

MINUTES
Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee
June 18, 2014

Members Present: John Aasen, Richard Frey, Jon Shultz, Olin Femreite

Also Present: Dan Schreiner, Sheriff Richard Anderson, Lt. Tonya Niederkorn, Rian Radtke, Steve Dubberstein, Brad Hompe

Meeting called to order at 2:34 pm by Aasen stating proper posting and notification has met open meeting requirements. Motion made by Frey and seconded by Femreite to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Motion by Femreite and seconded by Schultz to accept the May 21, 2014 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Emergency Management/Dispatch

Steve Dubberstein, CSI distributed “Trempealeau County Public Safety VHF Radio System Maintenance Dispatch Console Options” and reviewed information provided. Motorola installed the new radio system at a cost of \$2 million which included 7 towers which provided the County with 95% portable radio coverage. Towers are leased from US Cell at \$150 per month, TCC Tower at \$2200 annually which includes 4 radio channels used by Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement and pages go out simultaneously. We have a warranty & maintenance contract that covers the entire system and the dispatch console for 24/7 service including parts & labor. Both contracts are paid through 2014 with bond monies. Motorola has an IP link connected to their system which shows them immediate repair issues for Trempealeau County. The cost for next year’s contract is \$37,000 + \$5,000. The current system is currently working fine with exception of Deputy walkie talkies as reported by the Sheriff. Dubberstein said to let him know where the Deputy is located when having trouble with the walkie talkies. Heavy rain can interrupt system; however, the signal reconnects after a few minutes. Dubberstein stated the following is not covered by warranty/maintenance contract: Acts of God, water damage, battery replacement for UPS, shelter and generator. If the antenna fails, Motorola only covers diagnosis of the problem.

Dispatch console – is ModUcom equipment. Motorola took over maintenance a few years ago. The console works fine and they stocked Windows XP to ensure availability to keep dispatch updated. At some point, the console will need to be updated. Quotes for a new dispatch console are included in the information distributed by Dubberstein. The current console can be used as a backup; however, lack of periodic startup can cause computer issues. Dubberstein mentioned if we are bonding something else in the future the County may be able to place the cost of the dispatch console on the end of the bond. Dubberstein stated the County has had a few failures with the current dispatch consoles but they are relatively stable and expects they will last another 2-3 years. Dubberstein indicated dispatch consoles generally have a 10 -15 year life span on the electronics. It was mentioned the County will need to put this out for bid. There was discussion

on the possibility of creating a Contingency Fund and placing money aside in preparation of the project. Dubberstein stated the maintenance agreement has built in price increases until year 5 at which time the cost stays the same. Schreiner noted it has been a pleasure working with Dubberstein and his company and would be difficult to go without the 24/7 service & remote coverage.

Monthly Issues & Concerns

Vacant Jail Positions: Sheriff advised two jailers recently resigned; 1 male & 1 female. There is currently money in the budget to fill the positions. We will be looking at current part-time employees. The positions only need approval from this Committee. Motion by Frey to replace the jail positions, seconded by Femreite. Motion carried 4-0.

Review of Jail Inspection 2014

Sheriff distributed copies of the most recent jail inspection report. State Jail Inspector, Brad Hompe, advised there are pros/cons to our jail. Our facility is archaic and undersized. DOC has set our capacity at 30 and no more and trying to house more as a cost saving measure is not allowed. It is recommended we stay at 24-26 inmates to allow movement and classification. We cannot hold inmates in receiving or go beyond 30 inmates due to the number of cells, staffing, and square footage. The jail went from 28 bed capacity to 34 beds with double bunking which was a "temporary solution". With the loss of double bunking, we can house no more than 26 inmates; however, Hompe agrees we can house 30 as long as we are abiding by classification. Classification is a decision tree system based on risk. The law states we are to house inmates accordingly. Classification is generally minimum, medium, and maximum. If we house mixed classifications and an altercation occurs; the County could be held liable if someone is injured. Sheriff Anderson advised it's difficult to segregate with no room but we need to adhere to the recommendations. Niederkorn distributed an inmate custody status report and briefly reviewed reasons for incarcerations. Discussion held on the jail alternative programs which have helped reduce jail population such as Electronic Monitoring, Diversion Program, etc. similar to Justice Sanctions.

Hompe advised the County Maintenance is not addressing jail repair issues in a timely manner or not at all. A list of the current jail repair needs was distributed. Hompe noted we continue to have issues with door locks and water temps as noted on the date of the annual jail inspection. Hompe stated the water pressure in A block was not working properly on the date of the inspection and after calling a vendor it was fixed by the end of that day.

It was mentioned the \$50,000 previously allocated to jail repairs has not been used and did not go to County Board for approval. The Sheriff states he informed Niederkorn to call and get the repair done if maintenance cannot do so and submit the bill to Bruce Cheline, Head of Maintenance. Hompe said if the repair is not fixed we need to shut the area down. Hompe mentioned a light out in a cell block is a safety issue as staff cannot see the inmate and should be fixed the same day it was reported. Mortar being removed from the outside recreation area is a safety issue. Hompe advised the County could be held liable if someone gets hurt. Brad advised we should prioritize the list of repair needs. Hompe advised we have been put on notice and he

won't support the County if someone does get hurt and the repairs are not done. Hompe asked what liability does the County want to take on. Bids are still needed for a few of the repairs and will be discussed at the Property Committee. Question was asked who Maintenance answers to which was mentioned the Property Committee. Hompe advised communication with maintenance is poor which was also noticed the day of the inspection. Hompe stated we have a work order system in place and should be used properly for tracking. Discussion was held on the possibility of conducting a water analysis in the jail due to possible mineral build up. Femreite inquired if Bruce Cheline is authorized to hire out if he's too busy. Radtke advised if we remodel or improve the building it may fall under public bid laws if over a certain cost. The jail painting project which was quoted between \$60,000 and \$100,000 to repair exceeds the \$25,000 which requires a formal bid. We may need someone to draw up specs on what we want done. If it's highly technical, we may need to hire an Engineer to draw plan and help select bidder, inspections, and walk through the process. Someone needs to make a decision if we are going to hire someone to draw specs; Lt. Niederkorn will be meeting with Radtke on this.

Frey commented it appears the Jail could be the County's largest liability. Hompe stated the Jail is probably the highest litigation for the county which Radtke agreed with. Radtke advised there are various types of claims in regards to Constitutional violations, deliberate indifference where there is no cap, attorney fees, and punitive damages. Jail Population has high litigation and inmates have time to file claims; stakes are higher. Hompe said to avoid lawsuits out of the Jail we need to keep tight shifts and provide appropriate care. Hompe reiterated we need to address issues on space, staffing and maintenance. Femreite stated we are doing a good job in this County in support of Justice Sanctions with programs such as Recovery Court, Electronic Monitoring and the Diversion Program. Sheriff advised he relaxed the Electronic Monitoring program requirements and increased alcohol testing.

Monthly Department Activities/Concerns

Squad Car Purchases: Sheriff's Office budgeted this year for four squads. The Sheriff stated he contacted Osseo Ford on a 2015 Explorer and was quoted a cost of \$27,568; Arcadia has an all-wheel drive Dodge Charger for a cost \$26,139, and Ewald has a Dodge Charger for a cost of \$25,986. The Sheriff believes Arcadia's price will be less expensive in the long run as we would have to go to Oconomowoc to pick them up or pay a delivery fee to have them shipped here. Femreite made a motion to approve the purchase of two Chargers from Arcadia and two Explorers from Osseo, seconded by Aasen. Motion approved 4-0.

Monthly Vouchers: No questions

General Operations: The Sheriff advised the road has been very busy and there is an influx in Heroin and Methamphetamine use. The Sheriff's Office recently located over 100 Marijuana plants growing in an Etrick residence. The County has had several drug related deaths. The Sheriff and District Attorney McMahon are taking this seriously and there are two investigations currently involving Heroin deaths. We end up with people in Jail who go through withdrawals from Heroin or Meth which become a problem. The cost is increasing with the drug problems. The Sheriff and the District Attorney have formulated a program talking to students at local

schools regarding the effects of Heroin. They have currently presented to four schools so far, as well as medical providers, and will continue making presentations. They are open to providing this presentation to churches and civic organizations. The Sheriff stated he could use someone such as a Police Liaison to touch base with freshman and seniors as our DARE program reaches the younger students. What really touches the students is when someone experienced in past drug use tells their story. Recently, a female presenter did this and is now on the La Crosse Drug Task Force. The mother of a victim of drug use also shared her story and how it has impacted her life. The Sheriff said their presentation “The Fly Effect” is currently shown on TCC.

Next Meeting Date/Time: July 16, 2014 at 2:30 pm – (Suggested to move to Packer Room)

With no further discussion, meeting adjourned by Aasen at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Frey
Secretary, Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee
Minutes by: Tonya Niederkorn