

**PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES - JANUARY 14, 2009**

DATE: January 14, 2009
Adams County Courthouse

TIME: 9:00 a.m.
400 Main Street

PLACE: A260
Friendship, WI 53934

MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Sebastiani, Florence Johnson, Cynthia Loken, Jerry Kotlowski, Terry James

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheriff Renner, Chief July, Captain Beckman, Dennis McFarlin, Nick Segina, Deb Barnes, Dee Helmrick, Terry Warner, Jane Grabarski, Shirli Suchomel, Mike Scott, Mike Keckeisen, Jack Albert, Phil McLaughlin, Brenda Schwertsig.

1. Call to Order – At 9:00 a.m. Chair Sebastiani called the meeting to order.
2. Was the meeting properly announced? – Yes.
3. Roll call: Sebastiani, Johnson, Loken, Kotlowski, James present.
4. Approve the Agenda – **MOTION** by Loken/James to approve the January 14, 2009, meeting agenda. MC/Unan.
5. **MOTION** by James/Kotlowski to approve the minutes from December 10, 2008, Public Safety & Judiciary Committee meeting. MC/Unan.

Coroner's Report – Nick Segina presented vouchers and stated there were 148 reportable deaths in 2008 with 11 autopsies. Training was requested for two deputy coroners at \$25.00 each. He gave the American Tissue Service memo of agreement for harvesting body parts and tissue in Adams County to Chair Sebastiani, stating the Corporation Counsel wanted him to sign it, which he did not do pending signature by Corp. Counsel. Vitreous containers are no longer available from the State Lab and the County now has to supply its own. He received a report from the State that Wisconsin elderly are more likely to fall and die, and he will review this on a case by case basis. The State is going to a new Vital Records On Line program for death certificates. Committee questioned several vouchers and training requests that did not have Coroner Scheel's signature on them. Chair Sebastiani called for a motion to approve the requested training and there was none; training was denied.

Family Court Commissioner – Dennis McFarlin observed that demands for services increase as the economy diminishes. His open listening sessions at the Community Center and the Courthouse are well received. He had no vouchers or training requests.

Child Support – Deb Barnes had her Performance Measures Report and Check Summary in her Committee packet. She reported more cases with the current economic stress. Juneau County's contracted phone service with her department was finished on December 31, 2008; she did not include Juneau County revenue into her 2009 budget. The Centralized Call Center was not well received by a majority consensus and it will not happen until 2010. Deb reported no training coming up.

Clerk of Circuit Court – Not present.

Register in Probate – Terry Warner reviewed her Voucher report, stating she is over budget in postage with the added mailings. Recoupment is up for attorney fees. She stated \$3,000.00 in legal bills will be coming, but most will be reimbursed. Case loads are up with the economy the way it is. The County is not paying for attorney's fees now as the State is providing Public Defenders. Update on Videoconferencing: A \$20,000.00 yearly maintenance fee and a \$9,500.00 T1 line fee are putting this project on the back burner for now. She is investigating an internet connection, requesting that the maintenance fee be paid from Clerk of Court's budget.

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Clerk of Court – Dee Helmrick gave Committee the Expense Vouchers and Reports for her department and for the District Attorney. Her Winter Conference information was in the Committee packet with no agenda as yet. Speakers will be covering workplace/employer issues. Her mileage and lodging was not submitted yet, as she is not aware whether she will be staying; the decision will be weather related. This training is budgeted. **MOTION** by Loken/Kotlowski to approve the Winter Conference training for Clerk of Court. MC/Unan. Community Service report was in the packet. Practical Cents sales increased when Community Service workers were there. The collections agency that Clerk of Court was using received commissions greater than Adams County's share of the collection and their contract was not renewed. Dee is happy with the clerk in her office who is handling collections, stating she is doing a fine job. Expenses for her training in March will involve mileage only and this information will be brought to the February meeting. The training covers not crossing the legal lines when handling the public asking for legal advice. The District Attorney's folder that was brought to the meeting was given to Shirli Suchomel to deliver to their office.

District Attorney – not present.

Emergency Management – Jane Grabarski reported the Highway tower's test is done and microwave dishes were installed. The backup generator passed the startup test. The Dell Prairie tower microwave dish and wiring are not yet complete. A new contract agreement for the WisDOT Town of Rome site is in process with Corp Counsel. The Rome tower site non-monetary agreement drafted by WisDOT was signed by the Public Works Committee, to be approved by County Board in January. Communications Service has a goal to get a three-tower system operational this winter: Highway, Dell Prairie, and Town of Rome. The tower at the Jackson site has to be replaced in 2009 sometime. The Level B Hazmat team still has no contract. Juneau County has a new Corp Counsel and Juneau County Director will meet with him January 20, expecting results by the end of the week. The money for Hazmat is in the carryover budget. Grants for emergency housing had three applicants eligible to access money so far. Community Action approves these and it takes a month or more, weather dependent on project completions. Pre-Disaster Mitigation All-Hazards Plan update: Risk assessment for tornado, flood, and other hazards was done, assessing how serious and how often such events occur and prioritizing hazards. The Emergency Planning Grant 2nd half payment of \$13,765.00 was received. EPCRA Hazardous Materials 2nd half payment has not arrived yet. FEMA Disaster Report – the only payments outstanding at this time are Dell Prairie, County Highway, and County LWCD. Office activities this month: submitted a nationwide grant to get computer literacy classes in the library and special needs survey for a data base. This grant will be awarded in February. Dells Resorts and Water Parks meeting was at Chula Vista. Chula called in a death, requesting a coroner who was contacted and offered to take care of the call by phone. Chula insisted that the coroner come to the scene, which she did. Committee directed that all information concerning this incident be brought to the February meeting. In financial reports, Emergency Management received \$6,900.00 in unexpected revenue, but insurance deductible was raised without notification to \$2,500.00 and unbudgeted tower expenses, electric, LP, and mailing of contracts reduced the revenue to \$3,000.00

Supervisor Mike Keckeisen and Mike Scott, Airport Manager, commented on the Highway tower being in violation of county height codes, concerned that grant money could be lost, airport safety could be jeopardized, and precedent for past practice could be established. He stated he wrote to Planning and Zoning and forwarded a copy to Corp Counsel. Discussion followed concerning what can be done to remedy the violation. Jane had no training requests and her vouchers were submitted to Committee.

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Deputy Coroner Nick Segina arrived in the meeting with copies of the County Personnel policies covering budgeted training requests. Committee stated they want Terry Scheel present at the next monthly meeting.

MOTION by Kotlowski/Johnson to take a five-minute break. MC/Unan. Meeting reconvened at 10:23 a.m. when Sebastiani called it to order.

Phil McLaughlin from Planning and Zoning and Corporation Counsel Jack Albert joined the meeting to discuss the airport issue. Phil explained procedure for appeals and objections and showed the zone in question on maps. Discussion raised the question of whether this issue should have been caught in the permit phase. Grabarski said it should have as FCC licensed contractors should have known about the problem. More discussion followed and a **MOTION** was made by Loken/James to have Corp Counsel work with Foth and the Airport Manager to resolve the problem with the tower at the Highway Department as soon as possible. MC/Unan.

Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Renner gave Committee the itinerary for Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Conference and invited Committee members to attend at Sheriff's Department expense. Lt. Seth Tully formerly Chief of Necedah Police Department will be starting on Monday with the Adams County Sheriff's Department. A Road Officer eligibility list was established and the first candidate turned down the offer. The second position candidate will now be contacted. The first two Project Lifesaver bands were activated on autistic children last week and a couple more are planned in the next few weeks. At the Towns Association Meeting a \$200.00 donation was received for the project. Devices will eventually be available at the Courthouse, at a location in the south end of the county, and in Rome depending upon funds. The initial goal has been exceeded, and a benefit bowling tournament is being planned to raise funds.

Sebastiani asked Sheriff how often deputies are in Dell Prairie because he had a complaint. A printout of calls to Dell Prairie revealed that officers are there on an average of twice a day. Loken asked if the Sheriff is still attending Town meetings and he responded that he sent a second-shift lieutenant on behalf of the department. The new lieutenant will be assigned when he assumes his 5:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. shift. Discussion followed concerning courthouse panic buttons and response times. Jail staff response is almost immediate.

Animal Control/Animal Shelter reports were in Committee's packet. Intake numbers were given for 2007 and 2008 as well as a reported December donation of over \$7,000.00. Mike Keckeisen requested Committee draw up a resolution to send to County Board appointing two supervisors as Liaison Officers to the Humane Society/Animal Shelter meetings and report back to the County, seeing as the County supports the Shelter in the amount of \$40,000.00 a year. Brenda Schwertzig voiced her support for the Liaison Officer and offered to send agendas and minutes for their monthly second-Tuesday meetings to be included in the County Board packet. No euthanasia license or authorization has yet been issued but both Brenda and Christina were trained. They estimated it will take three months for authorization to arrive and the euthanasia is now being done at a veterinary clinic. **MOTION** by Kotlowski/Johnson to proceed with a resolution to County Board to appoint a Liaison to the Humane Society Board. MC/Unan. Loken will see to putting this resolution together.

Animal Control Officer Ed Baron announced that 2009 is his last year. One or more replacements will need to be trained to keep on-call hours within limits. For the FEBRUARY AGENDA: Animal Control Officer.

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Chief Deputy July had an out-of-state training request from Investigator Laudert to attend the Narcotics Officer's Association Washington DC convention to lobby for Drug Task Force funding at no cost to the county other than wages for his scheduled eight hour days. Inv. Laudert is the Wisconsin President of WNOA. **MOTION** by Loken/James that the Public Safety & Judiciary Committee approve and support Investigator Laudert's out-of-state training. MC/Unan.

Chief had a request from the Administrative Coordinator to transfer one retired squad car to the airport, and he requested that if this is done the Sheriff's Department receive a revenue line in the budget reflecting the income that would have been received had the squad been sold so as not to short the budget. Mike Scott explained that transient aircraft would use this car as a "taxi" for business as taxi service is not always available, and provide this courtesy car on a donation basis. Terry James questioned liability issues with insurance and crashes suggesting the Airport should pay the insurance and bear all the responsibility. Mike Scott will check with the EAA chapter about this. For the FEBRUARY AGENDA: Sale of squad cars.

Leased squads for 2009 were ordered just under \$60,000.00 on an eight-car lease with the trunk pack and power seat features eliminated. When the lease is over, the County has the option to purchase the leased squad cars for \$1.00. Chief had information on a new fleet management system for purchase of gasoline which allows tracking of all gas purchases at almost any gas station. The employee has an ID number and the car carries the gas card. This would replace the Kwik Trip cards. Wright Express will waive all fees, have a zero-cost setup and replacement, and we get a Federal tax rebate. The major advantage is the ability to go to nearly every major petroleum supplier. Committee requested that the contract be reviewed by Corporation Counsel. **MOTION** by Loken/Kotlowski to pursue entering a contract with Wright Express to be reviewed by Corp Counsel. MC/Unan.

Captain Beckman reported 2008 collected revenue of \$34,391.34 in Huber fees; \$47,880.22 in Electronic Monitoring; and \$69,423.00 in Safekeeper monies. Monroe County was housing 21 inmates on this date for a total jail population of 80 with six working Hubers. Monroe County is not under contract; they house inmates here at \$45.00 a day. There are currently three Electronic Monitoring inmates with a fourth to begin soon. James inquired about the mold problem in the Huber showers. Captain stated there is a mold problem because of lack of ventilation there. A spray-application treatment fixed the pod showers in 2006 and an estimated \$70,000.00 will be required to repair the current problem showers. The cost of the new washers and dryers was \$20,000.00 and it was budgeted in 2007 for a 2008 purchase. Showers are budgeted for 2010. Commissary report was not available due to the 2008 closeout still being in process. For FEBRUARY AGENDA: Commissary Report.

Captain had zero accidents to report this month. The fee schedule voted on in August is now in effect, and the Department is working out details concerning how cash is taken, receipts issued and the purchase of a cash register. The Jail is now charging for over-the-counter medications per the fee schedule.

MOTION by Loken/Johnson to go into closed session per Wis Stats 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility: Discuss personnel matters; and Wis Stats 19.85(1)(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session: Discuss contract negotiations for Local 414. Roll call vote: Loken:

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Yes. Johnson: Yes. James: Yes. Sebastiani: Yes. Kotlowski: Yes. Unanimous. The meeting closed at 12:30 p.m. and Shirli Suchomel left the conference room. **MOTION** by James/Kotlowski to convene in open session. Roll call vote: Loken: Yes. Johnson: Yes. James: Yes. Sebastiani: Yes. Kotlowski: Yes. Unanimous. The meeting convened in open session per Wis. Stat 19.85(2) at 12:40 p.m.

MOTION by Kotlowski/Loken to approve the vouchers presented. MC/Unan.

Mike Keckeisen received three letters concerning the animal shelter and he will request the writers of those letters to attend the February meeting.

The next Public Safety & Judiciary Committee meeting was set for Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room A260.

MOTION by Kotlowski/James to adjourn. MC/Unan. Meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Submitted by Deputy Sheriff Shirli Suchomel, Acting Secretary
These minutes are not yet approved by Public Safety & Judiciary Committee (01/21/09)