

RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, May 5, 2023

The Richland County Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee met on Friday, May 5, 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 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, and Amber Muckler. Also present for the meeting or a portion of the meeting was Clerk of Court Stacy Kleist, DA Jennifer Harper, and Jenifer Laue.

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 May 5, 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 May 5, 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 April 14, 2023 Public Safety 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 coroner's report with the committee members.

Agenda Item #6: Circuit Court Judge updates/comments: Judge McDougal was not available for this meeting. There was a brief conversation about judicial committee's that had met in the past month.

Agenda Item #7: Clerk of Court Update: Clerk of Court Kleist talked about the courthouse security issue that took place and how courthouse security is very important and how issues can happen very quickly. There was a discussion of having cameras in public areas outside of the actual courtroom. Clerk of Court Kleist went over her reports with the committee members.

Agenda Item #8: Probate Updates: Jen Laue talked briefly about the Personnel & Finance meeting and how it effects the whole county.

Agenda Item #9: District Attorney Updates: DA Harper talked about staffing for each department and also talked briefly about the courthouse security incident. DA Harper talked about treatment court and treatment court gave a presentation to the city counsel.

Agenda Item #10: Emergency Management: Not available for this meeting.

Agenda Item #11: PSAP & GIS grant monthly updates: Barb Scott has contacted Bay Comm, AT&T has been in contact with Barb about putting phone lines in and everything on the grants are moving forward.

Agenda Item #12: 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. Sheriff Porter talked about the incident in the courtroom and is looking into how to improve on that incident. Staffing report – all full time positions have been hired and will be starting in the month of May.

Agenda Item #13: Discussion on 12 hour shifts and possible action on a trial period: Chief Deputy Wallace talked about moving all the jail and road positions to 12 hour shifts. This would allow all road and jail to have half the year off and every other weekend. There will be a couple of hurdles, there would be 122 extra hours for the year, administration is looking into how to deal with those hours. Options are working an 8.5 hour shift every month and also talked about giving them 12 hours of sick leave a month. Vacation is being looked at. The Sheriff is able to complete a trial period to see if the shift change would be successful before actually getting approval to completely change over. The trial period would not have any financial impact on the budget or county and if benefits were to be changed then that would probably need to go forward to Personnel & Finance. Luck would like the Sheriff and Chief Deputy to talk to the County Administrator about this possible change. Sheriff Porter believes the trial period would last no less than 3 months, more like trying it for 6 months. Motion to the sheriff's department to perform a trial period for jail/dispatch and road of 12 hour shifts made by Richard McKee, second to this motion by Barb Voyce. Motion approved.

Agenda Item #14: Discussion and possible action on emergency pay increases: This is regarding turnover of staff and the concern that the jail is required to have one male and one female jailer on staff at all times. If we are unable to have staffing of that capacity the county would have to house inmates in another location. Staffing correctly and retaining the staff is becoming a big issue. Chief Deputy Wallace talked about the pay scale for jail staff. Wallace talked to other county jails that were of the same size, the beginning wage is very close however the maximum wage is much lower than surrounding counties. To house inmates in another county facility it would cost around \$50 per day, and annually about \$465,000 per year to house all inmates in another county. The \$20,000 cost difference would be covered this year by the shortage cost that has been saved this year, the budget for 2024 would have to be increased in order to absorb the cost difference. Motion to bring this emergency pay increase in front of Finance & Personnel at the next meeting made by Bob Frank, second to this motion by Richard McKee. Motion approved.

Agenda Item #15: Approval to hire Danielle Brockway as a casual employee: Sheriff Porter stated that Danielle was in the group of people who interviewed for the full time positions, she was not hired for the full time position but is interested in a casual position. Motion to approve this hire made by Richard McKee, second to this motion by Bob Frank. Motion approved.

Agenda Item #16: Discussion & approval of Spillman AVL Module: Flex/Spillman module has an attachment to the mapping portion to see where all squads are in the county. This was approved to be covered by the borrowing, currently it will just cover the squads, but could cover the ambulances if they were to get the equipment as well. The committee is going to wait as the quote is good for 1 year from this April and to see if funding will go through for the grant.

Agenda Item #17: Discussion on Ordinance 89-7 and possible changes: Luck shared the ordinance with the committee members but she thinks she needs to have a meeting with Attorney Wendle regarding the ordinance. Luck believes that the hiring portion of the ordinance needs to be changed, she doesn't believe that the Public Safety committee doesn't need to have their hands in the interviewing and hiring of possible candidates for the Sheriff's Office. Luck would like everyone to take another month to read through the ordinance and she will talk with Attorney Wendle.

Agenda Item #18: Discussion on dog ordinance: Luck brought this forward from one of the townships and how dog ordinances are handled. The main concern is that each dog is supposed to be licensed and have rabies shots, there seems to be lack of enforcement regarding the dogs being licensed and proof of being vaccinated. Luck wondered if these items should be included in the dog ordinance and is this a township issue or a county issue.

Agenda Item #19: Radio Tower project updates: Mike Day from True North informed the committee that they are looking for a letter of intent on one of the green sites. The big challenge has been the US Cellular site, there has been no response from them. Nothing has changed on the amount that needs to be borrowed for the project. Get plans created by the civil engineer is the next step, and the new dispatch counsel has been installed and working through getting all the information linked properly, the old and new system are currently working side by side.

Agenda Item #20: Mapping, Radio System & Squad Updates: The committee went over the squad report and how mileage is slowing with each deputy having a squad now.

Agenda Item #21: Future agenda items: Ordinance 89-7, Dog Ordinance follow up.

Agenda Item #22: Adjourn; Motion by Richard McKee to adjourn until the regular Public Safety Committee meeting on Friday, June 2, 2023 at 8:30am. Second to this motion by Bob Frank. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Office Manager, Amber Muckler