

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE:

OCTOBER 5, 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
DONALD GRIESBACH

ALSO PRESENT:

CHRISTIAN GOSSETT/DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JULIE PAGEL/REGISTER OF DEEDS
MICHAEL BROOKS/SHERIFF
BILL TEDLIE/SHERIFF
TODD CHRISTIE/SHERIFF
STEVE VERWIEL/SHERIFF
BARB SPANBAUER/SHERIFF
MARK HARRIS/COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JENNIFER WOLDT/NORTHWESTERN

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

1. Approve minutes from the September 21, 2009 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lawrence Smith, seconded by Bill Wingren. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

2. Communications

None.

3. Input on agenda items by public

None.

4. Resolution to transfer automobile from Airport to District Attorney

Christian Gossett advised that his office was offered a 1996 4-wheel drive SUV type vehicle by the Airport at no cost. This vehicle was only used to travel up and down the runway and it is in very good condition.

Currently, the DA's Office is paying an employee to use their personal vehicle which costs more than having a County vehicle to use. His investigators are also interested in using this vehicle when they have papers to serve outside the area in inclement weather.

When this vehicle stops being operational, they will not replace it, they will just go back to the use of a personal vehicle if necessary. Eventually their office will move into the Orrin King Building and the need to transport numerous files for storage will no longer be necessary. They are also going to

electronic file sorting and their storage facilities will be obsolete because everything will be maintained on computer. They currently use two different storage facilities.

A motion to approve the transfer of this vehicle to the District Attorney's Office was made by Lawrence Smith, seconded by Bill Wingren. Motion carried 4-1. Donald Griesbach opposed as he would have liked to have seen a cost comparison regarding use/cost associated with upkeep of the airport vehicle as opposed to paying staff to use their personal vehicle.

5. Budget Review – Register of Deeds

Julie Pagel advised that her revenues are down, but are still in the black. She hasn't had any overtime, but did place \$500 into her overtime budget to cover the cost of a Fidlar Conference in Illinois that occurs yearly to cover the cost of sending staff to this conference which she is required to pay them overtime for. Small Equipment increased due to having to purchase two-(2) plat cabinets that are \$2,500 each. Even though all of their Land Records are automated, State Statutes require that she historically preserve the plats that are filed. They must keep the paper record permanently and must hold them in a specific type of cabinet that is fire-proof and water-resistant. Labor & Fringes also increased due to normal wage increases and a higher fringe rate used.

Her office has almost completed the scanning of their Vital Records and they are just finishing the microfilm project. They had 11 years worth of Land Records that were microfilmed, then converted to CD's, and then downloaded into their computer system. The images were horrible and they ended up having to go back to the original microfilm to look at the images. US Recording came in and they have redone the images and they are great; a real plus for the customers and Title companies. They are still in the process of redacting social security numbers. The Property Fraud Alert Program has about 2,900 people in Winnebago County signed up; she would like to see more. Flyers were created and the Townships will be placing these flyers into individual's tax bill or receipt that they send back for taxes.

6. Discussion to upgrade County Rules

Harvey Rengstorf confirmed that the committee members received copies of his proposed changes and advised that it would be discussed at the County Board Meeting on Tuesday, 10/06/09. Bill Wingren advised that he would also like the dress code for the supervisor's addressed.

7. Resolution to accept 2-year grant for civilian staffed for law enforcement

Sheriff Brooks advised that the need for this position was identified about 2 ½ years ago as a result of having a full-time Detective doing the evidence. The cost of having a Detective doing the work is costly, but due to budget constraints, creating a civilian position to handle the evidence was not possible. The use of technology is what increased the need for this position even more and even if this grant would not have become available, he will be placing this position into his budget. The grant helps cover the cost for the first 2-years. The grant runs from August 1, 2009 until July 31, 2011. The alternative to creating this position is to pay overtime.

If approved, the position will take effect January 1, 2010. He had wanted to get the person started before the end of the year, but the study required will not be completed before the budget hearings. Due to this, Sheriff Brooks is withdrawing his resolution request and is giving this information to the committee for informational purposes only.

Captain Verwiel advised that with changes to laws about 2-years ago, the work load as increased even more. It is now a law that all interviews and interrogations of all juveniles and those of adults being charged with a felony must be recorded both visually and audibly. District Attorney Gossett said that this was an unfunded mandate and Winnebago County has 800-1100 felonies and 700-900 juvenile cases occurring per year. Now you have 1-3 hour recordings that someone needs to make copies of and get to the District Attorney's Office. A recent homicide case had about six-(6) different

interviews that were anywhere from 4-8 hours long. On a felony case there are preliminary hearing requirements that must be met within 10 days. The only other option is to put the defendant's back out onto the street until there is time to make these recordings. In addition there are squad recordings, jail recordings, and digital photographs that need to be archived, along with a large amount of data entry. There are also numerous copies that need to be made for the District Attorney's Office.

A motion to forward this position through the budget was made by Donald Griesbach, seconded by Lawrence Smith. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

8. Resolution to accept Homeland Security grant for Eyeball Camera

Lt. Christie advised that the Eyeball Camera is a wireless, self-stabilizing camera that can be thrown into a room or placed on the end of a pole to give officers a view of the room or barricaded subject without having to actually send in officers. It will help mitigate the risk to officers as well as any civilians/victims/defendants in the room. By being able to get a visual of the room before making entry, they can develop intelligence to form a tactical plan with less risk to the officers and others. It could also be used in a situation where a child falls into a hole. The camera can be sent down the hole to get a visual of the child's location.

The camera is about the size of softball and gives a 360-degree view of the room as well as giving audio, and can run about 2 ½ hours on a full charge. It also has night vision capability that will be beneficial to Detectives as well. The camera records live information to a computer hard drive which will be kept as evidence.

Sheriff Brooks advised that this camera is something they have wanted for a long time, but budgetary issues prevented them from making a purchase due to other priorities. This is also part of the Regional SWAT Team initiative.

A motion to approve a resolution to accept this grant of \$7,498.00 was made by Bill Wingren, seconded by Tom Ellis. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

9. Sheriff's Report

None.

10. Items for next agenda

None.

11. Future meeting date

Tentatively 10/19/09

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:46 a.m. by Donald Griesbach, seconded by Lawrence Smith. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandy Schauz
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office