

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
AMENDED

DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2014

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

PRESENT: BILL WINGREN
TOM ELLIS
PAUL EISEN
LARRY SMITH

EXCUSED: BILL ROH

ALSO PRESENT: JOHN MATZ – SHERIFF
TODD CHRISTOPHERSON – SHERIFF
JOHN BODNAR – CORPORATION COUNSEL
CHRISTIAN GOSSETT – DISTRICT ATTORNEY

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bill Wingren called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and it was verified that the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Approval of minutes of January 13, 2014 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Larry Smith, seconded by Tom Ellis. All in favor, motion carried 4-0.

3. Public comments on agenda items

None.

4. Communications

Paul Eisen mentioned the widely publicized propane gas issues and also that this topic is on the agenda for the Emergency Management Committee. He asked Sheriff Matz to give them an update under the Sheriff's Report as to equipping the patrol vehicles with propane gas.

Paul Eisen informed the committee of some of the matters that were discussed at the January Wisconsin Counties Association Judicial and Public Safety Steering Committee meeting. These matters included:

- Legislators sponsoring Senate Bill 507 which would increase the grants given to counties by **\$1,500,000.00** for funding alternatives to incarceration and diversion from prosecution.
- Assembly Bill 457 which focuses on mental health and increasing funding for alternatives to incarceration.
- Efforts to revise 911 legislation addressing fees and sending money to counties.
- Discussion regarding the National Institute of Corrections.
- The Supreme Court funding lapse impacting money supporting the Clerk of Courts.
- Discussion on legislation to support self-represented litigants in court proceedings.
- The committee's support for permitting law enforcement officials and qualified former officers to carry a firearm on school grounds and some other private properties.
- The committee's opposition to legislation requiring Coroners to have specific training or be suspended from office.

5. Discussion/action: Budget Transfer – Corporation Counsel – John Bodnar

John Bodnar advised that he had an overage of \$8842.00 due in part to the cost of outside counsel and transcription services. Finance suggested that he ask for a budget transfer of \$9000 just in case some bills come in late.

A motion to approve the budget transfer of \$9000.00 was made by Paul Eisen, seconded by Tom Ellis. All in favor, motion carried 4-0.

6. Discussion/action: \$36,816.00 Homeland Security Grant – Sheriff Matz

Sheriff Matz advised that this grant is to be used to purchase specialized equipment for the Regional SWAT Team. They will use the money to purchase a robot that can enter buildings and is equipped with a camera and has the ability to climb stairs.

A motion to approve acceptance of the \$36,816.00 grant was made by Larry Smith, seconded by Tom Ellis. All in favor, motion carried 4-0.

7. Discussion/action: District Attorney Office – Diversion Program

Christian Gossett advised that due to changes within the Office of Justice Assistance they have been behind in the processing of grants. His office has had a grant for the Drug Diversion Program for the last four-(4) years. They have been told that they will receive a grant again for 2014, but his office hasn't received the grant yet so it hasn't been approved. Creating a position for this program was approved in 2013; however, due to issues that arose with licensing it was delayed.

The grant money from last year will be used to purchase COMPAS which is a risk management tool and to train people how to use it. This carry over grant needs to be used by the end of March 2014 and his office still needs to post the position, hire for the position, and give the necessary training which is why he is asking for approval to accept the 2014 grant now before it is actually received so

he can move forward to the Personnel and Finance Committee and County Board. The grant will be the same as it has been in previous years and will cover the cost of this position.

A motion to approve acceptance of the 2014 grant before it is received, and if not received, the position will be pulled was made by Larry Smith, seconded by Tom Ellis. All in favor, motion carried 4-0.

8. Discussion/action: Internet Publication of Family Court Summons – Larry Smith

Larry Smith advised that many times people going through a divorce will obtain fee waivers for the cost of serving divorce paperwork. State law then requires personal service and if the person is not able to be found, notice needs to be done by publication in a newspaper. The publication cost in many areas is beyond the financial ability of many of these individuals which now creates a situation where the Courts have had the expense of processing the paperwork and then the matter is just dropped for lack of publication. He is still working on obtaining more information regarding this matter before it goes before any type of legislation, but his goal is to allow the Family Court to waive publication and print media in certain circumstances and allow it to be published on the Internet; either a County or State Court System. The committee asked Larry to bring a proposal forward in writing.

9. Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Matz addressed Paul Eisen's question regarding the use of propane gas in the patrol vehicles and advised the platform for the vehicles that they plan to switch to propane has not yet been approved by the EPA but they are confident that it will be approved by the end of February 2014. They will then move forward with the conversion as it is a bi-fuel system where they can burn either gas or propane so they can play the market which is why he is hesitant to enter into any long-term contract with a propane provider. This way they can buy propane when the cost is low or use gas when the cost of propane is high.

His office received a very nice letter from the Oshkosh Area Humane Society regarding the donation they received from a fundraiser held by his office.

Their Snowmobile Patrol has issued warnings or citations for violations such as registration, racing on the lake, not having a safety certificate, accidents etc.

They had about 68 accidents within an approximate 2 ½ hour period during the last incident of bad weather.

Sheriff Matz attended Evidence Based Decision Making training along with Judge Woldt and members of Social Services and the Public Defenders Office and they are looking into getting people help that they need even before a citation or arrest has been made depending upon the seriousness of the violation. The individual would instead attend a class that will talk about the dangers of drugs and how having a citation or arrest posted on CCAP where anyone can see it can affect careers. The intent is have high-risk offenders placed in jail and keep the low-risk offenders out of jail.

The use of Challenge Coins by the Sheriff's Office to recognize employees for going above and beyond the call of duty and recognizing citizens for assisting the Sheriff's Office was discussed.

Legalizing the use of marijuana by some states and the problems it can create was discussed.

10. Discussion County Board Rules

Paul Eisen discussed an issue raised last year regarding appointments to the Committee on Committees and discussed the difference between our County Board Rules and Outagamie County's rules.

Due the Tri-County Ice Arena now being under the sole control of Winnebago County, Paul Eisen raised a suggestion regarding Rule 24.7 – Parks and Recreation Committee where the following would be added to the end of the Paragraph 2:

“and contracting for the operation of the Tri-County Ice Arena. It shall appoint two members of the Parks and Recreation Committee to serve as Directors of the Tri-County Recreation Association as long as they are the contracted manager.”

It was the consensus of the committee that there is nothing that needs to be done with the current County Board Rules at this time.

11. Suggested items for next agenda

Written proposal for Family Court summons.

12. Next meeting date:

March 10, 2014

13. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:03 a.m. by Larry Smith, seconded by Tom Ellis. All in favor, motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandy Schauz
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office