



**MINUTES OF THE LANGLADE COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, September 13, 2016**

**Members Present:** Dale Dahms, Richard Schuh, Arlene Bonacci, Larry Poltrock, Duff Leaver

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Bill Greening, Kim Bissonette, Larry Shadick, Brad Henricks, Robin Stowe, Don Bergbower, Becky McPhail, Pete Pennington

**Call meeting to order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Dahms called a meeting of the Langlade County Public Safety Committee to order on the above date at 8:00 a.m., the Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.

**Public Hearing on Ordinance to establish jail inmate fees**

Jail Administrator Don Bergbower informed the committee that he checked with comparables on the jail inmate fees and the amounts listed are in the ballpark with other counties. Chairman Dahms asked for anyone interested in speaking in favor of the proposed ordinance. There were none. Chairman Dahms asked those opposed to the ordinance. There were none. Chairman Dahms closed the public hearing.

**Consider adopting an Ordinance to establish jail inmate fees**

Moved by Bonacci, second by Schuh to adopt the Ordinance to establish jail inmate fees. All ayes. **Motion Carried.**

**Approval of Minutes of the August 02, 2016 meeting**

Moved by Poltrock, second by Bonacci to approve the minutes of the August 02, 2016 meeting. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

**Public comment on agenda items and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas**

None

**Coroner Report**

Larry Shadick presented the Coroner Report. The report was placed on file in the County Clerk's office with the minutes.

Moved by Poltrock, second by Bonacci to approve the Coroner's Report. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

Larry Shadick also informed the committee that he will be going to the Finance Committee meeting on Friday and will be asking for an increase of \$3,500 in the Coroner's budget. Within the past year Larry informed the committee that he lost two of his part time workers and stated that he would like to attract qualified help by appealing to employees with pay.

Moved by Bonacci, second by Schuh to increase the Coroner's budget for part time employees by \$3,500. All ayes. **Motion Carried.**

### **Child Support Report**

Becky McPhail presented the Child Support report. The report was placed on file in the County Clerk's office with the minutes.

Moved by Schuh, second by Poltrock to approve the Child Support Report. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

### **Emergency Management Report**

Brad Henricks presented the Emergency Management Report. The report was placed on file in the County Clerk's office with the minutes.

Moved by Bonacci, second by Leaver to approve the Emergency Management Report. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

### **Brad Henricks-Change to FLSA law**

Brad Henricks wanted to make the committee aware of the FLSA changes that will take effect on December 1, 2016 and asked the Public Safety Committee for their support to keep his position salaried. The matrix and budget will not change, only the hours will change from 35 to 37.5 hours a week to meet the threshold.

Moved by Bonacci, second by Leaver to support Brad Henrick's salaried position with the changes from 35 to 37.5 hours a week and forward to County Board. All ayes. **Motion Carried.**

### **Car Report**

Sheriff Greening presented the car report. The report was placed on file in the County Clerk's office with the minutes. Greening also stated the new #7 SUV is in service now and will work well in inclement weather. All the reports from deputies are that they are very happy with it. Greening stated that he will be transitioning to SUV's in the future. Sheriff Greening also wanted the committee to be aware that even though there's nothing imminent with state inmates, that the current jail van will not hold up and we will have to get a different vehicle. Robin Stowe asked if there would be any vehicle impact with the additional deputies for next year and the Sheriff stated that will not be an issue.

Moved by Leaver, second by Schuh to approve the Car Report. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

### **Sheriff/Jail Office/Nurse Report**

Sheriff Greening presented the Sheriff/Jail Office/Nurse Report. The report was placed on file in the County Clerk's office with the minutes.

Sheriff Greening stated that there are currently three (3) vacancies in the jail, two (2) female and one (1) male. Interviews were conducted last week on 22 candidates. Seven (7) males and six (6) females were passed on in the process. When background investigations are completed the top two (2) females will be given conditional offers of employment. Then the process will include drug testing and physicals. It is unsure if this committee formerly approved the two (2) female and one (1) male corrections officer vacancy fills. There is money in the budget for these positions. There are two

(2) vacancies in dispatch as well. One (1) newly hired dispatcher quit after 2-3 weeks and the other was terminated during the probationary period. The hiring process has been started and the testing was held last Saturday. When test results are received from Personnel Partners, the next step will then be the interview process and background investigations. Robin Stowe stated that if replacing a vacant position during the probationary period there is no need for approval, this has always been a rule. The three (3) Corrections Officer positions just need approval.

Moved by Bonacci, second by Poltrock to approve refilling the three (3) vacant Corrections Officer positions. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

Sheriff Greening made committee members aware that there have been preliminary discussions with having Don Bergbower overseeing communications. Somewhere down the road Greening may be looking for a wage increase for overseeing the dispatch center as well as being Jail Administrator. Don has worked for years in the dispatch center and is very familiar with it and would do a great job. Sheriff Greening also stated he is doing a great job as Jail Administrator also.

Moved by Schuh, second by Leaver to approve the Sheriff/Jail Office/Nurse Report. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

#### **Review the availability of contracting with the state and other counties for housing inmates in the Langlade County Jail**

Sheriff Greening stated he meets with Sheriff's around the state roughly four (4) times a year. Each time he has discussed inmate space with fellow Sheriff's and to contact us. All have indicated they don't have an interest in housing inmates in our jail. A number of counties have built new jails in the past 10 years with high capacity. Robin Stowe stated that some people have been hearing different stories from administrative and financial resources from other counties that Lincoln County is shopping around. Robin stated that it is important to keep this in central focus and that it is a great source of revenue. Sheriff Greening stated that the Sheriff's look at the most efficient way to transport the inmates. First they look at interstates rather than back roads. It's basically much quicker on Highways 51, 39 or 10. Inmate housing has also become very competitive with some only charging \$28 to \$31 per day just to get those inmates. It was decided to keep this as an agenda item for future meetings.

#### **Recommendation for one-time payment to the Chief Deputy and designated jailers for providing services in the absence of the Jail Administrator**

Sheriff Greening informed committee members that this has been discussed before with the Public Safety committee and it was decided to hold off until the new Jail Administrator was in place. Diane Baker retired in June of 2015 and the position was vacant for approximately one (1) year. Sheriff Greening assigned John Schunke to oversee this position and there were also corrections officers that were assigned additional duties. Recently the Executive Committee decided to recommend to the Public Safety Committee that John Schunke should receive a \$7,500 bonus for the 12 month period and three (3) un-named full time Corrections Officers each receive a \$1,500 bonus for additional duties in the absence of the Jail Administrator. There is money in the budget and all deserve the additional pay. Robin Stowe stated that this would apply and be covered under the old rules that were in place at the time. There was concern over moral and Jail Administrator Don Bergbower stated that these three (3) officers continued to help and are invaluable team players. Don Bergbower asked

to include Kim in this consideration. It was decided to do the one-time payments yet this year. Next month it was agreed to include Kim.

Moved by Bonacci, second by Leaver to approve the one-time payment to Chief Deputy John Schunke for \$7,500 and a one-time payment to the three (3) Corrections Officers that helped for \$1,500 each. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

**Discuss better incentives for Sheriff's Office/Jail employees**

Sheriff Greening and Jail Administrator Don Bergbower did some research on 2017 WRS Contribution rates to offer the jail staff protective status. There was concern that this agenda item came from employees in the jail. Sheriff Greening stated that it DID NOT come from the employees. Below are the figures: (informational item only)

EMPLOYEE: General & Protective – 6.8% - \$4,080

EMPLOYER: General – 6.8% - \$4,080

EMPLOYER: Protective – 10.6% - \$6,360

Difference for EMPLOYER for Protective – 3.8% - \$2,280 per employee

The numbers were based on a \$60,000/year average wage.

Total cost for 17 full time Corrections Officers - \$38,760 for 2017

Robin Stowe stated that if they become protective they may get their bargaining rights back. Robin will look into this. Sheriff Greening stated that the state recognizes protective in their jails and this includes Probation and Parole. County jails have a much higher degree of danger. Greening went on to say that it is grossly unfair to county jails not to have them at protective status. This item is to be kept on the agenda.

**Approve request to advertise for 2016 (should be 2017) new squads and service proposals**

Sheriff Greening stated the new squads have been approved in the CIP account for annual rotation. Originally it was for three (3) squads but may be reduced to two (2) SUV's and one (1) unmarked. Replacements will be 2008 Impala for the unmarked, #9 and #6 or #8 marked.

Moved by Poltrock, second by Schuh to approve advertising for new squads and service proposals. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Bonacci, second by Leaver to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 a.m. All ayes. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted, Kim Bissonette, Public Safety Committee Recording Secretary