can only bring recommendations forward but do not act on them. Currently, they report to the finance department. With the county restructuring committees, it is the hope that it will cut down on meeting times, and make the meeting times more productive for those involved. The law enforcement committee is in approval of CJCC being restructured under the law enforcement committee at this time.

**Law Enforcement October bills Paid in November:** Motion to approve paid bills by John Kriesel, second by Mike Taylor. Motion carried.

**Current Expenditures Law/Jail 2019:** Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed the current expenditure handout. Some line items are "off" from the previous report due to the transferring of insurance vehicle funds and emergency vehicle funds (funds are playing catchup!) There was discussion of whether or not unused funds go back into the LE/Jail budget; Ms. Hansen advised that they do not. Currently, both LE and Jail are under budget.

**Chief Deputy Report:** There were 758 calls for service in September. Overtime was up but 40.25 hours will be reimbursed by Xcel Energy. There was a fatal crash on September 7<sup>th</sup>, speed and unfamiliarity of the roads was presumed to be factors. The fall flood run attendance was down this year.

In October, there were 600 calls for service. Reimbursed over-time of 16.5 hours. Significant events: There was a juvenile suicide death. Receipt of \$500 donation from Dairyland Power; funds will potentially be used for the purchase of floatation safety equipment.

**Jail Lieutenant Report:** Lieutenant Mikelson advised that year to date for October there have been 383 bookings. Average of 12.13 inmates for the month of September and 16.77 inmates for the month of October. Jail changes for October, installed a TV in C & D blocks, which completes the TV install for the jail. Casey Brownell attended a Crime Information Bureau conference in September and in October, Dustin Steele, Jacinda Ganz attended in-house Taser training. Casey Brownell, Kassie Serum, and Diane Mikelson attended the Jail Administrator conference. Dustin Steele and Crystal Bauer-Wieczorek attended advanced TIME training.

**Sheriff's Report:** Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that he received another \$4,000 DOT equipment grant, which help supplement the budget. These funds will go towards the purchase of traffic safety cones and radar equipment.

There was discussion of the status of the road signs and mapping.

**Emergency Management Expenditures/written report:** Mr. Fuerbringer's report was mailed to the committee prior to the meeting. Highlights from the report were, EPRCRA grant was closed out the

end of October. The Homeland Security grant was closed out in October, as well. Mr. Fuerbringer was appointed to be one of two representatives for the State WebEOC Advisory Committee. He also attended the mandatory class for "Introduction to WEM" in early November. A motion to approve the report was made by Mr. Schreiner, second by Mr. Taylor. Motion carried.

Currently, the next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2020 at 9:00am.

10:38a.m. adjournment.

---

Melissa Brunner, Secretary