

RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, March 3, 2023

The Richland County Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee met on Friday, March 3, 2023 at 8:30am in the County Board Room of the Richland County Court House in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Committee members present at the meeting were: Committee Chair Melissa Luck and Committee members Kerry Severson, Bob Frank, Richard McKee, David Turk and Barbara Voyce. Present from the Richland County Sheriff's Department were Sheriff Clay Porter, Chief Deputy Aaron Wallace, Toby Johnson and Amber Muckler. Also present for the meeting or a portion of the meeting was Judge Lisa McDougal, Clerk of Court Stacy Kleist, and Darin Gudgeon.

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order: Committee Chair Luck called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Agenda Item #2: Read and Approve Notice of Posting for March 3, 2023 Public Safety Committee Meeting: Committee Chair Luck confirmed that the meeting was properly posted. Upon receiving confirmation Luck declared meeting properly posted.

Agenda Item #3: Read and Approve the Agenda for March 3, 2023 Meeting: Motioned by Richard McKee to approve the agenda. 2nd to this motion by Bob Frank. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #4: Read and Approve Minutes of the February 3, 2023 LEJC Meeting: Motion by Bob Frank to approve the minutes as printed. 2nd to this motion by Richard McKee. Motion passed, minutes accepted.

Agenda Item #5: Coroner Updates: Sheriff Porter went over the monthly updates from the Coroner with the committee members.

Agenda Item #6: Humane Officer Report: Humane officer Toby Johnson informed the committee of a total of 53 complaints for the county in 2022, so far in 2023 there have been 7 calls. Judy Elliott had a house fire and lost all of her personal belongings along with some of her animal records but is still wanting to take county animal calls and continue her rescue business.

Agenda Item #7: Circuit Court Judge updates/comments: Judge McDougal stated that an assistant for the Probate office has been hired. This person will begin on Monday, March 6th. The judge stated that the court is catching up on the court calendar. She talked briefly about treatment court and what is going on with that program.

Agenda Item #8: Clerk of Court Update: Kleist shared her reports with the committee members. She went over a few line items in her budget for 2023. Kleist talked about the department tours and spacing issues within the courthouse.

Agenda Item #9: Probate Updates: Probate was not available for this meeting.

Agenda Item #10: District Attorney Updates: Not available for this meeting.

Agenda Item #11: Emergency Management: Director Gudgeon stated that EMS is now completely in the new building. Gudgeon is creating a survey to all facets of the community to get a feel of what the community thinks are the greatest risks out there that people are having to deal with currently.

Agenda Item #12: PSAP & GIS grant monthly updates: Director Gudgeon states there have been no new updates, this is a reimbursement grant. Barb Scott states that orders have begun regarding these grants and spending of these grants. The contract has been signed for the mapping piece of these grants. Sheriff Porter stated that people have signed up for training that will be billed to the grant as well.

Agenda Item #13: Approve monthly invoices and other Sheriff's Department reports: The committee members went over the invoices for the month and discussed some specific invoices. Motion to approve paying the invoices for the month made by Richard McKee, second to this motion by Bob Frank. Motion approved. Sheriff Porter went over the monthly jail statistic report. Porter talked about recruitment and the department is having major issues on recruiting people and the department currently has 2 positions in the jail and 1 on the road. There is currently not eligible people on the list for hiring. Porter stated he has a few ideas for bringing back a past employee and also possible protective status retirement for the jail staff, but Porter needs to look into this further.

Agenda Item #14: Approval to hire a Road Patrol Deputy: Sheriff Porter just needs approval to advertise since he does not have anyone eligible for a road patrol deputy, so advertisement needs to be done. Motion to approve made by Bob Frank, second to this motion by Richard McKee. Motion approved.

Agenda Item #15: Radio Tower project updates: Porter stated that tower sites are still being worked on, but getting closer. At this point and depending on some issues the county is looking at building 4 to 5 towers. Scott stated part of this is due to amounts that US Cellular and First Net have come back very high at about 3 to 4 times higher and at these amounts the county could build their own towers and save money compared to renting from these companies. True North is still stating that even if we build towers we would still be under the amount we will need to borrow. Scott stated that by building our own towers it will also be an avenue for income to rent out space on the towers and create income for the county.

Agenda Item #16: Mapping, Radio System & Squad Updates: The squad report was available to the committee members, radio and mapping were talked about in other agenda items.

Agenda Item #17: Future agenda items: Hiring processes and future jail plans/discussions and update about protective status for the jail staff, updated budgets for 2022 and review of Ordinance 89-7.

Agenda Item #18: Adjourn; Motion by Bob Frank to adjourn until the regular Public Safety Committee meeting on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 8:30am. Second to this motion by Richard McKee. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Office Manager, Amber Muckler