

DRAFT

Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: March 13, 2018

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: March 21, 2018

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Mary Anne McMillan Urell at 3:05pm.

Members present: Mary Anne McMillan Urell, John Kriesel, Scott Smith-**Excused**, and Bernie Brunkow

Others present: Sheriff Michael Schmidtknecht, Melissa Brunner, Chief Deputy Lee Engfer, and Bruce Fuerbringer

Public: None

Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve January minutes as presented, second by Mr. Brunkow. Motion carried.

Mr. Kriesel made a motion to accept bills as presented, second by Mr. Brunkow. Motion carried.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht updated the committee on the current status of filled vacated positions and current open positions. Lee Engfer has been named as chief deputy, and Mike Osmond has been named as the investigator. These positions will take some time to transfer into. With these changes, it leaves a vacant patrol deputy position. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to hire a full-time, patrol deputy to fill vacated position, second by Mr. Brunkow. Motion carried. Sheriff would like to have all applications to review by April 2nd.

Logan Olson and Ryan Howell have been named as patrol sergeants, which will oversee their respective rotations. Sergeant Olson will be kept in his current shift rotation until May, due to his activity as DARE officer. There is still a male communication/corrections officer position open but are in the process of re-publishing. Female applications will also be taken at that time, due to possible, future retirements.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed the leasing versus purchasing options. One squad was budgeted for and purchased in 2017, should be available soon and the agency is looking to lease five new squads in 2018, if leasing is an option. If leasing is not an option, then he needs to move forward and purchase the budgeted squads. Leasing gives 25,000 miles a year, so the agency is looking to lease SUV's, as they tend to hold their value, and work well with the Buffalo County terrain. This type of lease is more of a business lease and not the same type of lease as for an individual. The lease would be paid for over an amount of time and the vehicles would eventually then be sold. The lease company would aid in the process.

Some equipment can be transferred from an old squad to the new ones, which will be some cost savings, as well as installing our own equipment ourselves. He will know more after the Finance meeting scheduled for April 21st.

One squad is out of rotation completely; two squads have minimal deer damage, which the agency is getting by with minimal repairs; one of those damaged squads is scheduled to be replaced. Repairs are all budgeted monies.

Chief Deputy Engfer presented his January and February reports to the committee. There was no out of the ordinary over-time. In February, there were some extensions of shifts due to poor weather conditions. For January there was a squad monthly mileage average of 2081, and February monthly mileage average of 1838.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht informed the committee that the jail has seen a rise of females in custody versus males. Currently, there are 15 males in custody and 9 females. At the end of February, there was a total of 41 bookings. There has also been a rise of arrests due to drugged-driving. Mental health issues are on a constant rise and becoming the “norm”.

On March 6th, the Alma Fire Department, together with the Sheriff’s Office, honored Matt Biesterveld and Tom Pawlak with lifesaving awards for their heroic recovery of two fishermen caught in ice on the Mississippi River.

Mr. Fuerbringer presented the committee his report. He didn’t have anything out of the ordinary for expenditures. He discussed upcoming projects he is involved in such as the LEPC Strategic Plan, which has now been completed. The Dairyland Power Plant off-site plan (well and waste water treatment) review is scheduled to happen between April and June. Two emergency action plans for the county are currently under review for updating-Annex A-Direction & Control and Annex K-Fire & Rescue. He discussed the status of the properties in Gilmanton that were flooded, the county has 60 days after the closing of the properties to complete the teardown process. He has scheduled a meeting for a number of local and Minnesota counties to discuss the radio interoperability and operational guidelines relating to mutual aid or disaster situations. A meeting is scheduled on March 15th. Mr. Fuerbringer also discussed that he will be attending a meeting April 16th for the Wisconsin Town Association and will be presenting on the chemicals and hazardous materials that are present within the County of Buffalo.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht also informed the committee that the county has had their first fatality for the year, a truck versus pedestrian.

April meeting is currently set for April 10, 2018 at 3:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Melissa L. Brunner, Secretary