

Minutes of the Wood County Public Safety Committee

DATE: June 8, 2020

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

EXCUSED:

NOT

PRESENT:

OTHERS Steve Kreuser, Scott Brehm, Randy Dorshorst, Shawn Becker, Lori Heideman,

PRESENT: Kelli Trzinski, Sarah Christensen, Erik Engel, Bill Clendenning, Lance Pliml,
Quentin Ellis, John Cain, Kurt Berner, Reuben VanTassel

LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse

1. Call to Order:

Mike Feirer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Review minutes of May 11, 2020:

Motion by Polach, second by Winch to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

4. Set date, time and location of next meeting:

July 13, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Wood County Courthouse

5. Communications Department:

a. **Communications May 2020 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Communications May claims.

b. **Communications Report:**

Erik answered questions on working with the microwave replacement vendor. They replaced 4 units and will be here today to replace equipment in the tower sheds. Erik answered questions about MABAS and the APCO challenge to the FCC 6 GHz ruling.

6. Emergency Management Department

a. Emergency Management May 2020 Claims:

The Committee reviewed the Emergency Management May 2020 claims. Steve answered questions on the claims.

b. Emergency Management Activity Report:

The committee reviewed the Emergency Management report. Talked about our main focus is still on COVID and PPE distribution. Currently sending PPE surveys to about 200 facilities on a bi-weekly basis.

7. Dispatch Department:

a. May 2020 Claims:

The Committee reviewed the Dispatch May 2020 claims.

b. Dispatch Report:

The Committee reviewed the Dispatch report.

Lori talked about the calls being down about 9% since COVID started, but that the calls they are receiving are more severe. Discussed a retirement in her department and that she will be hiring from the eligibility list she has. Discussed the generator going down because of a ventilation system failure. She will be ordering some cell phones for emergency use in the dispatch center.

Reuben talked about the generator and what caused it to shut off. There was a malfunction in the ventilation system which caused it to overheat. Talked about the changes they are making to improve the ventilation in that room. Talked about the new natural gas generator that he has that needs some upgrades, but then will be solely for Dispatch and the Data Center. Also talked about the backup portable generator they have that will be used as a backup for now.

8. Coroner:

a. Coroner Report:

The Committee reviewed the Coroner report.

b. May 2020 Claims:

The Committee reviewed the Coroner May 2020 claims.

9. Humane Officer

a. Humane Officer Report:

The Committee reviewed the Human Officer Report.

11. Sheriff's Department:

a. Correspondences:

Sheriff Becker discussed protests in the area. He stated they have been peaceful throughout Central Wisconsin. He stated there was going to be a protest today, June 8, 2020, starting at 2:00 p.m. and running into the evening.

Sheriff Becker stated the Department applied for a grant through the Legacy Foundation for a Crisis Intervention Deputy. He also said MSTC was applying for grant funding through the Legacy Foundation to increase inmate programming.

Sheriff Becker wanted to thank Wood County Highway Commissioner Roland Hawk for assisting with the road construction project in the Village of Biron and making motorist safety changes. He stated the speed limit was lowered on South Biron Drive to 25 MPH and also a portion of the gravel road on 48th Street was shut down to public access. The Sheriff's Department and the Village of Biron have received numerous complaints regarding the increased traffic in the area due to the detour.

b. COPS Hiring Program Grant:

Sheriff Becker advised the Department was notified by representatives from Congressman Ron Kind's Office that the Sheriff's Department was awarded the COPS Hiring Program Grant. This will allow another fully funded position beginning in 2021. The Department will create a second drug investigator position. Sheriff Becker wanted to thank Captain Ellis for all his hard work on the grant. This is a needed position to help address the drug problems in Wood County.

c. Wood County Rescue:

The Committee reviewed the Wood County Rescue report.

d. Crime Stoppers:

The Committee reviewed the Crime Stoppers report.

e. K-9 Project:

The Committee reviewed the K-9 report.

f. May 2020 Claims:

The Committee reviewed the Sheriff's Department May 2020 claims.

g. Hiring Process:

Sheriff Becker stated seven interviews are set for June 11th and 16th. The Department has four openings for Deputy Sheriff.

h. Boat/ATV/UTV Patrol:

The Committee reviewed the Boat/ATV/UTV Patrol report.

i. Overtime:

The Committee reviewed the overtime report. Sheriff Becker advised there will be some overtime costs in the future due to area protests.

j. Courthouse Security:

The Committee reviewed the Courthouse Security report.

k. Jail Items

- i. Inmate Daily Population: Reviewed
- ii. Evacuation Plans (ERP): Sheriff Becker stated they have reviewed their evacuation plans due to the current protests. He stated they have made sure Lamers Bus Service was available to transport inmates if needed. There also is space available to house additional inmates in the Waupaca County Jail.
- iii. EMP: Reviewed-Sheriff Becker stated they have been talking to Probation and Parole on expanding our EMP. This could mean more revenue for the Department.
- iv. Safekeeper Housing Numbers: Reviewed
- v. Kitchen Report: Reviewed
- vi. Maintenance: Rueben VanTassel discussed the recent power outage and generator. This brought up a genuine concern for the safety and security of the Jail and its occupants. Power was out for approximately 2 hours. Additional staff needed to be called in to assist.
- vii. Inmate Programs: Sheriff Becker stated eight inmates graduated from the Jail's Career Development program. Mid State Technical College came in and instructed the class. Sheriff Becker recognized jail Lt. Melissa Saeger and MSTC instructors for making sure the program was successful even with COVID-19.
- viii. Jail Study-Presentation from Venture Architects: John Cain from Venture Architects presented a tentative outline to the Committee. John introduced Kurt Berner from the Samuels Group who will assist on cost estimates of the jail project in the future. Lance Pliml suggested having an informational meeting.

12. May 2020 Claims: Communications, Emergency Management, Dispatch, Sheriff, Coroner, and Humane Officer:

Motion by Hamilton, second by Feirer to approve the May 2020 claims of all Public Safety Committee Departments. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Nothing at this time.

14. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m. by Chairman Feirer.

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