

**Minutes  
Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee  
January 29, 2014**

Members Present: Dick Miller, Olin Femreite, Rob Reichwein, John Aasen, Dave Suchla

Also present: Sheriff Richard Anderson, Lt. Tonya Niederkorn (2:40 p.m.), Jami Kabus, Rian Radtke (3:00 p.m.), Renee Lyon, Dan Schreiner, Chief Deputy Puent, and Sgt. Doug Oates (2:40 p.m.)

Meeting called to order at 2:30 pm by Suchla stating proper posting and notification has met open meeting requirements. Motion made by Reichwein and seconded by Aasen to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Aasen and seconded by Femreite to approve the October 2, 2013 meeting minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

**Renee Lyon-Personnel Requisition for Child Support Agency**

Human Resource Director Jami Kabus presented the Requisition to the Committee to fill the vacant position. This positions salary is already included in the 2014 Budget. Motion by Reichwein and seconded by Femreite to bring to the floor for discussion to approve filling this position. Motion carried 5-0.

**Emergency Management/Dispatch**

Discussion on Future Projects: PSAP (Public Service Answering Point) and Dispatch Console. Schreiner advised that Century Link will be making a mandatory upgrade in the near future. Our current XP Operating System will no longer be supported by Microsoft near the end of May or early June. Schreiner stated there will be an upcoming meeting which will provide more information in regards to this expensive mandatory upgrade. In regards to the Dispatch Console there will be an add on known as Reverse 911 upgrade, which will enable the County to send out messages instead of relying on people to call us. Currently our console operates on XP which will no longer be supported. Steve Dubberstein from CSI advised that some counties have piggy backed console costs onto a bond issue as the expense can be too large for a budget item. Schreiner advised that currently he has no estimates for these upgrades but will present to the Committee as soon as the estimates become available.

**Discussion of Monthly Issues and Concerns in Jail and Department**

Request to Fill Vacant Jailer Position Due to Resignation – Sheriff advised the Committee that Alicia Arenz has accepted a position with La Crosse County and he is requesting to fill this vacancy. Motion by Femreite seconded by Reichwein to bring to table for discussion. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of filling the Jailer position vacancy.

Staffing Issues-Medical Leaves – Sheriff advised that due to a staff member on medical leave and another staff going out on medical leave the need for overtime will increase in order to fill the open shifts. Part time personnel will be utilized when possible; however, most of our part time staff currently have other full time employment.

Jail and Sheriff's Office Maintenance Issues/Communication – Sheriff advised the Committee of the current sewer odor within the Sheriff's Office and Jail and the drainage leak in the Jail. These issues

were addressed at the Property meeting and Bruce Cheline is aware of these issues. Cheline advised that currently there is a negative airflow issue within the building which could possibly be drawing in outside smells such as sewer and diesel. Also noted is a vacuum within the building causing doors to either open hard or push open when another door is opened. Cheline advised that due to the lack of heat in the Jail, the heat was turned up which is causing a vacuum in the other areas. Femreite and Suchla stated that these issues should be taken care of right away. Miller advised that the Health Department was notified and their personnel did get the chance to smell the odor within the Sheriff's Office and are working on this problem on their end. Schreiner did advise that the sewer odor is also in the downstairs of the Courthouse and has been noted within the Patrol Room over the weekend. Miller advised that if the odor continues and becomes stronger then the employees in the offices affected should step out prior to becoming ill. Chief Deputy advised that the cast iron caps were rusted thru on the pipes that broke and was wondering if this could be a contributing factor. Suchla advised to call the plumbing contractor immediately and get this taken care of at which the Sheriff advised he already did this and noted that the plumbing contractor had emergency medical issues and will have to work with Lt. Niederkorn in order to move the inmates around during the plumbing construction. Suchla advised that if the current plumbing contractor is unavailable for whatever reasons we need to find another contractor to take care of this matter right away. Lt. Niederkorn advised that other maintenance requests have been done following the process in place noting the use of the Maintenance Request online, however, no feedback is given if or when the request has been looked into or completed. Sheriff advised that there have been frozen pipes breaking in the Jail which has caused water drainage in areas of the men's locker room/bathroom and Patrol Evidence Room. Also noted was the lack of scheduled maintenance cleaning within the Sheriff's Office and other departments of the Courthouse. Staff is maintaining the cleanliness of their offices in the absence of maintenance and are utilizing the Maintenance Request online.

Purchase of Locks and Gates for Jail – Sheriff advised the first estimate presented previously was in the range of \$200,000 to \$250,000. Badger Stainless came onsite and gave an estimate of \$70,000 on the high end noting should be closer to \$50,000. Sgt. Oates presented an overview of the current locks and gates in the Jail and the costs associated with replacing them. Each lock will be removed and replaced and the broken lock will be sent in for repairs which are included in the price of replacement and will be returned to be used as spares if and when needed. Oates advised that Gate/Lock #1 will be first priority. Sheriff advised that the funding for this project will be taken out of the Jail Assessment Fund and no extra funding from the County will be needed.

### **Discussion of Monthly Department Activities/Concerns**

Request to Fill Administrative Assistant Position Due to Upcoming Resignation – Sheriff advised that Bethany McCurdy will be leaving the County and relocating due to family medical issues and seeks approval to begin the process of filling her position. Motion by Aasen seconded by Femreite to approve filling the Administration Assistant position. Motion carried 5-0.

Questions Regarding Monthly Vouchers – Sheriff advised the Committee that the funding for the Jail Video Conferencing Project will all come out of the 2013 Budget, noting the first payment of \$25,000 was already dispensed. Femreite expressed concerns as to the high expenses paid for inmates medical fees to which Lt. Niederkorn advised that due to Department of Corrections (DOC) changing Codes we will be seeing higher expenses for inmates with no insurance. Lt. Niederkorn advised that the County is seeing more inmates coming in with behavioral and mental health issues due to not taking their medications. DOC advised that within 30 to 90 days procedures need to be in place for the 350 Code. Suchla asked if the \$10,850 invoice for the Jail shower repairs was the final bill to which the Sheriff confirmed yes. Suchla advised that the invoice for the stripping out of squads appeared high to which the Sheriff advised the total price was for all four squads.

Discussion of General Operations – Sheriff Anderson advised the Committee of the totals for the last three years of overtime and additional compensation for Jail and Patrol Staff as noted below:

Jail figures for overtime for 2011 was \$94,613, 2012 \$82,264 and 2013 \$30,014. Additional Compensation for 2011 was \$47,804, 2012 \$41,431 and 2013 \$24,820.

Patrol figures for overtime for 2011 was \$56,384, 2012 \$80,384 and 2013 \$62,433. Additional Compensation for 2011 was \$18,203, 2012 \$26,538 and 2013 \$25,562.

Suchla was pleased with the numbers. Sheriff advised the decrease in numbers is due to changing to the 12 hour shifts and the additional full time jailer position created two years ago and the fact that the Jail Sergeants have covered several of the shifts. Suchla asked if any of the staff complained more than usual in regards to the new shifts at which Lt. Niederkorn stated the staff are now okay with the shift change.

**Review estimates to move pump house and well off of County owned property.**

*Convene to closed session per Wis. Stat § 19.85 (1)(e) to discuss negotiation strategies to resolve share of costs relating to the raising or removal of a well and pump house on County owned property, requiring a closed sess.*

**Motion by Miller and seconded by Femreite to enter into closed session at 3:18 p.m. Roll call vote – Reichwein, yes; Miller, yes; Femreite, yes; Aasen, yes; Suchla, yes. Motion carried 5-0.**

*Reconvene Into Open Session Immediately Following Closed Session.*

**Motion by Aasen and seconded by Reichwein to reconvene into open session at 3:30 p.m. Roll Call vote – Reichwein, yes; Miller, yes; Femreite, yes, Aasen, yes; Suchla, yes.**

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**Other Items**

No other items.

**Next Meeting Date/Time**

To be Determined.

With no further discussion, motion by Suchla, seconded by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Olin Femreite  
Secretary, Law enforcement/Emergency Management Committee  
Minutes by: Carol Ressler