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LANGLADE COUNTY



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MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Public Safety Committee
Date: Thursday, June 6, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: County Board Room, Lower Level of the Safety Building

The following discussion was held by the Committee at the meeting detailed above:

1. Meeting called to order at 10:07 a.m.
2. The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Silence Cell Phones:
4. Roll call was conducted: Motion by W. Wagner, second by J. Wagner to excuse Below. All ayes, motion carried.

Public Safety Committee

Name	Role	Status
Curler, Doug	Chairman	Present
Wagner, Warren	Vice-Chair	Present
Joel Wagner	Member	Present
Teresa Poltrock	Member	Present
Chris Below	Member	Absent

Non-Committee Members Present

Name	Interest
Mark Westen	Sheriff
Dan Bauknecht	Chief Deputy/ Undersheriff
Greg Carter	Lieutenant
Heidi Walrath	Jail Administrator
Reinhardt Balcerzak	County Supervisor
Robin Stowe	Corporation Counsel
Becky Rank	Deputy County Clerk/ Recording Secretary
Donna Kallner	Citizen

5. **Approve previous meeting minutes of February 7, 2024:** Motion by J. Wagner, second by W. Wagner to approve previous meeting minutes of February 7, 2024. All ayes, motion carried.
6. **Public comment on agenda items and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas:** Sheriff Westen would like to add to the next agenda to discuss Jail Space Needs.
7. **Elect a Vice-Chair of the Public Safety Committee:** Motion by J. Wagner, second by Poltrock to nominate W. Wagner as the Vice-Chair. The chairman called for any other nominations. Motion by J. Wagner, second by Poltrock to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. All ayes, motion carried. W. Wagner is the Vice-Chairman for Public Safety.
8. **District Attorney's Report:** No report was given.
9. **Coroner's Report:** Written report given to the Committee before the meeting. No questions or comments.
10. **Child Support Report:** Corporation Counsel Stowe gave the Committee a verbal report. Stowe discussed the history of the Child Support Agency in Langlade County. Stowe stated Langlade County averages around 2,000 child support cases with 3 case workers and 2 financial support staff one of which is contracted. Stowe discussed the funding and performance categories. Information only.

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

- 11. Emergency Management Report:** Emergency Management Director Krueger was unable to attend. Sheriff Westen stated Krueger continues to check in with the State on Emergency Management updates and training. Krueger has been helping with training in the 911 Center. Information.
- 12. Sheriff/Jail Office/Nurse Report:** Jail Administrator Walrath presented the Committee with a written report prior to the meeting. Walrath stated the jail population is at 65. The Jail is fully staffed with three recruits now fully certified. Walrath discussed the medical needs of the current inmates. Walrath stated on May 11 inmates needed off-site medical care. Mental Health needs are high in the current population. Walrath and Sheriff Westen explained the EMP (Electronic Monitoring Program) in Langlade County. There are currently 5 inmates in the EMP with 9 on Huber. Discussion was held on how an inmate qualifies for Huber or EMP.
Sheriff Westen gave the Committee a verbal update. Westen stated the Sheriff's Office is busy but not overwhelmed. General standpoint, the Office is steadily busy but able to keep up with current staff. Deputy Uttecht represented the Sheriff's Office during the Antigo Middle School Reality Fair. Sheriff Westen stated at the next meeting he would like to have a discussion on programming space needs within the Jail. The Sheriff stated there is one room within the Jail that is currently used for Zoom meetings, Church Services, Education, Drug and Alcohol Meetings, DSS children visits, nursing assessments, etc. This space is not adequate for all the programs that are incorporated within the Jail. Information only.
- 13. Update on Simulcast/Towers/Broadband:** Chairman Curler read correspondence from Donna Kallner on continued concerns of 911 in the Town of Wolf River. Sheriff Westen updated the Committee on the Towers and Simulcast. Westen stated he has no information on Broadband stating that is outside of his scope. Sheriff Westen stated that 3 towers have been connected with White Lake Tower being worked on but not connected due to equipment being on backorder. The Town of Summit just signed an agreement for a tower and is in the process of relocating a 300 ft. tower. Sheriff Westen stated once the White Lake Tower is up and running, the Summit Lake Tower is scheduled to be completed in October, which would give Langlade County 5 towers on Simulcast. Information only.
- 14. Update on Staffing Changes:** Sheriff Westen stated there is one Deputy vacancy. Chief Deputy/Undersheriff Bauknecht is working with H/R Generalist daily on recruitment and retention. Information only.
- 15. Update on 911 Center:** Sheriff Westen stated that staffing levels in the 911 center have been an issue since 2021. In March of 2023, it was recognized there was a major problem unfolding with staffing levels. At that time the County Board Supervisors approved a restructure/retention bonus and a sign-on bonus with staffing level increase. In the Fall of 2023, the 911 Center could no longer staff 24/7 due to shortages in Dispatch. As a short-term solution, Marathon County has been filling in to keep the 911 Center a 24/7 operation. Westen stated he would be bringing forth a proposal to be implemented in the 2025 budget or sooner and asked for Committee support. Chief Deputy/Undersheriff Bauknecht stated he works with H/R Generalist daily on recruitment and retention. Bauknecht discussed the high level of clearance needed, stating as of recent 23 applications received, 7 qualified for an interview with only 3 agreeing to come in for an interview. Bauknecht discussed the training process and how it has been updated. Lieutenant Carter addressed the Committee on the effect the shortage in the 911 Center is having on the Road Patrol Deputies. Carter stated Deputies are being pulled off road patrol to cover shortages within the Dispatch Center or putting in overtime. Carter discussed the public safety issue of not having a sufficient number of Deputies available in the field and the burnout effect due to overtime. Information only.
- 16. Review Monthly & Year End Departmental Budgets presented to the Committee:** Sheriff Westen presented the Committee with a written budget. Sheriff Westen stated the operating budget is closely reviewed but is not controlled. The Capital Expense budget is controlled and the office stays within budget. Per the Committee a budget summary can be given quarterly.
- 17. Update or Report on Public Safety Activities from the County Administrator:** Not in attendance.
- 18. Next meeting date:** July 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Meetings will be held on the 1st Thursday of the month as needed.

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

19. Adjourn the meeting: Motion by J. Wagner, second by Poltrock to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Becky Rank, Deputy County Clerk, Recording Secretary