

Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: January 11, 2021

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: January 25, 2021

Meeting called to order by Mr. Taylor at 9:02am.

1: Call to Order/Roll Call:

Mr. Mike Taylor, Mr. Larry Grisen, Ms. Carol McDonough, Mr. John Sendelbach-Joined virtually at 9:11am, and Mr. Nelson-Excused

Others present: Sheriff Mike Schmidtknecht, Chief Deputy Lee Engfer, Lieutenant Diane Mikelson, Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer, Ms. Sonya Hansen, Mr. Mike Osmond, and Ms. Melissa Brunner

2 & 3: Public Comments: None

4: Review/Discussion/Action: Approval of December minutes:

Motion to approve December minutes made by Mr. Grisen, second by Ms. McDonough. Motion carried.

5: Review/Discussion/Action: Continuation of 80 hours FFCRA leave (aka Covid leave) for Sheriff's Office staff:

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that sheriff's office employees tend to be in more frequent, close contact with the public than other departments. Other counties are offering their sheriff's office employees some varying type of extra hours of "Covid" related leave. He advised that very few of his staff are capable of working from home like other departments. Mr. Osmond advised that some counties are offering some sort of financial bonus to help offset Covid impact, however, he is not requesting a bonus offer; he proposed reinstating the FFCRA leave that was offered in 2020. Those employees who have already used 80 hours of FFCRA leave in 2020 would not be eligible to get an additional 80 hours of FFCRA leave in 2021. Ms. Hansen expressed that it is up to each individual county whether or not they want to extend the FFCRA leave. Mr. Osmond gave a recent example of one law enforcement contact with a known Covid positive individual, which quickly turned into four law enforcement employees out on quarantine. The sheriff's office was asked by the Mondovi Police Department to contract for a couple of days to cover their shifts. Mr. Grisen recommended tabling the matter until the new presidential administration is in place. Ms. McDonough recommended moving the matter forward to Human Resources in February. Mr. Osmond advised that currently, the CDC has no guidelines in relation to vaccine administration so our county's health department still plans to have the public quarantine.

Ms. McDonough made a motion, second by Mr. Taylor to move a request to the HR Committee for consideration of the reinstatement of the 80 hours of paid leave for sheriff's office personnel effective January 1, 2021, who are unable to work from home if impacted by COVID-19, similar to the FFCRA leave policy guidelines that expired on December 31, 2020. This leave would not apply to personal travel and would not apply to someone who has already exhausted FFCRA leave. Roll call vote: Mr. Sendelbach-Yes, Mr. Grisen-Yes, Mr. Taylor-Yes, and Ms. McDonough-Yes, Mr. Nelson-Excused. Motion carried

6: Review/Discussion/Action: Staff retirement:

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee of the announced retirement of Pauline Glentz, communications corrections officer, in February. A motion was made to backfill budgeted communications/corrections officer position by Mr. Grisen, second by Ms. McDonough. Roll call vote: Mr. Sendelbach-yes, Mr. Grisen-yes, Ms. McDonough-yes, Mr. Nelson-Excused. Motion carried.

7: Review/Discussion/Action: Law Enforcement December bills paid in January:

Mr. Taylor accepted bills as presented.

8: Review/Discussion/Action: Law Enforcement/Jail preliminary 2020 year-end financials:

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that not all of the 2020 bills are in. Some of the salaries/wages are reimbursed on the revenue side of things due to overtime grants/escorts, insurance funds, etc. Revenues ended up a little higher than anticipated due to Covid. There were some unforeseen expenses for both jail and law enforcement. The WIBRS Grant was received so no all the funds budgeted in capital outlay will be used. Mr. Taylor accepted report.

9: Review/Discussion/Action: Chief Deputy, Jail Administrator and Sheriff's Monthly Reports:

Chief Deputy Engfer advised there were 343 Calls for Service for December. The overtime was up slightly due to FMLA and FFCRA leave. Special events for the month were a missing person case, and squad versus deer crash. Monetary public donations were received from Steve & Jennifer Losinski in the amount of \$100, DejaVu Salon \$365.50 and \$359.50, Barth Specialties \$300, \$1000 from a donor who wanted to remain anonymous, Waumandee State Bank \$100, and a donation in the amount of \$1,000, donor wanted to remain anonymous. The donations received were primarily designated to go to the K9 Unit.

Due to timing, Mr. Fuerbringer requested to be moved before the remaining monthly reports.

Lieutenant Mikelson presented her December monthly report. There were 260 bookings for the year. No programs were offered to inmates due to Covid, no training was offered to staff due to Covid. 8.51 daily inmate head count for the month of December. For the year, there were a total of 35,640 total calls into dispatch: 33,285 were non-emergency and 2,355 were 9-1-1 calls.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that he is working with Emergency Management to get more PPE. FMLA has been a struggle for the agency due to Covid reasons, as well as other medical reasons. There was a cutback on individuals brought into the jail due to Covid safety concerns. The new CCO hired is doing well, the most recently hired CCO starts today. There still needs to be a male CCO that needs to be hired.

10: Review/Discussion/Action: Emergency Management Written Report:

Mr. Fuerbringer didn't have a preliminary year-end report to share with the committee at this time but he also works by the federal fiscal year. He has been busy working on scheduling Covid-19 vaccinations for the 1A group. AdventHealth in Durand has stepped up to be a vaccine administration site for Buffalo County. Mr. Fuerbringer advised that he is now the full-time Emergency Management director, as Mr. Steve Schiffli has returned to the County but has decided to not return to Emergency Management but rather an Economic Development position.

11: Review/Discussion/Action: Contract between Buffalo County and the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission for the purpose of securing planning services to update the County's Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan, 2021-2025:

Ms. Hansen advised the committee that every 4-years, the county needs to apply for the MRRPC grant. It can be 25% in-kind match, not cash. Mr. Grisen made a motion to contract again with the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission for 2021-2025, subject to any cash outlay to be brought back to home committee for approval, second by Ms. McDonough.

Roll call vote: Ms. McDonough-Yes, Mr. Grisen-Yes, Mr. Taylor-Yes, and Mr. Sendelbach-Yes, Mr. Nelson-Excused. Motion carried.

12: Review/Discussion/Action: Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting currently set for March 15, 2021 at 9:00am.

13: Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 10:22am by Ms. McDonough, second by Mr. Grisen.

Melissa Brunner, Secretary