

Minutes

Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee

March 9, 2011

Members present: Rob Reichwein, Dick Miller, Olin Fimreite, John Aasen (2:40 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) and Dave Suchla (2:44 p.m.)

Also present: Emergency Management Director Dan Schreiner, Sheriff Richard Anderson, Lt. Tonya Niederkorn and Chief Deputy Brian Puent. Stephen Doerr also arrived at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Reichwein at 2:33 p.m. stating proper posting and notification has met open meeting requirements. Motion by Miller and seconded by Fimreite to approve the amended agenda as posted. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion by Fimreite and seconded by Miller to accept the February 9, 2011 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried 3-0.

Communication Project Update

Currently the location of the equipment at the courthouse is being revisited by the Property Committee and will be presented to the full County Board.

Project continues on schedule (schedule delayed based on lease agreement).

- Need five US Cellular leases by the end of February to keep on schedule.
- Need Verizon Osseo lease by end of March to keep on schedule.
- Need TCC Strum lease by end of April to keep on schedule.
- Antenna work to be completed at all sites before shelter/equipment installation.
- Whitehall LEC cabling and antenna work started; inside work limited based on location for equipment room not decided. Internal coax cannot be run at this time.

Equipment staging in La Crosse (stays on schedule).

- Major components have arrived.
- Testing and staging of individual items in progress.
- Full staging in March.

Shelters

- Two shelters manufactured and waiting in South Dakota.
- Three shelters being manufactured, ready by March 31st.
- One shelter order with manufacturer pending Verizon lease conditions.

Microwave Licensing

- Microwave Licensing to be submitted in February.
- Locks in microwave locations and tower locations.
- Licensing coordination costs are \$3000 per site (included in project).
- Must not wait for lease completion in order to keep project on schedule.

Fire grant equipment all received at CSI La Crosse office, invoice issued. FCC licenses have been issued for Trempealeau VHF radio channels. No more change orders expected.

Today, Schreiner received an email from US Cellular regarding their lease proposal. This has been forwarded to Corporation Counsel for review. The project is on hold until the signed lease is completed so that construction can be started at the tower sites.

Schreiner advised the target date for operation is sometime in June, provided the lease agreements are signed in time. At this time the target date for the leases to be signed is approximately nine days behind schedule. This will have an impact on the operational date.

Spring Flood Projection

Schreiner advised Monday there was a webinar presented by the National Weather Service regarding potential flood potential projections for this spring. The hope is that the National Weather Service is being overly cautious on their estimates. The potential for spring flooding is very dependent on additional precipitation and spring thawing potentials.

Schreiner advised at this time he is distributing sandbags to municipalities who have requested them. He has received calls from private citizens requesting sandbags but he has been advising them that he does not have sandbags available for individual citizens and recommends they contact their municipality. Schreiner advised he does have a verbal agreement with the municipalities that they will pay for the cost of the bags if they are used. If they are not used they will be returned. Schreiner further advised he is looking for direction from the committee on this.

Miller questioned the cost for the sandbags. Schreiner advised the state delivered 50,000 bags the night of the flood in Arcadia. Approximately 20,000 of those bags were used and the other 30,000 bags were returned. Schreiner was able to locate a private entity that charged less per bag than the state. That is where the current bags that he has on hand were ordered from. These bags are also more easily handled compared to the oversized bags that were received from the state.

Out of County Housing

Resolution for Sheriff's Department 2010 Budget Carryover – Sheriff Anderson advised he spoke with the Executive / Finance Committee earlier this week, per the approval of Committee Chair Reichwein. Executive / Finance Committee recommended that the funds not be carried over at this time. The committee further recommended keeping them informed of the out of county housing population and expenditures.

Move Dispatch to 2nd Floor & Secure Access from Jail to Court

Chief Deputy Puent advised when he spoke with Bruce Chelina about it he requested a specific design that could be presented to contractors in order to obtain accurate estimates. Sheriff Anderson advised there was some discussion about hiring an architect in order to review the possible design options. There was also discussion about ensuring secure access from the jail to the courtroom. Suchla advised that creating moving the courtroom and creating a secure hallway would be extremely expensive. He suggested installing a heavy-duty curtain that would create a secure access within the current hallway.

Suchla advised in regards to the move of dispatch he feels that hiring an architect is extremely expensive. He questioned if the Sheriff knew how he would want that room laid out. Sheriff Anderson advised the other issue is whether or not the Judge is willing to give up that space as he needs space for attorney / client meetings. Suchla also discussed remodeling the kitchen area of the jail.

Suchla requested the Sheriff to obtain a layout of the second floor to be discussed at the next committee meeting. Moving dispatch to the second floor, secure access from jail to court and remodeling of the jail kitchen will all be discussed at the next meeting. Miller advised in order to get a fairly good estimate for costs we need to have a fairly good plan for moving forward. He questioned if that was possible without hiring an architect. He further advised that because of the expenses involved we need to make sure we look at long term planning.

Sheriff Anderson questioned what the objective is. It was discussed that one objective is to ensure access from the jail to the court. The committee further discussed that the other objective for moving dispatch to the second floor is to reduce employee costs. Suchla advised his thoughts are either to reduce employees or reduce overtime. Miller advised in order to allow for sharing of staff the modifications to the building would have to provide for individuals entering and leaving the jail, so that staff could be utilized that way. There was also some discussion of the need for cross training employees. Sheriff Anderson advised he does not feel it is possible to reduce the jail staff to two jailers, especially during the daytime hours. Miller advised the entire space upstairs may need to be revamped in order to make this work. Lt. Niederkorn advised her concern is dealing with mentally inmates and having to escort inmates to court. There was discussion of having dispatch monitoring the main control area of the jail. Suchla advised the idea is to keep the same number of staff members but having individuals be able to fill in when necessary in order to reduce overtime.

Jail Addresses

Lt. Niederkorn advised she does not have much to update this at this time. She advised the jail population has been down a little bit. The jail inspection is currently scheduled for April 6, 2011.

Sheriff Anderson advised that the Electronic Monitoring Policy has been revised. In doing so an individual who qualified under the new guidelines was put on the electronic monitoring. There were five victims in this case and three of the victims contacted the Sheriff expressing their concerns. The victims have requested to express their concerns at a future meeting. Suchla advised he feels the policy is set and needs to be followed. He advised the Sheriff that if receives concerns in the future they may contact him as well.

Discussion of General Operations

Sheriff advised that the cost of fuel is having an impact on the budget. Sheriff Anderson advised that we are conscious of the fuel rates and continue to monitor it.

There was also discussion on the recent in-service training conducted with the patrol staff.

Sheriff Anderson also advised that Lt. Niederkorn will be attending a two day course on the Compass program which has been discussed extensively at the CJCC.

Questions Regarding Monthly Vouchers

Monthly vouchers were reviewed.

Set Next Meeting Date/Time

The monthly Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 2:30 p.m.

Reichwein adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Aasen
Secretary, Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee