

DRAFT

Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: April 4, 2017

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: April 20, 2017

Chairperson Mary Anne McMillan Urell called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.

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

Others present: Sheriff Michael Schmidtknecht, Melissa Brunner, Chief Deputy Colin Severson, and Deputy Mitch Zastrow

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

Public Comments: None

There was a brief introduction of Deputy Mitch Zastrow.

Ms. Sonya Hansen was unable to attend the meeting on behalf of Emergency Management but she did advise by a telephonic message that the only thing to report for the month was the normal expenditures of payroll and telephone, which she believed to be under \$500.

Approval of law enforcement bills. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to approve February bills paid in March as presented, second by Mr. Brunkow. ***No March bills paid in April, too early in the month.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that communications/corrections officer, Olivia Solberg tendered her resignation. Her last day will be April 15th.

There were not enough female applicants from the previous application pool, therefore, there would be a need to advertise again. This is a full-time, budgeted position. Mr. Smith made motion to approve full-time, budgeted hire of one communications/corrections officer, second by Mr. Kriesel. Motion carried.

There has been a new hire for the replacement of former communications/corrections officer, Darrin Loewenhagen. A commencement date has not yet been determined.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht then discussed the 2016 annual jail inspection report. Mr. Nathan White is the new corrections inspector for this region. Sheriff advised that the report will be presented to the County Board, together with the 2016 annual report.

He advised there may be a need to be some structural improvements but those improvements will not affect the budget; those improvements will be taken from jail assessments. Sheriff reiterated that the design for the jail is obsolete.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht presented a draft 2016 annual year-end report. There was discussion of the 12-hour shifts and its effect. The over-time has been cut down and the shifts have, overall, boosted

the morale of the office. He discussed the 2016 accomplishments which consisted of the 12-hour shifts, daily training for policy and procedures, E911 Vesta system was installed, and DEC response program was initiated.

The future goals for the agency will be replacing corroded phone lines to tower site in Alma with fiber optic, combine medical and mental health costs, work on security cameras for entry points of the courthouse, update/add to jail security cameras, update squad video cameras, replace TRACS sequel server and reduce the sheriff's budget overall. Future challenges for the office are keeping down costs for mental/health care, retention of current staff, keeping current with technology/equipment/training requirements, and working with CJS program.

Currently, the sheriff is unable to provide the final bottom figure, as he is awaiting final figures from Administration, but the office will come in under budget by at least \$118,000.

There was discussion of the county's fire number system issues, which will be discussed at full county board.

Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve and forward the 2016 Annual Report once the final numbers are received, second by Mr. Kriesel. Motion carried.

Chief Deputy Severson presented his reports. There were two significant investigative reports that caused seven hours of over-time.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht mentioned a couple of upcoming events. On April 29th there will be the annual Drug/Medication Waste take-back day. This year it will be held at the Alma Fire Station from 9am-12pm.

The spring Flood Run will be held on April 15th. Since the agency is down two officers, there will be upcoming over-time for this event.

No Jail Lieutenant report.

May meeting is currently set for May 2nd at 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.

Melissa L. Brunner, Secretary