

**PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES - MARCH 12, 2008**

DATE: March 12, 2008                      TIME: 2:00 p.m.                      PLACE: A260  
Adams County Courthouse    400 Main Street                      Friendship, WI 53934

MEMBERS PRESENT: Florence Johnson, Harry Davis, Cynthia Loken, Jerry Kotlowski

EXCUSED ABSENT: John West

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheriff Renner, Chief July, Dennis McFarlin, Deb Barnes, Dee Helmrick, Terry Warner, Jane Grabarski, Shirli Suchomel

1. Call to Order – At 2:07 p.m. Vice Chair Florence Johnson called the meeting to order.
2. Was the meeting properly announced? – Yes.
3. Roll call: Johnson, Davis, Loken, Kotlowski present. West excused absent.
4. Approve the Agenda – **MOTION** by Davis/Kotlowski to approve the March 12, 2008, meeting agenda. MC/Unan.
5. Approve minutes of the February 13, 2008, meeting – **MOTION** by Davis/Kotlowski to approve the minutes from February 13, 2008, Public Safety & Judiciary Committee meeting. MC/Unan.

**Family Court Commissioner** – Dennis McFarlin had no vouchers. He explained his information service to the public at no cost to participants advising them how to navigate the legal system in matters of child custody and other family law. He is getting referrals from Clerk of Court and from Child Support, and public response is positive.

**Child Support** – Deb Barnes reported that she refers questions on custody, visitation, and placement to the Family Court Commissioner. She explained her Performance Measures report, noting that support collection is down in several counties partially due to unemployed seasonal workers. Her February paid vouchers printout was in her committee packet. She stated she will be on vacation from April 11 through 25.

**Clerk of Circuit Court** – Dee Helmrick submitted her report of monthly bills. No training or conferences were requested. Helmrick will be hosting a 6<sup>th</sup> District Clerk's meeting here in the courthouse; approximately 20 participants are expected district wide. She gave Committee the Community Service Coordinator's report and explained the adult/juvenile ratio and the differences in required supervision and other factors involved in juvenile community service. She reported that Teen Court is still in the works and its creators have contacted Community Service to be a working partner, which may require additional participants in the program that do not currently exist. She submitted a written request that the unoccupied office across the hall be assigned to Clerk of Court. Gary Silka resigned as Bailiff and Helmrick advised Committee that she was looking for another, asking that Committee notify her of any suitable candidates they may know. She explained the qualifications for Bailiff.

**Register in Probate** - Not present.

**District Attorney** – Reports submitted prior to the meeting by Janis Cada, not present.

**Emergency Management** – Jane Grabarski stated that the Performance and Payment Bond is expected from Communications Services on April 4, 2008, at the Pre-Construction Meeting. Tabletop exercise is scheduled for April 3 in a four-county cooperative training to handle boating accidents on the Wisconsin River. Emergency Government and Public Health will do a four-county Pandemic exercise with Sauk, Juneau, Columbia, and Adams Counties. Adams County EPCRA Hazardous Materials facility exercise

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will be with the Wisconsin River Coop this summer. All exercises are grant funded and mandated for Emergency Government and Public Health. The 2007 expected revenue of \$10,319.39 has arrived with an additional \$12,833.00 in unexpected funding, to be applied in local emergency government efforts. These monies are not from the tax levy, and are the result of the lobbying efforts Grabarski explained in previous meetings. Rome Police Department has received radio purchase reimbursements in the amount of \$2,194.00. The ICS training class reimbursement is in process. Grabarski requested the appointment of Chief Deputy David July to the Emergency Planning Committee and requested Committee action. **MOTION** by Kotlowski/Davis to appoint Chief Deputy July to the LEPC Committee. MC/Unan. Grabarski requested approval to attend the Governor's Conference on Emergency Management April 7-9, which is in her budget. Registration is \$175.00 and she invited Committee participation. This is where Grabarski will be awarded her Level 4 certification from the governor. A Regional Exercise Meeting will be held April 3 at Chula Vista from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. and will include lunch. A Fire Officer's meeting will be held at the Big Flats Fire Department March 25. Grabarski and Loken attended the Wisconsin County Association's workshop on Emergency Management issues discussing who declares an emergency in disasters. She explained that steps must be followed properly to qualify for federal reimbursements. Discussion of jail evacuation plans followed. The Emergency Government repeater on the mound was damaged. It is the Sheriff's Department backup, and all ambulance calls go over this repeater. Grabarski is sending the bill to insurance, noting there is a \$500.00 deductible in the policy. She submitted her list of checks to Committee and stated she has copies of vouchers available for questions.

**Register in Probate** - Terry Warner submitted her expense report to Committee. The Termination of Parental Rights case has cost over \$4,000.00. A court-appointed attorney for an estate dispute cost \$2,400-2,500, which the county paid but judgment in excess of \$100,000.00 on the defendant could bring those fees back in. She reported \$15.00 in dues due in April and Juvenile Court Conferences, which the state pays. She reported the need for shelving in the storage room that Maintenance said would be \$50.00 and they will install them. Adoption records must be kept under lock and key, which is not mandated for guardianships.

**Sheriff's Department** - Sheriff Renner reported the department is becoming busier and busier, especially with staff out with flu symptoms. Former Jail Officer Deputy Todd Johnson became a Road Officer, and new hire Kristin Raasch began as a Road Officer on March 10. The K9 Officer is working on raising K9 donations. So far \$250.00 came in from a snowmobile association and the Fraternal Order of Police pledged \$750.00. Public demonstrations of the K9 are scheduled, and the Lions Club has pledged money as well. Truck scales for highway weight restriction enforcement have been purchased and they are ready to use. Lt. Fahrenkrug and officers are to train with the State in their use. Highway reported that it costs \$100,000.00 per mile to repair roads damaged by overweight trucks; the District Attorney is being contacted to determine whether he is willing to prosecute violators. Sheriff reported in detail on Project Lifesaver. He held a press conference with Times-Reporter, Daily Tribune, and Dells Events as well as Channel 9 Wausau explaining this tracking system for autism and Alzheimer's patients. Training and equipment costs will exceed \$9,000.00 and he is seeking donations from individuals and businesses to get this program started. He had a brochure explaining the program and a letter will be sent out soliciting donations. He plans to maintain the program through benefits and donation. A presentation will be made to County Board and then a Resolution will be needed to set up a non-lapsing account to receive donations.

Chief Deputy July asked Committee if they had any questions on the Animal Shelter and Animal Control Officer's reports. He stated that an Animal Shelter representative is coming this month to

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County Board to present the first of their upcoming regular quarterly reports. No conferences or out-of-state training is coming up. Chief reported that he has been at a two-day terrorism training at Volk Field and he is now the Terrorism Liaison Officer for this region. Vice Chair Johnson inquired about the frequency of department firearms training. New officer firearms training was explained, and yearly qualification for all firearms-carrying personnel with one to two trainings per year above that. In June a shooting simulation program will be here to train officers in shoot/don't shoot situations. Chief reported that Electronic Monitoring is working well. Monroe County is now sending Safekeepers; six are here and up to 20 may be coming.

**MOTION** by Loken/Kotlowski to convene in 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: **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Johnson: Yes. Davis: Yes. Loken: Yes. Kotlowski: Yes. Meeting closed at 3:39 p.m. Jane Grabarski, Terry Scheel, and Shirli Suchomel left the room. **MOTION** by Loken/Davis to reconvene in open session. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Johnson: Yes. West: Yes. Loken: Yes. Meeting opened at 4:00 p.m.

**Coroner's Report** - Terry Scheel reported nine deaths in February. The count is down by 14 from this time in 2007. Coroner's pagers are a one-year contract. Scheel submitted the voucher in January to pay this, and it has not been paid. The company is threatening disconnection. Scheel submitted his vouchers. **MOTION** by Loken/Kotlowski to approve the Coroner's expenses. MC/Unan.

The next Public Safety & Judiciary Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 9, at 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION** by Loken/Davis at adjourn until April 9, 2008, 1:300 p.m. MC/Unan.

Submitted by Deputy Sheriff Shirli Suchomel, Acting Secretary  
*These minutes are not yet approved by Public Safety & Judiciary Committee (03/13/08)*