

DRAFT

Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: April 10, 2018

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: April 17, 2018

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Mary Anne McMillan Urell at 3:01pm.

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

Others present: Sheriff Schmidtknecht, Melissa Brunner, Chief Deputy Engfer, Sergeant Ryan Howell, Lieutenant Mikelson, Deputy Mike Osmond and Colin Severson

Public: None

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

Ms. McMillan Urell presented an award to Colin Severson for his years of dedicated service to the county in his role as chief deputy.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht then introduced Ryan Howell as the second newly promoted patrol sergeant and advised the committee that Mike Osmond has been promoted to investigator, which becomes effective the end of April. There was a brief discussion of the current K-9 fund. Eventually, the current K-9 will be retired and a new handler will be named, as well as new K-9 will be purchased. At any time, donations can be made and will be accepted for future K-9 fees.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht reported that the interviews for the patrol position have been set for April 23rd. The communications/corrections position applications are still being reviewed.

Fountain City is still under a 3-month contract with the sheriff's office for patrol services. The future of the contract is unknown at this time, as the grant that Fountain City had applied for fell through.

The City of Alma is still in the process of filling the vacant officer position.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht then discussed the status of the leased vehicles. The sheriff's office will be leasing 5 new squads. Due to leasing vehicles, previously budgeted monies will be available to purchase equipment for the squads now versus having to budget in 2019. He is hoping to have the vehicles up and running by the end of July. This leasing process will be a learning curve.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht and Lieutenant Mikelson advised the committee that recently Buffalo County has contracted with Pepin County to house 6 inmates, due to overflow. The contract runs from March to April, month to month at \$43 a day per inmate. Trempealeau County contracted with Pepin County for 10 beds prior to Buffalo County so they have priority. State jail inspector states that we cannot double-bank inmates, only overnight. How inmates are classified can affect whether or not inmates can be housed with other inmates. The inmates that were transported to Pepin

County are inmates that get along with one another; however, one inmate was transported back to Buffalo County due to behavioral issues. This contracted service was the cheapest alternative.

Lieutenant Mikelson presented her monthly reports. In March, year to date, 138 bookings; 94-Males and 44-Females. In March, 5 inmates were sentenced with Huber privileges; 3-employed and 2-were not employed. No inmates are involved in the Literacy Program. There are 3 attending the Mom Thing, which was added after the October 2017 Jail Inspection. Year to date, \$231.77 has been received for Tax Intercept. The Daily Jail Population for March was 21.19. Ending balance for Jail Assessment for March was \$65,526.28, hoping to get that figure back to \$100,000.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht presented a handout of an article regarding mental health issues and how they affect county jails. (Taken from the November/December 2017 Sheriff & Deputy magazine). He asked that the committee to take and read the article when they have time so that they can better understand housing an inmate with mental illness and the challenges it presents.

Mr. Brunkow also presented the committee with a news article from The Mining Journal out of Marquette County, regarding local agencies working together to start jail diversion facility programs. (March 28, 2018).

Chief Deputy Engfer presented his monthly report from March. There was a total of 673 Calls for Service made, a total of 44 hours of over-time accrued but 32 of those hours will be reimbursed. The monthly mileage average is 1,982, which does not include two squads currently not in service. One squad is being used by two deputies, which has created a higher mileage for that squad for the month. The new squad purchased in 2017 will be put into service in the next couple of weeks or so. In addition, he advised the committee that on April 26th at 1pm there will be a mock crash scene set at up at CFC High School.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht stated that he has been receiving more and more requests to put on trainings i.e. active shooter and DEC awareness. He reiterated that it takes time and personnel to setup a presentations. He stated that the sheriff's office is still in the process of transitioning staff, however, it seems to be moving smoothly. The patrol and communications/corrections positions need to be filled before moving forward with the ½ admin position.

May meeting is currently set for May 15, 2018 at 3:00pm.

Mr. Kriesel made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Smith.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Melissa L. Brunner, Secretary