



**MINUTES OF THE LANGLADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 13, 2011**

Members Present: Douglas Nonnenmacher, Richard Olsen, Jerold Burns, Vern Cahak, Arlene Bonacci

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Bill Greening, Kim Bissonette, Robin Stowe, Diane Baker, Joan Postler, Ron Barger

Call meeting to order

Chairman Burns called a meeting of the Laclede County Public Safety Committee to order on the above date at 10:00 a.m.

Discuss contracting out the jail nurse position with possible action

Sheriff Greening informed the committee that the jail nurse, Joan Postler has submitted her retirement for June 3, 2011 and is that he is exploring several options to refill this position. Sheriff Greening stated that he talked to Holly Matuscheski and she stated that originally Joan was under Holly (Health Department), then assigned to the jail at which time wages and benefits came out of the jail budget. Joan was kept on the roster with the Health Department in case of emergencies. Holly informed Sheriff Greening that there isn't anyone interested at the Health Department, nor does Holly have anyone currently available to fill this position. Sheriff Greening stated that he is looking at contracting out with a private service and that it is critically important that this position remain full time due to the liability standpoint. By statute the jail is required to maintain care and custody of all prisoners in our jail. Sheriff Greening stated that the jail is the biggest liability the county has. Chairman Burns asked about any state inmate requirements for medical treatment. Jail Administrator Diane Baker informed the committee that by contract we have to provide state inmates with healthcare, both physical and mental. Nonnenmacher asked Joan Postler how many hours a week she works, Joan stated 40 plus she gets called at home but doesn't get paid for that. There are occasions where an inmate may need dressing's changed and be checked on often. There are a lot of drug and alcohol detox patients to treat, follow up on and check vital signs, and there's a lot of phone calls and paperwork involved because everything has to be documented. There are also a lot of difficult inmates that take up a lot of time. Diane Baker also stated that Joan does a lot of Triage which saves a lot of time on transports to the ER and doctor's office's. Robin Stowe informed the committee that when you deal with a difficult inmate that it is indeed time consuming because they have the right to refuse medical attention/medical treatment, the pills that they are suppose to be taking for whatever illness they have, and again that's something where the jail nurse has to constantly monitor that and document that because if it becomes life threatening there's something we can do. He also stated that for counties, counties associations, and county mutual that they will tell you that the

largest liability exposure for a county is its jail. Dick Olsen asked how the care would change with using an outside nurse. Jail Administrator Diane Baker stated that from what she's heard from other surrounding counties that are using the private services is that they are very satisfied and the care remained the same. There are two (2) private services that Baker knows of, they are HPL and Advanced Correctional. The cost is unknown at this time and the contracts are for a one (1) year period. The benefits of using these private services are that they cover everything from doctors orders, medications, blood draws, X-rays etc. There is concern on the time period to do this before Joan Postler leaves the beginning of June because most times it takes 30-45 days to get a contract going. Robin Stowe informed the committee that the Sheriff and or the Committee can make a decision on who they want to contract with without going through the competitive bidding process. Jail Administrator Diane Baker will still get the costs and bring them back to the committee at the next meeting. It was agreed to check with these private sources to see if a contract can be drawn up for the balance of this year (June-December) and then get a quote for the one (1) year contract for 2012. Moved by Dick Olsen, second by Cahak to get a quote for the rest of this year and then get a quote for a full year from HPL and Advanced Correctional and if the county is unable to get this together quickly enough then the Sheriff would have to bring someone of his choice in on an interim basis until the county figures it out. All ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Adjournment

A motion was made by Dick Olsen, second by Bonacci to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. All ayes. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted

Kim Bissonette, Public Safety Committee Recording Secretary