

Minutes
Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee
November 15, 2011

Members Present: Rob Reichwein, Olin Fimreite, Dick Miller, John Aasen and David Suchla

Also present: Sheriff Richard Anderson, Chief Deputy Brian Puent, Lieutenant Harlan Reinders, and Mark Smick

Meeting called to order at 9:01a.m. by Reichwein stating proper posting and notification has met open meeting requirements. Motion by Aasen and seconded by Fimreite to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Motion by Miller and seconded by Fimreite to accept the October 19, 2011 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried 5 to 0.

DETECTIVE PERSONNEL REQUISITION
PROMOTE/FILL VACANCY (RETIRMENT)

DEPUTY (PATROL OFFICER) PERSONNEL REQUISITION
HIRE/FILL EXPECTED VACANCY AS A RESULT OF PROMOTION

Sheriff Anderson stated Detective Greg Anderson turned in his resignation for retirement and Sheriff Anderson is requisitioning for a replacement Detective through promotion of a Deputy internally and subsequent new hire to fill the then empty Deputy slot.

Fimreite asked for clarification on the positions.
Miller asked if there is internal interest.

Sheriff Anderson briefly described the Detective Department and its functions, and confirmed there is internal interest for the Detective position.

Sheriff Anderson stated there would be no additional burdens put on the budget as these requisitions' are for replacement personnel, except for pay-outs that arise due to personnel leaving and getting paid out on their accrued sick and vacation time. Sheriff Anderson also stated perhaps a line item could be added onto future budgets to accommodate personnel departures.

Fimreite questioned the county population versus the large task force of the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Anderson replied that recent actions taken by many local police departments and the reduction in their task force has become an additional burden of the Sheriff's department to cover not only the county, but also the local police departments as well. Sheriff Anderson stated once again, no personnel has been added while he has been in office, rather he has already decreased personnel by one.

David Suchla presented copies of personnel numbers pulled from various researches of Eau Claire County, Jackson County, Clark County and Buffalo County questioning why Trempealeau County personnel rates are high in relation to these other counties.

John Aasen stated this would be the perfect opportunity to eliminate a position without a lay-off.

Miller stated the information Suchla was presenting may not be comparing “apples to apples” as discussion followed Suchla’s information on how every county differs not only in how information is provided but in statistical information as well.

Sheriff Anderson stated there is the potential for another Detective to retire and it requires lengthy training for this position, and the discussion for position elimination should happen at a later date.

Fimreite asked for clarification about the patrol position.

Sheriff Anderson talked about a possible sharing of duties between the Jail and Patrol.

Miller stated he is concerned with the decrease in the local police departments and who has the responsibility to fill this void.

State Patrol Troopers were also discussed. Sheriff Anderson commented how Trempealeau County does not have the same luxury of some counties that have a greater number of Troopers, as the more interstate roadways a county has, the more Troopers assigned. Not only do the Troopers work the Interstates, but they help throughout the county as well. Trempealeau County has two Troopers assigned.

Richweien asked how many cases were handled by the Detectives.

Lt Reinders responded – RIMS – our data management system does not provide statistical information and advised it is difficult to accurately track all cases our detectives work.

Suchla asked if the Drug investigator has enough work to keep him busy full-time.

Aasen questioned if the replaced Deputy would be a full-time patrol.

Chief Deputy Puent provided statistical information about personnel numbers provided by Wilenet.

Richwein motioned to promote/replace whichever of the two positions needed, seconded by Miller 3 to 2, motion failed.

Miller asked about the patrol replacement possibly being a combination jail/patrol.

Sheriff Anderson stated additional checking would be needed with Unions and contracts.

Fimreite asked why the Sheriff’s Office has grown so much over the years, as back in the 70’s the department was much smaller, and he himself has only required the help of law enforcement on two separate occasions.

Sheriff Anderson congratulated him and commented the times, the people, the society, so many variables have warranted the increase as need for the public’s safety rise, and is additionally worried about the local departments decrease in police force. And the Sheriff has a responsibility to provide services to the citizens. In addition to county, Detectives

investigate village/city cases per their management request or during the absence of local law enforcement.

Suchla stated he is willing to gamble on denying the replacement of the detective position versus the county needing the man hours and paying over-time if the need arose.

Motion by Aasen and seconded by Fimreite to approve the Detective Requisition. Motion carried 3 to 2.

SCAAP Grant Award

Sheriff Anderson noted we were awarded our \$17,144 and will be placed in the lapsing fund.

Communications Project Update

Sheriff Anderson handed out an updated prepared by Dan Schreiner as he was unable to attend. See Attachment 1. Sheriff Anderson told the committee about #3 on the attachment, that the tower crew, according to Schreiner, at the direction of Mike Lightfoot had taken down the wrong antenna. The Highway communication antenna was taken down by mistake and as a result is damaged. A replacement has been ordered at the cost of \$1,512 plus tower crew install. No comments by committee.

The remaining items on the agenda were not addressed and if there were any questions as time was short today due to the scheduled County Board Meeting. No questions by committee.

Next Meeting Date/Time

The monthly Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. in the Tremplo Room.

Reichwein stated any item on agenda not discussed today could be brought up at the next meeting if requested.

Motion by Suchla, second by Miller to adjourn the meeting.

Reichwein adjourned the meeting at 10:56a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Aasen

Secretary, Law enforcement/Emergency Management Committee