

Minutes of the Wood County Public Safety Committee

DATE: July 22, 2013

PRESENT: Dennis Polach, Mike Feirer, William Murphy, Bill Winch, Gary Allworden

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Kreuser, Erik Engel, Randy Dorshorst, Sarah Christensen, Laura Clark, Thomas Reichert, Karen Madden, Gary Kronstedt, Dave Kerkman, Don Bohn, Josh Sabo, Dennis Raab, Wayne Brody, Kenneth Wunrow, Randy Berghammer, Mervin Bontrager, Sammie Grigerich, F. A. Bontrager, F.I., Jonas Schrock, Dan Schrock, Sherri Stempe, Jim Stanton, Lavern W, Delores Agne, Jerry Minor, Robert Haight, Eric Brock, Jim Mann, Nanci Kinney, Kathy Palm, Ed Reed

LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse Auditorium

EXCUSED:

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Review minutes of June 10, 2013:

Motion by Murphy, second by Allworden to approve the minutes of June 10, 2013 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments:

There are no public comments

4. Emergency Management Department:

a. Communications June 2013 Claims

The Committee reviewed the Communications June 2013 claims.

b. Communications Report

The Committee reviewed the Communications report.

c. Update on Communications

Steve indicated that they have found a couple of sites that will work well for the 2 (two new) tower locations. Steve has talked to land owners about the locations and are in an agreement with the locations. In 4-6 weeks we will know if the FAA gives the approval to go up to the height that is needed. Steve is hoping that everything will be in place and that the concrete

can be poured before winter. Steve also stated that in 2017-2020 the FCC will once again be splitting the frequencies. Also, Steve and Eric will be going to Hewitt to work on paging issues that the fire department is having. Steve and Eric answered questions from the committee about the activity report.

d. Emergency Management June 2013 Claims

The Committee reviewed the Emergency Management June 2013 claims.

e. Emergency Management Activity Report

The Committee reviewed the Emergency Management activity report.

5. Dispatch Department:

a. Dispatch June 2013 Claims

The Committee reviewed the Dispatch June 2013 claims.

b. Dispatch Update

Bill Winch questioned Ed Reed as to what was done with the benefit payout to Kelly Zenz upon his leaving. Ed replied that the policy in the employee handbook was followed. Dennis Polach questioned what number 4 on the Communications report referred to when stating that miscellaneous tasks were undertaken in the dispatch department. Steve went over the various tasks such as open records requests, computer problems, paging issues, training, scheduling, etc. These tasks take time away from regular department tasks.

Mike Feirer discussed the meeting that he had with Trent Miner and the Wood County fire chiefs and that he believed that it was a productive meeting. Trent Miner read the prepared statement that he put together for Lance Pliml summarizing the meeting. Jerry Minor read a statement that reflects the feelings of the Wood County Fire Chief's Association (full text attached). Bill Winch questions what the difference would be if the dispatch center were to merge with the sheriff's department. Jerry Minor answered that the makeup of the Sheriff's department administration is good now, but that there is no guarantee in the future that it will remain that way. Keeping the status quo is going very good at this time.

There would need to be a signed agreement between the cities of Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield in order to bring forth a resolution to combine the Dispatch Center with the Sheriff's department. Chief Kerkman states that he does not believe Wisconsin Rapids would sign this agreement, and Mike Feirer does not believe the City of Marshfield would sign it either. Trent Miner explained about the resolution creating a separate dispatch center, and how the users group came to be.

The committee discussed the options. They have decided to keep the dispatch department as a separate entity, and recommend hiring a new dispatch manager.

Motion by William Murphy, second by Bill Winch to direct Ed Reed and the Human Resources Department to begin recruiting a new dispatch manager and that the Dispatch department will be a stand-alone department. Motion carried unanimously.

Ed Reed added that he would like to obtain the help of all emergency service agencies in order to develop a complete job description and list of qualifications.

6. Humane Officer:

a. Humane Officer Reports

The Committee reviewed the May and June Humane Officer reports.

b. June 2013 Claims

The Committee reviewed the Humane Officer June 2013 claims.

7. Coroner:

a. Coroner Report

The Committee reviewed the Coroner report. Coroner Kronstedt stated all members of his department have completed the mandatory Electronic Death Certificate training. The electronic death certifications start September 1, 2013.

b. June 2013 Claims

The Committee reviewed the Coroner June 2013 claims.

c. Medical Examiner Position

Discussion held about the medical examiner.

Motion by Polach, second by Murphy to keep the Wood County Coroner position as an elected position and not pursue any further a Medical Examiner position. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Sheriff's Department:

a. Correspondence: None.

b. Horse Manure on Roadways/Additional Horse Problems:

Bill Winch explains safety concerns with horse manure/and proper marking for buggies on the roadway. Randy B from Arpin asks if there is an agricultural waste ordinance. He states

that he has never seen an issue with horse manure on the roads. He has many more problems/complaints about agricultural waste being dumped and on the roadways. Another member of the public states that she owns horses and feels that it would be a bigger safety concern for her to have to dismount and shovel her horse droppings into the ditch. Another member of the public agrees with this, and feels that it is a safety hazard to have people stop on the roadways to pick up their horse poop. Eric Brock, Town of Hansen, states that if this problem cannot be self-regulated that there will need to be new rules put in place. Bill Winch hopes that this can be resolved together so that new ordinances do not have to be created. Mike Feirer believes that self-regulation is the answer and he would like to see the communities get together to discuss their concerns. A member of the Amish community states that he always takes a clean-up pan and cleans his animals waste up when they are in town. A question was raised by a community member giving other examples of road hazards and asking if they will be policed as well. Discussion was held regarding ice chunks in winter, blown semi tires and dead animals in the road being safety hazards as well. A member of the Amish Community states that many people didn't know that this was a concern, and now that they are aware of it they will make an effort to move over closer to the side of the road so that if the horses to defecate that it will not be close to the roadway.

In regards to the markings on the buggies, a member of the public states that they have very bright halogen lights on the front of the buggy. Bill Winch would like to see a uniformity to the markings on the buggies. The Amish Community realizes that there are some who are not marked as well as they could be. They will stress this to the community and they will strive to improve the markings. A community member asked if it was possible to put in buggy lanes on the highway in areas that the Amish are present in sort of like a bike lane. Maybe we could apply for some grants to cover the cost of this.

There is an agreement made that people from all opinions on the manure and marking issue will have a come together meeting at Eric Brocks house in the Town of Hansen to discuss the issues and try to come to a consensus. The public would like more slow-moving vehicle signs on the country roadways and more education to people to educate them about slow moving vehicles and why they may be on the roadway. It was suggested that they talk to their Town Chairman's and see where they order/get their road signs from and how they can increase the number of signs where needed.

c. Updates:

Crimestoppers: None

Safe Ride Initiative: None

Criminal Justice Task Force: None

K9: Sheriff Reichert stated the kennel at Deputy Pidgeon's residence for K9 Toro is almost complete.

d. Jail Items: All jail reports were reviewed.

9. June 2013 Claims: Dispatch, Communications, Emergency Management, and Sheriff:

Motion by Murphy, second by Winch to approve the June 2013 claims of all the Public Safety Committee Departments. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**August 12, 2013
1:00 PM
Marshfield City Hall
1st Floor Conference Room 108**

11. Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

2014 Budget

12. Adjourn:

Motion by Murphy, second by Winch to adjourn at 3:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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

William Winch, Secretary
Public Safety Committee