

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
In person & via Zoom/Telephone

DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2024

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

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

PRESENT: BRYAN STAFFORD
PAUL EISEN
BRIAN DEFFERDING
CONLEY HANSON
JACOB FLOAM

ALSO PRESENT: TODD CHRISTOPHERSON – SHERIFF'S
CHRISTOPHER BRAMAN – SHERIFF'S
MITCH GRUBE – SHERIFF'S
MELISSA RASMUSSEN – SHERIFF'S
DEVIN WILSON – SHERIFF'S
CHERYL BREHMER – MEDICAL EXAMINER
KAY HORAN – SUPERVISOR
MIKE COLLARD – DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
BILL TOPEL – HUMAN SERVICES
ERIC SPARR – DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BETH G. – CITIZEN
MARY ANNE MUELLER – CORPORATION COUNSEL
DOUG GIERYN – PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Call to order.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and it was verified that the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Consideration of Minutes of January 8, 2024, meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, meeting was made by Supervisor Floam, seconded by Supervisor Hanson. Carried 5-0.

3. Chair comments on meeting and agenda organization by Supervisor Stafford.

Chairman Stafford did not have anything additional to say about tonight's meeting.

4. Public comments within the jurisdiction of the committee.

Bill Topel of Human Services commented on agenda item #7 regarding the Opioid Settlement Fund. He discussed the diversion programs that the Human Services Department heads up as well as the Connect Program. He discussed these programs work together with multiple other agencies and the funds are used to conduct the diversion programs.

5. **Communications shared by Committee Members.**

Supervisor Defferding discussed the latest Safe Streets meeting that was held in January.

6. **Update from the District Attorney's Office – District Attorney Eric Sparr**

District Attorney Eric Sparr discussed the Safe Streets meeting. He was amazed to hear about all of the processes and resources that are already in place within Winnebago County. He discussed surrounding counties have been reaching out and asking for information for them to share regarding the Safe Streets group. Eric then discussed several cases that went to trial or are going to sentencing. He then discussed mental health court and an upcoming final meeting that will be taking place soon to finalize the rules and determine who should be in the program. New officer trainings are still taking place. The deputies shadow the staff at the District Attorney's Office for approximately 4 hours during their FTO period. He discussed the district attorney's office is looking into incorporating a testimony training for the new deputies as well during their shadow training.

7. **Discussion: Opioid, Fentanyl, and Other Drug Overdose and Deaths in Winnebago County.**

• **Overdose and Deaths in Winnebago County Update, Cheryl Brehmer Medical Examiner**

Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer handed out statistics to the committee members. Cheryl stated the confirmed 2023 death numbers include: 1,217 cases reported, 371 investigations, 102 autopsy and 1,309 cremation examinations. She then reviewed the overdose statistics and trends over the last 5 years. In 2023, there were 47 confirmed overdoses – 6 of those were suicide by intentional overdose. She reviewed the substance trends to include Methamphetamine going down but Cocaine going up. They are also seeing more substances being laced with Fentanyl. Currently for 2024, there are 4 pending overdoses cases.

• **Where do we go from this point, requested by Supervisor Stafford**

Chairman Stafford wants to know what everyone can do to be better informed and working together to help each other. Chairman Stafford asked Director of Administration, Mike Collard, to provide a matrix showing the status of the Opioid Settlement Fund on a month to month or quarterly basis. This will allow everyone to be kept in the loop of how the Opioid Settlement Fund money is being spent and utilized.

• **Opioid Settlement Funds, requested by Supervisor Defferding**

Supervisor Defferding wanted to discuss the disbursement of the funds. Most of the fund is going towards the Connect Program and Diversion programs. \$421,000 is going to the Human Services Department for labor. Supervisor Defferding asked for a more accurate breakdown of that money. Director of Administration, Mike Collard, stated that money is mostly going towards the Connect program and the staff and equipment to run the program. Mike then reviewed a handout he presented to the committee members outlining where and how more of the money will be utilized.

8. **Corporation Counsel Report**

• **Office/Personnel Updates**

Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller gave a personnel update. They were able to add another attorney to the office and that individual should be starting at the end of February.

• **Case Updates**

Mary Anne Mueller stated they heard back on two mental health cases and Winnebago County prevailed in the cases. She discussed a Supreme Court brief for a mental health case.

The Supreme Court granted the petition for review and there will be oral argument in March on the case. For 2024, there are currently 29 new mental health cases.

9. **Resolution: Authorize the Sheriff's Office to Accept an in-kind Donation from Thomas and Penny Harenburg for an additional K-9 Unit, equipment, and training for the Unit valued at \$17,000.**

Chief Deputy Todd Christopherson discussed the \$17,000 donation to the Sheriff's Office from Thomas and Penny Harenburg for an additional K-9 Unit as well as for the equipment and training needed for the new unit. They have graciously donated money in the past towards the K-9 purchases and K-9 equipment. K-9 Tim will be retiring in March so this donation will go towards the purchase of a new K-9 and the training which is held down in New Mexico.

A motion to approve and accept an in-kind donation from Thomas and Penny Harenburg for an additional K-9 Unit, equipment, and training for the Unit valued at \$17,000 was made by Chairman Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Defferding. Carried 5-0.

10. **Sheriff's Report**

- **Review–Sheriff's Office 2023 Annual Report**

Chief Deputy Todd Christopher handed out a copy of the 2023 Annual Report to the committee members for their review.

- **Review Staffing Levels**

Dispatch - 3 vacancies

Patrol - 0 vacancies

Corrections – 2 vacancies

Booking Security Associates – 1 vacancy

- **Update–Corrections Division**

Chief Deputy Todd Christopherson discussed the new deputy contract and answered any questions the committee members had. The current jail count is 237. He also stated the Corrections Division is currently working on a handbook for the STAR program.

- **Meet and Greet–Corrections Facility K-9**

Chief Deputy Todd Christopherson introduced K-9 Gracie and Deputy Wilson. K-9 Gracie will be a part of the STAR program and will be used as the therapy facility dog.

- **Update–Field Services Division**

Chief Deputy Todd Christopherson discussed the cancellation of several ice fishing events. Sturgeon Spearing is still taking place but again reminded everyone to check ice conditions before going out onto the ice. He also discussed the latest officer involved shooting that was with a North Fond du Lac Sheriff's Office deputy. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office deputies assisted with that event but did not have any direct involvement with the incident.

Chief Deputy Todd Christopherson stated the boathouse is almost completed and will be ready for operation soon.

- **Update–911 Communications Division**

Chief Deputy Todd Christopherson stated the new radios have arrived and are being distributed to all of the users.

- **Supervisor Questions**

None

11. Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm

- Deadline for agenda items due *Monday, February 19, 2024*. Please forward those requests to Chairman Bryan Stafford for approval. This will be the last scheduled standing meeting for the 2022-2024 term. Thank you.

12. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:17 pm by Supervisor Defferding, seconded by Supervisor Hanson . Carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kimberly Delcore
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office