

Minutes of the Wood County Public Safety Committee

DATE: May 12, 2014

PRESENT: Dennis Polach, Mike Feirer, Brad Hamilton, Bill Winch, Gary Allworden

OTHERS Sarah Christensen, Tom Reichert, Randy Dorshorst, Lori Heideman, Laura
PRESENT: Clark, Charles Evans, Susan Anderson, Steve Kreuser, Garry Kronstedt

LOCATION: Marshfield City Hall

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Review minutes of April 14, 2014:

Motion by Hamilton, second by Polach to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments:

No public comments

4. Elect Vice Chairman and Secretary

Dennis Polach nominates Gary Allworden for Vice Chairperson.

Motion by Hamilton, second by Polach to close the nominations for Vice Chair. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Gary Allworden as Vice Chairperson.

Dennis Polach nominates Bill Winch for Secretary.

Motion by Hamilton, second by Allworden to close nominations for Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee voted unanimously to appoint Bill Winch as Secretary.

5. Emergency Management Department:

a. Communications April 2014 Claims

The Committee reviewed the Communications April 2014 claims.

b. Communications Report

The Committee reviewed the Communications report.

c. Update on Communication Tower Projects

Steve updated the committee that the Marshfield and Lincoln towers were approved. We are currently getting price quotes on equipment. Answered questions about outdoor sirens not working and what the procedure is for that. Answered questions about communications work done at the highway department.

d. Emergency Management April 2014 Claims

The Committee reviewed the Emergency Management April 2014 claims.

e. Emergency Management Activity Report

There were no questions on the Emergency Management Activity Report. Discussed that our department is working with the State to attempt to obtain an emergency declaration for the freezing water mains pipes for the municipalities' this winter. If we were to receive this declaration municipalities would receive money for their losses.

6. Dispatch Department:

a. Dispatch April 2014 Claims

The Committee reviewed the Dispatch April 2014 claims.

Lori discussed working with Systems on a data management package. They are going to get a trial of this to see if it would fit their needs and be beneficial to the department.

Discussed the Everbridge seminar and talked about pricing. Lori does not believe that this product is worth the cost. She will be attending the Esponder training that will be held at the Wood County Courthouse so that she can see what Esponder can do to maybe fit the void from Rapid Reach.

Brought the EO Johnson contract and discussed the costs in comparison to the previous contract. Talked about bills that are coming due that are not in the budget and how to find out where they have been getting paid out of. There have been 7 tickets written to the railroad already. Randy attended a meeting in Junction City. They are looking at case law that may make the enforcement of the tickets tricky.

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

**June 9, 2014
1:00 PM
Vesper Fire Department
6575 Ryland Ave
Vesper, WI**

8. **Humane Officer:**

a. Humane Officer Report

The Committee reviewed the Humane Officer report.

b. Humane Society Contracts & Billing of Service:

Humane Officer Kinney was not present, therefore item was not discussed.

c. April 2014 Claims

The Committee reviewed the Humane Officer April 2014 claims.

9. **Coroner:**

a. Coroner Report

The Committee reviewed the Coroner report.

b. Raise for Coroner/Deputy Coroners

Coroner Garry Kronstedt spoke to the Committee in reference to raising the Coroner's pay as well as per diems. He stated he would like to see a raise in Coroner pay by \$1,500. Coroner Kronstedt stated he is retiring after this term and felt it will be hard to find someone who wants to take this position as the pay is quite low. It was later determined that a Coroner's pay has to be done before any nomination papers can be taken out, prior to April 15th before each term. Therefore this cannot be acted on at this time.

Coroner Kronstedt stated he would like to see a raise in fees in the following areas: Signing of death certificates from \$0 to \$100, cremation fee from \$85 to \$100, and raising the per diems for the department from \$50 to \$85 per call. It was stated that raising the fees for the death certificates as well as the cremation fee would offset the per diem raises.

Coroner Kronstedt explained his office runs well because he has great deputies and they all work hard to keep the costs down. He stated they all work very hard and are well educated, therefore stating they deserve raises.

Deputy Coroners Susan Anderson and Charles Evans were present. Susan Anderson addressed the Committee. She stated she recently attended a 3-day conference for Coroners and found that Wood County is very under paid. She explained they carry the pagers with them where ever they go and get called out at all times of the day/night. She feels \$50 per call is just too low for the amount of work they do per call. She explained it's not just getting called out at all hours of the day/night, there are hours of paperwork that need to be done for the State. They are obligated to do reports and can be called to testify in court at any given time. She stated she feels a pay raise is needed.

Discussion was held among the Committee.

Motion by Hamilton, second by Allworden to make effective July 1, 2014 the creating of a fee for signing death certificates to \$100 as well as raise the cremation fee from \$85 to \$100 each and also raise the per diems for the Coroner's Department to \$85. Motion carried unanimously.

b. April 2014 Claims

The Committee reviewed the Coroner April 2014 claims.

10. Sheriff's Department:

a. Correspondence: None

b. Range:

Sheriff Reichert stated they getting estimates for the improvements needed at the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department Range.

c. Updates:

Crimestoppers: None

Criminal Justice Task Force: None

K9: None.

Discuss office space at Norwood for Sheriff: Sheriff Reichert stated the painting and new ceiling tiles has been done at the Sheriff's Department's new office space at Norwood. Also, carpet was being installed today. He stated the remodeling has been coming along quite well. The new evidence lockers are done and waiting in storage to be installed. Sheriff Reichert stated the Maintenance Department has been working hard on the project and things are going good.

d. Jail Items:

Sheriff Reichert stated that recently the jail experienced three resignations, two female and one male. At the present time they are juggling the schedule and moving the transport officers back to corrections and then using part-time officers to do transports, all in an attempt to alleviate overtime. He stated the jail count is up from last month.

Sheriff Reichert stated the jail just changed health care providers, utilizing Advanced Correctional Health as of May 1, 2014. This will be a savings of \$20,000+ per year.

All jail reports were reviewed.

11. April 2014 Claims: Dispatch, Communications, Emergency Management, and Sheriff:

Motion by Allworden, second by Hamilton to approve the April 2014 claims of all the Public Safety Committee Departments. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjourn:

Motion by Allworden, second by Winch to adjourn at 2:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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

William Winch, Secretary
Public Safety Committee