

## COURTHOUSE SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING

1.17.18

Minutes

Location: Room 500-Courthouse

**Committee Members Present:** Judge Karen Seifert, Clerk of Courts Melissa Pingel, Sheriff John Matz, Lieutenant Bill Anthes, District Attorney Christian Gossett, Attorney Rebecca Castonia, County Board Chairman David Albrecht, Facilities Director Mike Elder, District Court Administrator Jon Bellows, State Public Defender Linda Meier, Attorney Ed Jelinski, Family Court Commissioner Lisa Krueger, Emergency Management Linda Kollmann and County Executive Mark Harris.

- I. **Minutes:** The committee members present approved the minutes from the last meeting.
- II. **Courthouse Security Conference:** Judge Seifert told the Committee that the annual Courthouse Security Conference is next month in Oshkosh. The Slender Man case is on the agenda this year. Judge Seifert, Jon Bellows, Sheriff Matz, Lt. Bill Anthes, and another Sheriff Deputy signed up to attend the conference. If others wish to attend, they should contact Ann Olsen with Court Operations and there may be extra funding available.
- III. **Corporation Counsel Legal Opinion:** During meetings following the opening of the Courthouse Security Center in 2017, committee members wanted to know “Who is responsible for Courthouse Security and Courthouse safety.” In addition, “who makes the decision on who is screened?” Judge Seifert contacted Corporation Counsel Jon Bodnar for a written opinion on the matter. The committee members received a copy of the opinion to review prior to this meeting. The opinion stated that the County Executive has the authority to who has access to the Courthouse. County Executive Mark Harris arrived to the meeting during this discussion. Mark Harris explained that during the approval process to build the Security Center the County Board did not want exceptions to the security because of how much money was spent on the construction of the Security Center; as well as the yearly recurring costs to staff the Security Center. The philosophy is that every exception to the rule makes the building less secure and security less effective. Discussions regarding employees bypassing screening. Melissa Pingel questioned the reason for screening employees who have 24/7 access during business hours. DA Gossett wants the tunnel to be available again to be used by employees. DA Gossett would also like to see a process for exempting private attorneys. Attorney Castonia does not believe there should be an exemption for private attorneys and employees. Mark Harris said that he is open to suggestions with regard to exceptions. The Committee decided that they would take up suggestions at the next meeting with regard to exceptions to the Security Checkpoint and access to the Courthouse.

- IV. Access Card Authority:** There was a discussion about who has access cards to the Courthouse. Page 6 of the Security Manual states that the Facilities Director has the authority, Mike Elder stated that the manual is incorrect and that it is the Department Heads that have the authority to issue access cards to employees. There will need to be revisions to the manual to reflect the correct protocol.
- V. Access Cards:** There was a question about why employees with access cards no longer have to swipe their cards when leaving buildings before and after business hours. Mike Elder explained that often employees were not swiping out and then an alarm would go off. The process in place is that if the alarm goes off then the company that manages the security alarms of the County buildings will alert the police department as well as a facilities employee. Mike Elder explained because this was happening too much he no longer has people swipe out of buildings before and after business hours.
- VI. Security Issue:** Judge Seifert informed the Committee about a security incident in her courtroom at the last meeting. Recap: *Judge Seifert sentenced a defendant to prison who was not in custody. After Judge Seifert was out of the Courtroom, he ran behind the Judges bench and out the side door of the Courtroom, the Sheriff Deputy chased him down the hall and subsequently the defendant jumped down the stairs and broke his leg, and was taken to the hospital.* The recording of the incident was then sent to the DA's office for prosecution. The DA's office reviewed the recording and could hear the audio during the event. Because of this incident, there are questions regarding recording audio in the Courthouse. There are potential problems for instance, recording audio that is Attorney-Client privilege. Sheriff Matz stated that the Sheriff's Office is working with the vendor to turn the audio recording off for the Courtrooms. DA Gossett was also concerned about the recording in the hallways for the same reason. There also is an issue with recordings of juvenile hearings and the footage being reviewed in the Security Center where the public is passing through screening. There was no resolution with regard to the hallway recording. The Sheriff's office keeps these recordings for 60 days.
- VII. UA Collections:** Sheriff Matz said that they are going to collect UA's (urine analysis) for three of the diversion programs in the Courthouse in the basement of the Courthouse from 8-8:30 and 4-4:30. There is an issue with those times from the Clerk of Courts standpoint on jury days because the morning is the busiest time for jury.
- VIII. Construction/Remodel Update:** Mike Elder said that the projection is that the project should be finished by the end of March 2018. The Clerk of Courts and Child Support should be moving in the beginning of February.
- IX. Fire Alarms:** Because there have been several false alarms during the construction there was a question if there is a fire alarm can staff go out any exit including the fire exits in the stairwells? The answer is yes.

**X. Security Issues:** Judge Seifert informed the Committee that there were no security issues since the last meeting.

**XI. Next Meeting April 25, 2018, at Noon – Room 500 of the Courthouse.**

Respectfully Submitted by Melissa M. Pingel, Clerk of Courts.