

Minutes

Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee

June 2, 2010

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

Also present: Emergency Management Director Dan Schreiner, Sheriff Richard Anderson, Chief Deputy Brian Puent, Director of Human Resources Jami Kabus, and Pat Malone and John Zander with UW-Extension.

The meeting was called to order by Reichwein at 2:34 p.m. stating proper posting and notification has met open meeting requirements. Motion by Aasen and seconded by Miller. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Fimreite and seconded by Suchla to accept the May 3, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried 5-0.

Communication Project

Tower Structure – Schreiner spent some time on the phone today with Communication Services regarding tower structures. The towers in question are at the courthouse, Karlstad and Wilber Lime. There is some question as to whether the Wilber Lime tower would be able to be used because of size and age. It has been determined that it should be fine although there may be some need for improvements/maintenance. All improvements necessary to the towers will be part of the project expense for the County. Wilber Lime is in a better position than the US Cellular tower that was being considered.

There are some issues with the tower site at the courthouse. The tower legs have begun to rust because when the parking lot was paved the holes in the legs were plugged. It is expected that this tower will not pass a loading study as is. There are a couple options for upgrades/replacement.

The Karlstad tower is in good condition but they are concerned that it will not support the two, four-foot microwave dishes that would need to be on there. This currently a 150 tower and they need a 180 foot tower at this location. The increase in height is needed to make the link between this tower site and the Eleva tower site.

A tower loading study still needs to be done at all three locations to ensure that the towers are all viable options.

Tower Lease Agreement – Dean and Michelle Karlstad recently left a copy of the lease agreement for their tower site at the Sheriff's Office and requested a call back. The lease agreement was dated in 1984 and was a 25-year lease for this site. Sheriff Anderson requested Schreiner contact the Karlstads as he is working on the communication project. Schreiner was looking for support to begin negotiations with the Karlstads to continue the lease at this site. Michalak recommended that we approach the Karlstads for a 25-year lease agreement, with the opportunity to re-evaluate the cost on a yearly basis. The Karlstads did mention that they are aware of what other vendors/individuals are receiving for tower rent. Schreiner did mention that US Cellular is renting to public safety for approximately \$150 per month. The question was is a new tower was built could the county rent out some of the space.

Schreiner advised he has also reviewed the lease with Wilber Lime. At this time there are no payments to Wilber Lime for the lease of this tower space. All of the equipment on the Wilber Lime Tower is owned by the County.

Schreiner is willing to work with Corporation Counsel on developing lease agreements for the Karlstad and Wilber Lime sites. As soon as leases can be secured tower studies would be done, allowing the project to move forward.

Motion by Suchla and seconded by Aasen allowing Schreiner to negotiate lease agreements for the Karlstad and Wilber Lime tower sites. Motion carried 5-0.

Frequency – As part of this project Trempealeau County had to secure two pairs of frequencies. There is currently on frequency pair that is not being used so one more pair would need to be secured. An application was submitted for a pair of frequencies, at a cost of \$840. Schreiner received a letter from the state coordinator advising that frequency may cause issues with other agencies in our area. The state frequency coordinator advised he would need signed letters from adjacent frequencies stating they understand Trempealeau County is going to use this frequency

and that it may cause problems with their frequencies. Schreiner set the request for the letters of concurrence to some of the agencies but he has to wait to send the letters to other agencies until the tower sites are determined.

Suchla asked if there were any other options for frequency pairs. Elert and Associates have advised that this frequency would cause the least interference with surrounding agencies. If we don't get signatures on the letters of concurrence Trempealeau County would have to conduct another search, and submit another application at a cost of \$840. Schreiner advised that frequencies are a highly sought after commodity. Schreiner advised that he will keep the committee apprised of the status of the letters of concurrence.

Funding for Frequency – Schreiner requested approval to pay the \$840 frequency application fee from his professional services budget.

Motion by Suchla and seconded by Fimreite to approve the \$840 for the frequency application fee from Schreiner's professional services budget, account #101.52600.210. Motion carried 5-0.

Repeaters – The Trempealeau County Fire Association wrote a grant for communication equipment. They were denied in 2009 and then subsequently awarded the grant in 2010. There were five repeaters included in this grant application. After considerable discussion at the Fire Chief's Association meeting it was determined that they would like to put the five repeaters into the county's system provided the county funds the local match, amounting to \$19,000. Suchla questioned where the repeaters will be put if they do not go with the county. Schreiner advised he asked that question himself but did not receive an answer.

Schreiner advised that the county already has \$190,000 built into our project for the purchase of these repeaters. So, the county with the grant funding the county would be able to get the repeaters at a cost of \$19,000 instead of the \$190,000. The Fire Association further requested that if there are any funds available in the county's communication project the county consider that the Dodge Fire Department does not have any paging ability. The Fire Association will need the \$19,000 before November.

The committee requested that Schreiner determine what the Dodge Fire Department needs.

Elert and Associates Change Orders – Change order #3 is the \$1,000 that was part of the re-letting of the RFP. Change order #4 is to cover phase 4, which is the services currently being provided by Elert and in the future. The \$20,000 plus expenses has already been approved by the County Board to come out of the contingency fund for the project. Schreiner advised he would need the committee's approval on both of the change orders.

Schreiner advised the phase 4 was initially proposed in 2005 or 2006. This was an anticipated expense.

Motion by Miller and seconded by Aasen to approve change order #3 and change order #4 as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Schreiner advised phase 4 is from the beginning of the construction phase through the end of the project. Suchla questioned if this is the last time. Schreiner advised he hopes so. Phase 4 is the last phase of the project.

Motion by Miller and seconded by Suchla to pay the \$19,000 for the repeaters in the Fire Association grant, resulting in a \$171,000 change order in the county's communication project. Motion carried 5-0.

West Central Region Interoperability Council

The state has divided the state up into approximately 11 regions. The plan is to develop a tactical communication plan. Office of Justice Assistance is in charge of the funding for this project. They are also dictating how these committees will be structured. Initially they advised each county could have three representatives on these committees. It has since been agreed that public safety can appoint the Emergency Management Director to represent the county's interest at these committee meetings. Schreiner will be attending these committee meetings and reporting progress to this committee.

Department Efficiency Comparisons – Discussion with UW-Extension

Zander advised he was contacted by Suchla to conduct a comparison of the law enforcement system in Trempealeau County versus other counties. Zander further advised he would need to know exactly what the committee is looking for and then determine if they would be able to provide that type of information.

Suchla advised he thought about looking at the county and what we have for patrol officers, jailers, detectives, administration, dispatchers, etc and then do a comparison to other counties. Suchla advised it is difficult to do a comparison based on population. He states his idea was to evaluate crime rates to determine the work load for comparison. He would like to see a comparison of crime rates in comparison with crime rates. Suchla would also like to evaluate staffing levels within the jail.

Reichwein questioned if wages are compared during negotiations for union contracts. Kabus advised that there are comparables utilized during the negotiation process.

Malone advised that the place to put your time and effort is establishing benchmarks within your own agency before doing a comparative analysis with other agencies. How do you measure performance in a law enforcement agency or the criminal justice system? Miller advised he believes that a benchmark is a good place to start. What do we expect out of law enforcement?

Suchla advised his idea is to be able to come back and say that we are overstaffed in this area and we will be able to eliminate a position. Miller advised he is not against a comparison but he thinks that the approach is important. Miller advised that he feels it is important to ensure that we have the appropriate staffing levels to achieve the goals that we want to achieve.

Fimreite advised he went through the election and heard a lot of comments about too much money being spent in the Sheriff's Office. Fimreite advised that they need to work together to reduce the Sheriff's Office budget. Fimreite further advised that there were complaints about the purchase of the four-wheel drive truck. Sheriff Anderson advised that there was a case in which a squad car was totaled by the insurance company after it was involved in a car versus deer accident. As a result Sheriff Anderson approached the Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee about purchasing a four-wheel drive truck. The committee approved the purchase of the truck, if the cost was not more than \$5,000 over the purchase of a squad car. The insurance company further agreed to pay for all of the equipment that would be installed in the new truck. The Sheriff's Office did receive funds from the insurance company as reimbursement for the purchase of the truck and did not exceed the \$5,000 amount set by the committee. Chief Deputy Puent further advised that the truck is available to any deputy who may need it during inclement weather. He further advised that as a rural county it is important that we have the resources needed to respond in an emergency, no matter what the weather may be and this truck is one of those resources.

Suchla advised that the County Board has indicated they do not want to raise taxes. The communication project will have an impact on the county budget and there will be a need to cut from other resources. The Sheriff's Office does account for the greatest portion of the county levy and there will be a need to look at budget cuts.

Miller advised that the key is developing an instrument to get the best results. Developing an instrument may involve many different components and can be a difficult thing to develop. Malone advised a study looked at state crime rates per coverage. Malone advised that we need to determine if the numbers are meaningful and if they will help improve operations.

The question was raised as to what we expect out of law enforcement and are those expectations being met. Reichwein advised that a benchmark will likely be developed to meet the standards that we are currently at. Malone advised you need to spend time discussing what the relevant benchmarks are. The benchmark is not a carrot and stick it is a way to improve operations.

Suchla advised he got elected to take care of a budget and he needs to know numbers in order to do that. Fimreite advised that the numbers that come out of an agency are not typically reliable. Zander advised that their office can generate numbers but it is important to realize the variables behind those numbers. Zander states there is not consistency in how things are reported across the state. Zander again advised that they can put numbers together but it is important to realize what is behind those numbers. He further advised he would have concern about using those numbers to make any major decisions. Suchla advised that there will have to be some decisions made when it comes to budgeting in the fall.

Fimreite advised he believes too many people are being put in jail. He thinks they are good people who made a mistake and don't necessarily belong in jail.

Miller requested that Malone present the instrument for measurement at the July 14th meeting.

Hiring Resolution

This resolution will appear on the June County Board Agenda. Reichwein advised he did have some concern on the vote from the previous meeting. Miller advised when they attended the meeting in Eau Claire they would have ruled the vote as the final vote, indicating that the motion failed. Aasen did state that he abstained during the first vote. Aasen could request the resolution be brought back to the committee for further review.

Suchla advised that the committee would be able to determine if a final candidate is qualified. Miller advised that the hiring practice is the most objective it has been in years. Suchla advised he would actually like to see this done for all departments/offices, where the committee would be able to provide approval for the final candidate. Suchla advised if the committee knew that the candidate was not a qualified individual then the committee would be able to object to that individual being hired. There was a question if this resolution created micro-management by the County Board. Suchla advised the committee would not be micro-managing but rather this would just be a rubber stamp, as a final step in the process Reichwein advised he feels the committee needs to look at the resolution on its own merit not on what has occurred in the past. Fimreite advised the perception is that hiring within the courthouse is not what you know but who you know.

Miller advised he is in opposition of having two different systems within the county for hiring. Reichwein agreed and advised he feels this may be taking the position away from the Human Resources Director.

(Note, the Law Enforcement / Emergency Committee determined there were some discrepancies with vote on this motion at the May 2010 Law Enforcement/Emergency Management meeting. Therefore, the resolution was brought back to the June 2).

Motion by Aasen and seconded Fimreite to bring the Hiring Resolution back to the Law Enforcement / Emergency Management committee as presented. Reichwein requested a roll-call vote Fimreite, yes; Aasen, yes; Suchla, yes; Miller, no; and Reichwein, no.

Double-Bunking

The Jail Inspector is finalizing his report and did mention eliminating double-bunking. The Jail Inspector was not able to attend this meeting but will be attending the July meeting to participate in the jail tour and speak with the committee.

Suchla advised he believes the jail was designed for double-bunking. Suchla advised when double-bunking was implemented there were four additional jailers hired. If the double-bunking is eliminated then he believes that staff could also be reduced.

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Grant

Grant funds may be utilized for salaries for corrections officers, overtime costs, corrections work force recruitment and retention, construction of corrections facilities, training/education for offenders, training for corrections officers related to offender population management, consultants involved with offender population, medical and mental health services, vehicle rental/purchase for transport offenders, prison industries, pre-release/reentry programs, technology involving offender management/inter-agency information sharing, and disaster preparedness continuity of operations for corrections facility.

Law Enforcement Radio Command Grant

Motion by Aasen and seconded by Fimreite supporting the Law Enforcement Radio Command Grant application, not to exceed the grant award amount. Motion carried 5-0.

Workender Program Presentation

Motion by Suchla and seconded by Miller to table the Workender Program Presentation until the August meeting.

Jail Addresses

Sheriff Anderson advised Trempealeau County has a contract with Chippewa County for housing inmates out of county. The previous contract required Trempealeau County pay for 25 inmates per day no matter how many individuals were being housed in Chippewa County. The new contract allows Trempealeau County to only pay for the beds being used each day.

The committee was also advised that most jail revenues will be higher than expected due to the implementation and collection through TRIP.

Electronic Monitoring and Jail Census

Trempealeau County Average Jail Population = 28.35

Average Out-of-County Jail Population = 9.32

Average Electronic Monitoring Population = 2.35

Total Average Jail Population = 40.02

Discussion of General Operations

Sheriff Anderson advised that there was recently a fatal accident in Trempealeau County. There was also a fatal accident on the Jackson County line that Trempealeau County assisted with. Miller advised he was in the area at the time of the crash and commends those that responded to this accident.

Sheriff Anderson further advised that the no-smoking ban will go into effect shortly.

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, July 14, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in the Tremple Room.

Reichwein adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Aasen/rms Secretary, Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee