

DRAFT

Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: July 20, 2018

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: July 31, 2018

Meeting called to order by Mr. Brunkow at 9:35am.

Members present pursuant to roll call: Bernie Brunkow, John Kriesel, Scott Smith-excused, Mike Taylor, and Dennis Bork

Others present: Sheriff Schmidtknecht, Melissa Brunner, Chief Deputy Engfer, Lieutenant Mikelson, and Bruce Fuerbringer

Minutes approved as mailed. Motion by Mr. Kriesel, second by Mr. Taylor. Motion carried.

Mr. Fuerbringer presented his expenditures to the committee; no out of the ordinary expenditures for EM or LEPC. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve and accept the expenditures as presented, second by Mr. Bork. Motion carried.

Mr. Fuerbringer advised the committee that the FEMA grant is finally coming to a close; checks have been cut.

He has been working on developing a Courthouse Emergency Action Plan and working with the Buffalo County Fair Board and school district to develop an evacuation procedure for the fair attending public in severe weather situations. The Pepin County radiation release exercise went well on July 18th. Additionally, the Town of Cross recently completed their Emergency Operations Plan. He reiterated that each township is responsible for keeping up with their own emergency plan, unless the town is overwhelmed, then the town may contact the county for Emergency Management assistance. Mr. Bork made a motion to accept report as presented, second by Mr. Kriesel. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement June bills paid in July. Ms. Brunner advised the committee of a correction to the River Ratz (6/26-7/10) voucher amount, should be \$2,871.09. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to accept the bills as presented, second by Mr. Taylor. Motion carried.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht presented the expenditures for both patrol and jail. There was discussion regarding fuel costs and Sheriff did advise the committee that law enforcement does receive .03¢/gallon off, plus is tax exempt on in-store purchases. Sheriff did confirm with the highway department that they save on diesel fuel but not much on gasoline. Mr. Taylor made a motion to accept expenditure report as presented, second by Mr. Kriesel. Motion carried.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht stated that deer versus squad damage has gone up and that one vehicle was deemed totaled. There is a \$10,000 deductible on each squad. The \$10,000 can be put towards the totaled vehicle but cannot be put towards the purchase of a leased vehicle. There are a couple of options which have been discussed with Ms. Hansen and needed to be brought forward to the committee:

- 1) Purchase one vehicle and lease one vehicle for 2019;
- 2) Lease two vehicles as originally planned, and purchase a third vehicle using the \$10,000 deductible.

Ms. Hansen is looking into whether or not it's an option to lower the deductible due to leasing vehicles versus owning.

Agenda items 9, 10, 11, and 12 were rolled into one: Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed that once again staffing is an issue. He handed out a comparison chart with 16 other population comparable agencies, Buffalo County is towards the bottom in comparison to the number of sworn patrol deputies. The Security Resource Officer is off the table at this time for Cochrane Fountain City. The ½ time administrative assistant is still in the law enforcement budget and available but not as crucial as backfilling a patrol deputy at this time.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht suggested to the committee to continue with the 2-year lease and find funding to replace the totaled squad, and to backfill a vacant patrol deputy position. The vehicles would need to be ordered by September 21st in order to get them by 2019. There would be around \$83,000 for a deputy and \$79,000 for a communications/corrections officer added to the 2019 budget. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to hire one (1)-patrol deputy to backfill previous vacant position using funds from the budgeted part-time administrative assistant position for 2018, second by Mr. Taylor. Motion carried.

Mr. Kriesel made a motion to lease two (2) squads, and purchase one (1) replacement squad for 2018 using the \$10,000 insurance deductible funds, second by Mr. Taylor. Motion carried. (Replacement squad includes the changeover of the equipment and decals.) Motion by Mr. Taylor to order all squads by September 21st but will be a 2019 purchase, second by Mr. Kriesel. Motion carried.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed strategic planning. #1 priority is the staffing, #2 is new chairs for the dispatch center, and #3 would be to add a new squad/equipment. 1-3 year planning: #1 need to replace end of life Tasers, #2 need to replace squad mobile radios, and #3 need to get the wiring cleaned up and organized in dispatch.

Lieutenant Mikelson stated that she had Seitz Electric take a look at the equipment in dispatch and records room. Currently, there is a small UPS battery in dispatch and one in the records room. Sietz suggests adding 30% wattage and 10% wattage for equipment growth. Maybe it would be possible to combine the two batteries into one.

The Vesta 911 backup system went down since the June meeting. At&t technician had to come from Appleton since the Eau Claire technician was unavailable. Tammy, the 911 coordinator was allowed to reboot the server after many requests to get rights to do so.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed the current communications/corrections staffing. The male that was just hired, tendered his resignation due to making more money at Walmart distribution center. Mr. Bork made a motion to rehire budgeted male position and republish job opening, second by Mr. Kriesel. Motion carried. The recent patrol deputy was hired and is in the training phase, which can take up to 3-months.

Chief Deputy Engfer's report. June had 738 calls for service (54 were traffic accidents), over-time was up a bit due to training 45.25 hours overall but 21 hours are reimbursable. 3-squad v. deer accidents in June, 2-with damage and 1-without damage.

Lieutenant Mikelson's June report. Year to date, 267 bookings for the end of June. Since October 3, 2017, both holding cell cameras have been added to the recording system. Training update that two more staff have been added to access the TIME system. Jail assessments the end of June is \$68,106.90.

All inmates are back from Pepin County since inmate count is down.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht updated the committee that there has been one recent vehicle fatality; serious crashes are on the rise.

The committee would like to add the following to next month's agenda:

- EM/LEPC strategic planning
- LE and EM/LEPC 2019 Budgets
- Battery Backup update
- LE staff update

August meeting is currently set for August 21st at 9:30am.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Brunkow.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Melissa L. Brunner, Secretary