

## Minutes of the Wood County Public Safety Committee

**DATE:** January 11, 2016

**PRESENT:** Mike Feirer, Dennis Polach, Joe Zurfluh, Bill Winch, Brad Hamilton

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sarah Christensen, John Spiros, Lori Heideman, Laura Clark, Thomas Reichert, Nancy VanderMeer, Bob Kulp, Dara Hamm, Jane Maciejewski, Ray Maciejewski, Bill Clendenning, Jonas Schrock, Daniel Schrock, Jerry Stutzman, Warren Kraft, Tom Rayome, Marcie Ehlert, Ms. Adams, Mike Adams

**LOCATION:** Wood County Courthouse - Auditorium

### **1. Call to Order:**

Mike Feirer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **2. Review minutes of December 7 and 15, 2015:**

Motion by Hamilton, second by Zurfluh to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015 and December 15, 2015 meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Public Comments:**

No public comments.

### **4. Emergency Management Department:**

#### **a. Communications December 2015 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Communications December 2015 claims.

#### **b. Communications Report:**

The Committee reviewed the Communications report.

#### **c. Update on Communication Tower Projects:**

Steve updated the Committee members on the tower projects. He discussed that they were hooking up the fiber optics in the next couple of days.

#### **d. Emergency Management December 2015 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Emergency Management December 2015 claims.

#### **e. Emergency Management Activity Report:**

The Committee reviewed the Emergency Management Activity Report.

**5. Dispatch Department:**

**a. Dispatch December 2015 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Dispatch December 2015 claims.

**b. Dispatch Report:**

Lori gave a staffing update. She had a second Dispatcher start today and anticipates having another new hire within the next few weeks. She gave an update on the moving situation and stated that at this time the phones are still functioning properly.

**6. Set date, time and location of next meeting:**

**February 8, 2016**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Wood County Annex & Health Center – Marshfield – Conference Room**

**7. Humane Officer:**

**a. Humane Officer Report:**

The Committee reviewed the Humane Officer report. Supervisor Zurfluh questioned Humane Officer Kinney about her training. Humane Officer Kinney stated she looks for “no cost” training, as there is no budgeted money for training. Supervisor Zurfluh stated training needs to be added into the Humane Officer budget so she can receive proper training. Chairman Feirer and Humane Officer Kinney will discuss this with Mike Martin next fall when the Humane Officer budget is prepared for 2017.

**b. December 2015 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Humane Officer December 2015 claims.

**8. Coroner:**

**a. Coroner Report:**

The Committee reviewed the Coroner report. Coroner Hamm stated she looked into Supervisor Winch’s question from last month’s meeting regarding if there is a law mandating where people can be buried. Coroner Hamm researched this and stated once the Release of Human Remains is filled out and signed accordingly, the body can be released and then buried wherever the family wishes. The only issue is when a body is transported over State lines, the body then has to be embalmed.

**b. December 2015 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Coroner December 2015 claims.

**9. Sheriff's Department:**

**a. Correspondence:**

Sheriff Reichert stated the department received lots of Christmas cards.

**b. Highway Traffic Safety Concerns:**

Supervisor Winch from District 9 explained to everyone the purpose of putting this item on the agenda was for the safety concerns of non-motorized vehicles. He explained the biggest complaint he gets in his District is people not seeing the buggies until it's too late, as a vehicle is usually traveling at 55 mph and a buggy travels at approximately 5 mph. He stated vehicles come upon the buggies quickly. Supervisor Winch also expressed his concern for the lack of lighting on the buggies. He suggested lighting the buggies with amber lights, reflector tape and/or possibly rear view mirrors. He also stated he contacted Corporation Counsel Peter Kastenholz who told him the County itself cannot impose any sort of restrictions on non-motorized vehicles; it has to come from the State.

Steve Kreuser stated the Highway Safety Committee has met with the Bishops of the Amish Communities in the area. The Amish leaders would like members of the Sheriff's Department to meet with their people to educate them on the rules of the road. This will be done with the help of the Highway Safety Committee and the Wood County Sheriff's Department.

A concerned citizen stated there were more issues than just the lighting of the buggies, such as proper signage in the affected areas to alert drivers they are in an Amish Community and to slow down due to children walking and non-motorized vehicles in the area. Steve Kreuser stated he would contact the Highway Department to get more signs up in the affected areas.

Supervisor Clendenning stated this issue is in the Legislators hands and needs to be dealt with at that level of Government. He also stated rules need to be made statewide, not just per county.

It was the consensus of all parties in attendance that "safety" is the number one issue.

State Representatives Spiros, VanderMeer, and Kulp were present. Representative Spiros stated they need to talk to Senators to get their thoughts on this issue as well as the State Transportation Committee to get data and research. He stated he would work on this and get back to the Committee with his findings.

Representative Kulp stated that not all Amish Communities will agree on lighting and asked the Amish that were present what they thought. Those present stated their communities would be alright with the lighting, but thought other communities throughout the State would not be in favor of lights. Representative Kulp commented that this issue is not to drive people out; we just need to keep people safe. He asked that the representatives be updated on any progress

Steve Kreuser stated he will put this issue on the Highway Traffic Safety Committee's agenda. He also stated they will work with the Department of Transportation regarding this issue.

Supervisor Zurfluh commended the Representatives for coming to this meeting and stated the County would appreciate any help they could give us regarding these issues.

**c. December 2015 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Sheriff's Department December 2015 claims.

**d. Updates**

**Crimestoppers:** None

**Safe Ride Initiative:** Corrections Officer Steve Koth and David Hahn from the Tavern League gave eight people a safe ride home New Year's Eve.

**Criminal Justice Task Force:** None

**K9:** Fundraising is ongoing. The Magic show dates are March 11<sup>th</sup> in Marshfield and March 12<sup>th</sup> in Wisconsin Rapids.

**e. Jail Items:**

All jail reports were reviewed.

**10. December 2015 Claims: Dispatch, Communications, Emergency Management, and Sheriff:**

**Motion by Hamilton, second by Zurfluh, to approve the December 2015 claims of all Public Safety Committee Departments. Motion carried unanimously.**

**11. Adjourn:**

**Motion by Hamilton, second by Winch to adjourn at 2:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes taken by Wood County Emergency Management and Wood County Sheriff's Department.

*Electronically signed by William Winch on 1-25-16.*

William Winch, Secretary  
Public Safety Committee