

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

DATE: APRIL 12, 2021

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
VICKI SCHORSE
MIKE BRUNN

ALSO PRESENT: JOHN MATZ – SHERIFF'S
TODD CHRISTOPHERSON – SHERIFF'S
SUE ERTMER – COUNTY CLERK
KELLY KUTZ – DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S
MARY ANNE MUELLER – CORPORATION COUNSEL
KOBY SCHELLENGER – COUNTY SUPERVISOR
ANN MARSHALL – LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
MIKE ELDER - FACILITIES
BARB SPANBAUER – SHERIFF'S
JONATHAN KRAUSE - CITIZEN

1. Call to Order

Chairman Wingren called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and it was verified that the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Consideration of Minutes of March 8, 2021 and April 5, 2021 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from March 8, 2021 & April 5, 2021 was made by Bill Wingren, seconded by Mike Brunn. Carried 4-0.

3. Public comments on agenda items

Supervisor Schellenger commented that he agrees with the county board of supervisor's reduction from 36 members to 28 members.

Ann Marshall commented that she discussed the county board reduction from 36 members to 28 members with the League of Women Voters and they too are in support of the reduction in county board member size as well as the modifications that will come in the future to committee structures.

4. Communications shared by Committee Members

Chairman Wingren stated he has been receiving positive feedback from the community in regards to the reduction of county board members from 36 to 28 members.

5. Consideration/Vote: Laptop replacement for County Board use – County Clerk – Sue Ertmer

Sue discussed the need for a new laptop due to the current one being outdated. This particular laptop is used during the County Board meetings. The new laptop would be \$1,000.00 and she would be doing a budget transfer out of contingency reserves to cover the cost of the new laptop.

A motion to approve the budget transfer of \$1,000.00 to purchase a new laptop was made by Bill Wingren, seconded by Mike Brunn. Carried 4-0.

6. Consideration/Vote: 980 Sex Offender Housing Options – Mary Anne Mueller and Mike Elder

Mary Anne Mueller and Mike Elder had updated the committee as to where things stand as far as housing of the 980 offenders and stated they would like the committee's direction on how to move forward with housing. They would like to know if the county should be responsible for the property as landlords or if a private person should be the landlord.

Chairman Wingren stated he does not like the county option but likes the private landlord option. Wingren asked about the fines and if there really was such a fine if things were not followed through on.

It was at this point in the meeting, 9:14am, that Vicki Schorse had joined.

Mary Anne confirmed that there is a \$1,000.00 per day fine that the state would enforce if there were no housing available at the time of release of a 980 Sex Offender and the county is statutorily responsible to ensure housing is available at the time of release.

Supervisor Eisen asked about inquiring with realtors on properties and the status of the current mobile home property. He stated this issue needs to be discussed at length with the new County Executive as ultimately it will end up in his lap.

Supervisor Ellis stated that someone has reached out to realtors and nothing has come up as available options for 980 Offenders. He asked if the State could assist to help avoid the daily fee if housing is not found by the time of the next offender release.

Supervisor Brunn stated with the regulations the county has to follow pertaining to 980 Sex Offenders as far as distances from a church, school, park, etc., it is very hard to find a place to but the offenders.

Supervisor Schorse asked if Mary Anne if after the last time this topic was discussed if they were able to find a solution to housing so they aren't scrambling when they find out an offender is about to be released. She stated the county has to do the best for the community and have a solid solution and she would like to hear more options as to what they have found or researched for placement of the offenders.

Supervisor Eisen showed a colored map of the rural areas of Winnebago County and asked how it is so hard to find placement for these individuals as there is enough land and property in the rural areas within Winnebago County.

Supervisor Brunn responded by stated part of the problem in the communities don't want the offenders near them. It also makes it harder when the offender has to be released to the area where they were from.

Mary Anne stated most of the individuals still at Sand Ridge are from the City of Oshkosh. Mike Elder stated he would like to know whether to build a facility or not so he knows how to proceed.

Supervisor Wingren asked if there can be more than one trailer on the county property where the other trailer is currently stationed. Mike Elder stated that was presented to the City and they stated they didn't want that area to be turned into a trailer park.

Mary Anne then stated the Sheriff would feel better if the offenders were located near the jail facility so the response time is quicker should something happen. Mary Anne stated they have been meeting with the city regularly about the housing situation and have presented them with the possibility of having two offenders in the trailer located next to the jail.

Supervisor Schorse asked to have the city more involved in this process so they have a better understanding of the predicament the county is in to find housing for these individuals that fits within the guidelines of the release of an offender.

Sheriff Matz stated that 6 out of the 8 offenders currently at Sand Ridge awaiting release are from municipalities and mostly from the City of Oshkosh, Neenah & Menasha. There are currently 2 offenders living in the Town of Wolf River when they are actually Oshkosh offenders. Sheriff Matz agrees with another trailer being put onto the current property next to the jail for a quicker response time.

Mary Anne stated she will go to the city and present the additional trailer option to the existing property next to the jail and will get back to the committee on what the city says regarding that option.

There was no vote on this agenda item, only discussion.

7. Consideration (Vote): Approve the vote on the recommendation of the county board size change from 36 to 28 members.

Chairman Wingren stated Mary Anne Mueller of Corporation Counsel will be drafting the resolution to reduce the county board size from 36 members to 28 members.

A motion to approve the recommendation of the county board size to change from 36 to 28 members was made by Mike Brunn, seconded by Vicki Schorse. Carried 5-0.

8. Consideration (Vote): Construction of evidence garage and allocation of \$305,000 for the project – Sheriff John Matz

Sheriff Matz discussed the presentation that was given to Judiciary as well as the County Board meeting in regards to the need of the additional evidence garage. This will be a secure building that will have limited employee access whereas the Butler storage facility that is currently being used to store the overflow of evidence is able to be accessed by other employees of the county making it an unsecure building.

A motion to approve the construction of the evidence garage and allocation of \$305,000 for the project was made by Vicki Schorse, seconded by Mike Brunn. Carried 5-0.

9. Discussion of 2020 year end variances – Sheriff John Matz

Sheriff Matz stated an explanation of the variances for 2020 were given to the committee members. Sheriff Matz discussed the CARES Act will be helping cover COVID expenses. Sheriff Matz then answered any questions the committee members had.

10. Status of the Broad Street Boathouse – Sheriff John Matz

Sheriff Matz discussed the Broad Street Boathouse. He said the boathouse was given to the Sheriff's Office without a deed back in 1970. He stated the boathouse was found to have caved in on the sides and needs to be rebuilt. Once an amount is obtained as to how much it will be to rebuild it, he will bring it back to the committee for approval.

Supervisor Eisen asked if the building can store two boats. The Sheriff stated it can only hold one boat. He said the Sheriff's Office currently has three boats and they are stored in buildings around the county so depending on where the boats are needed, there is one close by to all areas to grab for a rescue.

11. Discussion: 2021 Senate Bill 223; An Act to amend 20.410(1)(ab), 301.12(2m), 302.27 (title), 302.33(1) and 302.336(3) (intro.); and to create 302.27(3) of the statutes; relating to: reimbursement to counties or tribes for costs relating to individuals held in a county or tribal facility awaiting transfer to a state prison and making an appropriation.

Chairman Wingren stated he put this on the agenda for informational purposes.

Sheriff Matz said the State always reimbursed the Sheriff's Office for the inmate when they remained in jail awaiting transport to prison. When COVID hit, the prisons stopped accepting new inmates for a while due to being short staffed, etc. and stated they would no longer be reimbursing county jails to house their inmates. This is still being worked on under the legislation and the State has started to submit reimbursements again to the county jails. The prisons expect to be at full admissions again by June.

12. Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Matz mentioned a letter that will be posted regarding issues where landowners, who have property on the water, are dealing with recreational users out on the sandbars. This is in hopes the recreational users and the landowners will have mutual respect towards each other with the upcoming boating season.

Sheriff Matz mentioned the 24/7 program will work more closely with the Connect Program.

Sheriff Matz discussed the jail health care accreditation process. He said they have another meeting in two weeks to discuss more about the accreditation process. Sheriff Matz stated once he has an overall cost on the accreditation for the jail he will bring it to the judiciary members. Sheriff Matz did state that jail staff have to do Lexipol training monthly already so he was not sure how much the accreditation will change what we are currently doing.

Sheriff Matz discussed COVID and the impact it had on Sheriff's Office staff. The Sheriff's Office is starting their own Wellness Program for the employees. The employees will meet with the onsite counselor to ensure employee health and always ensuring the employees have an outlet to go to if they need assistance.

Sheriff Matz discussed the new boat trailer that was in capital. The price came in \$600 over the initial price due to the cost of materials increasing but does not require a budget transfer to cover the overage.

Sheriff Matz stated the jail population was at 220.

13. Suggested items for next agenda

14. Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 10, 2021

15. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:06am by Tom Ellis, seconded by Vicki Schorse. Carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kimberly Delcore
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office