

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 26, 2009

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RICHARD MEYER COMMUNITY RESOURCE ROOM
4311 JACKSON STREET, OSHKOSH

PRESENT: HARVEY RENGSTORF
LAWRENCE SMITH
BILL WINGREN
TOM ELLIS

EXCUSED: DONALD GRIESBACH

ALSO PRESENT: MICHAEL BROOKS/SHERIFF
BILL TEDLIE/SHERIFF
BARB SPANBAUER/SHERIFF
JENNIFER WOLDT/NORTHWESTERN
SHANNON CARLSON/STUDENT

Chairman Harvey Rengstorf called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Approve the minutes from March 2, 2009

A motion to approve the minutes was made Lawrence Smith, seconded by Bill Wingren. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Communications

Bill Wingren advised that a neighbor approached him about something they had seen on TV about a rescue boat being sent out for a subject out on the ice who stated that he did not want to be rescued and no citation was issued. Bill asked Sheriff Brooks if these subjects can't be told to get off the ice. Sheriff Brooks advised that you can tell people to get off the ice, but you can't make them.

3. Input on agenda items by public

None.

4. Resolution supporting standard enforcement of seatbelt law

Harvey Rengstorf advised that he had received a copy of a resolution from Kewaunee County to support standard enforcement of the seatbelt law and asked if we should get involved in this also. According to Kewaunee's resolution, increased compliance would result in 44 fewer fatalities and 650 fewer serious injuries and avoid \$147 million in economic loss in Wisconsin.

Chief Deputy Tedlie advised that currently, enforcement of the seatbelt law is "secondary", which means that a person would need to be stopped for some other violation before they could

be issued a citation for non-use of a seatbelt. This resolution would make the seatbelt law “primary”, which would allow law enforcement to stop a vehicle for non-compliance of the seatbelt law only. Sheriff Brooks supports this resolution as he believes non-compliance impacts all of us by creating higher insurance and higher hospital costs.

A motion to forward this resolution to the Legislative Committee was made by Tom Ellis, seconded by Bill Wingren. All in favor, motion carried 4-0.

5. Resolution for Fiber Optic for radio/data communications – Sheriff Brooks

This had been discussed at the last meeting. At this time a motion was made by Lawrence Smith to forward this resolution to the County Board, seconded by Tom Ellis. All in favor, motion carried 4-0.

6. Information on COPS Grants – Sheriff Brooks

Sheriff Brooks advised that he just wanted to inform the committee of this grant at this time as he was not able to compile all of the data that he likes to present to them due to the deadline for applying for this grant being April 14, 2009.

He advised that they are working on putting together a grant application for two positions; one officer for patrol and one officer for Courthouse Security. This grant would cover the cost of both officers for the first three years. He is requesting one officer for Courthouse Security as he was asked by both the County Executive and the Courts for another officer inside the Courthouse. He used to have two officers assigned to courthouse security, but due to the budget caps that occurred in 2005/2006, he had reduced it down to only one officer in order to keep enough positions filled for patrol to help reduce overtime costs.

The other officer would be placed in patrol due to an increase in the number of calls received and the amount of time that it takes to process calls/investigations and traffic accidents as a result of changes in the Federal laws.

He is applying for this grant in an effort to save the taxpayers any costs for the first three years. The only problem is that at the end of the first three years, he can not remove the officers from these positions. His Table of Organization must show two officers being hired in the 4th year.

Sheriff Brooks will be preparing his application and if he finds that the numbers justify hiring more, he will apply for more. Once he finds out if he has been awarded the grant or not, he will come back to the committee. If he is awarded the grant, he will also present his data to the committee to justify the grant.

7. Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Brooks discussed a blog written by Jonathan Krause on this blog site, “My Two Cents” on 03/17/09 where Jonathan reported that he had been following one of the Sheriff's Office squad cars southbound on Hwy 41 near the Butte Des Mort Bridge causeway at 7:40 p.m. the night before. He stated that while in the 65 MPH zone, the squad had slowed down to about 53 MPH and that the individual driving the squad was more pre-occupied with using the MDC than he was with the speed. He further stated that a car had passed this squad and the squad then sped back up and before they got to the 9th St. exit, the squad had slowed down again and the individual appeared to be spending a lot of time on the MDC. The squad then exited and proceeded east on 9th St.

Sheriff Brooks advised that once he was made aware of this blog, he immediately investigated the matter as they have a policy prohibiting this type of behavior. His office has AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locators) and he found that his office did not have a squad car in that area at the time Jonathan indicated. He advised they did have a squad going northbound at approximately the same time, but not in the area Jonathan stated. Had he found that it was actually one of his squads he would have taken action. He further advised that the main purpose for having AVL is so that Dispatch knows which squad is the closest to the scene of a call that they receive, but it is also used to confirm or exonerate reports of this nature. In this case, unless the date and time given by Jonathan is incorrect, the AVL has exonerated it from being a Sheriff's Office squad car. Squads from other law enforcement agencies do travel in this area also, but exactly what agency it may have been is unknown.

8. Items for Next Agenda

Closed Session – Sheriff's Office

Support Increase of Alcohol Tax for Hwy 41 Law Enforcement

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:29 a.m. by Lawrence Smith, seconded by Tom Ellis. All in favor, motion carried 4-0.

NEXT MEETING:

APRIL 14, 2009

9:00 A.M.

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RICHARD MEYER COMMUNITY RESOURCE ROOM**

Respectfully submitted:

Sandy Schauz
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office