

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: DECEMBER 8, 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: DIANE FREMGEN – CLERK OF COURTS
MICHAEL BROOKS – SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BILL TEDLIE – SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MARK HABECK – SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BARB SPANBAUER – SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LYLE CLAYTON – SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MARK HARRIS – COUNTY EXECUTIVE
DAVID ALBRECHT – COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN
JENNIFER WOLDT – OSHKOSH NORTHWESTERN

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

1. Approves minutes from the November 16, 2009 meeting

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

2. Communications

Donald Griesbach received a letter from Chief Robert Stanke of the Menasha Police Department urging the committee to support the County radio system.

3. Input on agenda items by public

None.

4. Resolution supporting maintaining current law regarding jurisdictional amounts and court fees in Small Claims actions

Diane Fremgen advised that this is in regard to Assembly Bill 524. The way this bill is written would require the clerk to monitor how many actions a filer files and will complicate things for her staff and it is unequal access to the users of the courts. If a small claims litigant comes to court and files 20 or fewer actions per year, they would have a jurisdictional limit of \$10,000 and a filing fee of an additional \$33 per action to the current filing fee of \$94.50. If a small claims litigant files 21 or more actions, they would remain at the \$5,000 jurisdictional limit and pay an additional \$44 filing fee per action to the current \$94.50. This legislation aims to split the frequent filers (collection agencies, public service, credit card companies etc.). The additional filing fees of \$33 and \$44 are 100% County retained so there is money for the counties.

Diane met with the County Association 12/02/09 and they are split. They agree that the State needs to do something about supporting funding for the courts, but not "piece meal" legislation like this.

They aren't even sure how to measure just how much money this would bring in for the counties. Wisconsin Legal Action is in support of the bill as they believe the extra filing fee money will go to the courts and the courts will add staff that will help the filers by explaining procedures etc. There is no guarantee that there will even be enough money to add staff let alone adding legal staff, as clerks can not give legal advice. Outagamie County passed a resolution to support the current process as they do not want the change and Diane agrees.

A motion to forward this matter to the Legislative Committee was made by Donald Griesbach, seconded by Lawrence Smith. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

5. Resolution – Pay adjustment for Chief Deputy of Clerk of Courts

Diane Fremgen advised that when this position was added to her Table of Organization in 2008, the individual who took the position was started at the lowest level of that salary range. There are now five union staff members that she supervises who are making more money. She had spoken to Karon Kraft of Human Resources and it was agreed that Diane would place \$2,000 into her 2010 budget to cover a pay increase, but they can not change the range without approval from the Judiciary and Personnel and Finance Committee. This would put her at \$.20 an hour more than the top paid union members (depending upon what happens with union negotiations). The total salary increase is \$2,000 per year.

A motion to approve a range increase of \$.20 an hour over the top paid Court Assistant was made by Donald Griesbach, seconded by Lawrence Smith. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

6. Resolution to upgrade county-wide radio system

Sheriff Brooks advised that both the County Executive and the Finance Department requested that he wait until he receives the RFP's before a resolution is done to go before the County Board. The RFP is currently being put together and it is a three county RFP (Winnebago, Calumet, and Outagamie County) that includes the cost of the system and the prices for mobile and portable radios. They hope to make a selection by mid year of 2010 and it will then take one year to get the system up and running with a testing process of at least 30-days to ensure things are working as they should. The current radio system would be replaced with a 700/800 megahertz trucking system that will be interfaced between the three counties. It is a State mandate that this change be made by 12/31/2012.

He passed out a document showing the number of portable and mobile radios that each law and fire agency has within Winnebago County; although not all the figures were in from all agencies. The new radios will have 95% coverage via the portables radios, which will eliminate the need for the number of mobile radios that will actually be needed.

There is a little over \$11 million in the Capital Improvement budget to cover the cost of the project; however, Sheriff Brooks believes the cost will be significantly less than this. Sheriff Brooks is recommending that the first time out, the County provides radio for the public safety users in Winnebago County. Governance would then be developed where each agency would be required to maintain the radios in a certain manner at their expense. They would also be responsible to pay for any additional equipment they may want (such as headset, etc) on their own.

7. Resolution to add pods to the County Jail

Sheriff Brooks advised that has not yet been able to meet with Finance regarding the proposed costs of continuing to do business according to the past study that was done. Business is not being the done the same as it was in 1998/1999 when the other study was done. There are now different judges and new judges coming in, different police chiefs and several different District Attorneys. These changes, along with the alternatives that are currently being used, make a huge difference as it relates to what the projections may be. He suggests that the County should move forward with a study that addresses these matters along with addressing issues as to what potentials there may be in the future for us to continuing recognizing revenue from housing prisoners from other

municipalities. He would then be able to give the County Board a much more comprehensive plan that would allow them to make a decision as to what needs to be done.

Stating exactly what is needed to take us out to future years is not his area of expertise. He can take a look at what projections were in the past, look at where we are now and he can attempt to extrapolate it. But the reality is that the County needs to have someone come in with expertise in this area to study the issue and give recommendations. The study could be done in 4-6 months. There is some money already set aside from the AD-HOC Regional study, but it would not cover the entire cost of the study.

Re-opening the Huber Center was discussed and Sheriff Brooks stated that this was not a good way of doing business as it would require additionally staffing, but it could be included in the study. Since the Huber Center has been closed, they had a savings of \$1.5 million the first year and have been saving more than \$1.5 million in labor costs every year since it has been closed. County Executive Mark Harris stated that there is a tendency to view the costs as being from the building costs, but over time the real cost is from the staffing and he agrees that the direction with which Sheriff Brooks wants to go with another study is probably the right one.

At the request of Bill Wingren at previous meetings and by email to Sheriff Brooks, Captain Habeck passed out information on the jail. These handouts were regard to:

- The population and capacity of other county jails along with the year that their facility was built and if they house contract inmates
- Demographics of Winnebago County's inmate population including sex, age, race, type of offenses and security classification
- Daily inmate population for the month of November 2009 which was submitted to the State. Daily inmate population is done on a monthly basis and all are submitted to the State. This categorizes into probation, sentenced, non-sentenced inmates. Also included was a summary of charges for every month in 2009.
- A graph regarding the number of inmates that are seen each month by the Health Services Unit in the Jail. Out of 304 inmates that were in custody on November 27, 2009, 58 were on some type of medication for mental health issues, 115 had contact with mental health at some point, 8 were being monitored as high-risk, 9 were special needs, 2 were on active suicide watch and 1 was removed on a commitment.

8. Sheriff's Report

None.

9. Items for next agenda

Future Jail needs study

10. Future meeting date

January 11, 2010 9:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:08 a.m. by Donald Griesbach, seconded by Tom Ellis. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandy Schauz
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office