

Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: June 22, 2018

Electronic and Hardcopy Filing Date: July 02, 2018

Meeting called to order by Mr. Brunkow at 9:05am.

Members present pursuant to roll call: Bernie Brunkow, John Kriesel, Scott Smith-entered 9:15am, Mike Taylor, and Dennis Bork

Others present: Sheriff Schmidtknecht, Melissa Brunner, Lieutenant Mikelson, Investigator Mike Osmond, Deputy Laehn, Tom Hiebert, and Bruce Fuerbringer

Mr. Fuerbringer advised he was running behind so emergency management agenda items 5 and 6 were moved down the agenda.

Public: Mr. Hiebert to discuss agenda item 9, CFC school staffing options

May minutes approved as mailed, motion by Mr. Kriesel, second by Mr. Bork. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement May bills to be paid in June. Some discussion was had regarding recouping of costs on some medical bills for blood draws and inmate medical bills. Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised the committee that there are 5 inmates being housed in Pepin County and 1 (Huber) inmate in Iowa County. Mr. Bork made a motion to approve bills as presented, second by Mr. Taylor. Motion carried.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed the year to May 31st expenditures; currently, under budget about 4%. He reiterated that the bottom line is the end of the year numbers; not each individual line item number. Mr. Taylor made a motion to accept current expenditure printout as presented, second by Mr. Kriesel. Motion carried.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed the CFC school agenda line item. The original plan for the agency was to back-fill the patrol positions that were vacated due to promotions to patrol sergeants, unfortunately that did not happen. Sheriff discussed option to hire a School Resource Officer (SRO). Mr. Hiebert discussed that he is looking at this as a need for the district, not as a luxury. Mr. Hiebert explained that the school follows protocol but would like to see a quicker response time from law enforcement but understands the minimal staffing and layout of the county. The main goal is to get to an expedient resolution for the district.

There was discussion of the possibility of cost for a shared SRO. Mr. Hiebert stated that the next school meeting is set for July 18th, which the budget will be discussed and the SRO will be proposed. Sheriff Schmidtknecht explained that the SRO would be used at the school during the school year, during school days; not for sporting events or extra-curricular events, unless specifically requested. At this time, no other school district has come forward showing interest in an SRO; Alma school would have their own police department, Mondovi School would have their own police department, and Gilmanton School would be the only other possibility. Mr. Hiebert is not sure of the school board's reception but they are aware of the possibility of an SRO. Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed that Finance already approved a

½ -time Administrative Assistant position; he provided a projected salary of a ½ -time Admin. that could be transferred to help pay for this position.

Assistant position and suggested that those funds be put towards and SRO salary. For 2018, the SRO \$38,500 salary would be split with CFC School and the ongoing yearly salary to be paid by the budgeted ½-time Admin position. Mr. Osmond stated that the SRO would be a union position so the position would need to go through to human resources committee. . The law enforcement Emergency Management committee is receptive to looking further into a SRO; they are in full support of the idea.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed the retirement of a communications/corrections officer. Beaty Gleiter will be retiring August 2nd. He explained that her position is a full-time, budgeted position and will need to be backfilled. Mr. Kriesel made a motion to advertise and fill the non-union, full-time female position, second by Mr. Smith. Motion carried.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht then discussed the chief deputy report. He advised the committee that Fountain City just renewed the contract with the sheriff's office for patrol coverage until the end of July. There was some over-time for special events.

Lieutenant Mikelson provided her report. As of the end of May, (year to date) there were 221 bookings. The jail recently installed new jail pipes, which keep track of all cell checks by the officers; the old pipes were purchased back in 2002. As of the end of May, the jail assessment balance was \$67,391.14.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht presented his report. Some grant funds were received for drug enforcement. Currently, the office has an intern for the summer. This is an unpaid internship; the intern will be helping out in dispatch, transporting squads, doing ride-alongs, and whatever else is requested of him.

During the recent storms, dispatch was informed that there was a bad phone port, which caused issues with the admin lines. All calls in the meantime were rolled over to Dunn County until staff was able to get a hold of At&t for service. At&t ended up having to work with Cochrane Cooperative Telephone (CCT) to verify that the bad port was with the new Vesta system. CCT also verified that part of the electric surge issues are due to not having a large enough UPS battery backup. During these periods some data may be lost and unrecorded but there is no way of knowing until a request for records is made.

Recently, an old squad was sold on an online auction; the funds go back into a revenue line item for the county. Sheriff Schmidtknecht discussed that a squad recently had deer damage while heading to an emergency call of a suicidal subject on the southern end of the county, while responding from the northern end of the county.

Discussion of Law Enforcement Strategic Planning:

1-Year: SRO or full-time deputy to be hired (\$38,200 for 2018); Dispatch needs 3-new replacement chairs (estimate of \$3,500)

1-3 Years: Organization/cleanup of wiring in Dispatch (\$6,000 one-time fee); replacement for end of life for 12-squad radios (\$4,500 x 12 = \$54,000). In 2019, budget for replacement of two radios; replacement for end of life 10-tasers (\$1,650 x \$16,500); replacement of 11-

handguns (\$2,180 one-time fee); still need to fill communications/corrections officer from the original (5) positions requested (based off of jail inspection staffing analysis) (\$78,805 current salary/family benefits); backfill of the two sergeant's positions (\$83,318 current salary/benefits); and equipment for backfill positions (\$25,000 squad lease, firearm, uniform, etc.)

Mr. Fuerbringer discussed his expenditures. Currently, he feels that he is on the "mark" with his expenditures, nothing out of the ordinary for bills. (Expenditure report didn't print out correctly, will provide to the committee at next meeting or will email the corrected one.)

Mr. Fuerbringer recently visited the two Gilmanton properties damaged by the 2016 flooding. Asbestos inspections were completed and demolition of the properties began just after Memorial Day. 2-1-1 Rivers is trying to work with the public to get information out to them regarding flooding information, etc. in place of dialing 9-1-1 (if not an emergency situation). He is working with Ancom to promote better communication between Buffalo County and Wabasha/Winona, MN counties, and to prevent call "lag" time on the dispatch center. He is getting ready for upcoming exercises for evacuation drills between Pepin, Dunn, and Buffalo County. The county is considering changing the current "RED" fire numbers to "BLUE", therefore, there has been an intern driving the county and taking pictures of current signs and taking location measurements. Mr. Bork made a motion to accept EM monthly report as presented, second by Mr. Taylor. Motion carried.

Items needed to be added to July's agenda: Update on the law enforcement/dispatch phones, SRO update, and UPS battery purchase status

July meeting is currently set for July 20th at 9:30am.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Melissa L. Brunner, Secretary