

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2009

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RICHARD MEYER COMMUNITY RESOURCE ROOM
4311 JACKSON STREET, OSHKOSH

PRESENT: HARVEY RENGSTORF
LAWRENCE SMITH
BILL WINGREN
TOM ELLIS
DONALD GRIESBACH

ALSO PRESENT: JOE YANA – RETIRED FAMILY COURT COMMISSIONER
BARRY BUSBY - CORONER
MICHAEL BROOKS - SHERIFF
BILL TEDLIE – SHERIFF
JENNIFER WOLDT – NORTHWESTERN

Chairman Harvey Rengstorf called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Approve minutes from November 2, 2009 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lawrence Smith, seconded by Tom Ellis. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

2. Communications

None

3. Input on agenda items by public

None.

4. Resolution to back Tobacco & Drug Free Coalition to raise alcohol tax

Joe Yana advised that both he and Barry Busby are on the Drug Free Community Coalition sponsored under a 2001 act of Congress called the Drug Free and Safe Communities and Schools Act and have been operating for about 1 ½ years. It is a collaborative effort involving law enforcement, the courts, the school district and universities. They have been lobbying to raise the alcohol tax which is currently in legislation, Assembly Bill 287. This bill is a focused levy for specific purposes. This bill includes:

- \$8.00 increase per barrel for beer. \$2.00 of this money will go directly to law enforcement for better equipment, training, additional personnel including overtime, and saturation patrol. The tax on beer has not been raised since 1969.
- Counties, municipalities and school districts can place grant applications for money for educational programs, intervention programs etc.

A motion to go forward with a resolution to support Assembly Bill 287 was made by Bill Wingren, seconded by Lawrence Smith. All in favor, motion carried 5-0.

Barry Busby further informed the committee that he has been working on an Alcohol Cultural Environment Workshop (ACE) subcommittee. Alcohol has been involved in domestics, workplace injuries, drunk drivers etc. It is so widespread that they have come up with 50+ proposals, including:

- Stricter drunk driving laws
- Increased fines/penalties, including municipal ordinances
- Change law to look for prior convictions within the last 5-10 years, rather than going all the way to 1989 as it is now.
- Create sobriety checkpoints
- Grandfather in gas stations to no longer being able to serve alcohol
- Use of tobacco
- Misuse of prescription drugs
- Employment alcohol and drug testing. A person who has a blood alcohol level of .2 at 2:00am will not be sober until 10-hours later.
- Bartenders must be 21 yoa, can not drink while working, and must be sober when they report to work. Families can not give beer to their kids in a bar.

5. Resolution to upgrade county-wide radio system

Sheriff Brooks requested that this be held until the next meeting due to the fact that not all of the police and fire agencies have supplied the number of portable and mobile radios they have. He wants to present the committee with the exact number of radios that will be needed and the monetary figures as to the cost.

Sheriff Brooks is requesting that the County fund the infrastructure of the new radio system and also provide the radios to agencies to replace their current radios for the first time out. By doing this, it will provide better radio communications for the public safety and public service individuals in our community to better serve the citizens. Communications is the life-line for law enforcement and other public safety members.

6. Resolution to add pods to County Jail

Outagamie County has decided not to proceed with entering into a regional jail. Donald Griesbach stated they know the jail will need to be expanded in some way and proposing a regional jail again will not go anywhere. Interest rates are low now and delaying the matter will only end up costing more.

Sheriff Brooks asked that a resolution not be done at this point. He believes we are now back to exploring other options. He will ask the County Board for monies necessary in order to do a study as to what our options are. At this time, he believes that the only options are to either re-open the Work Release Center, add onto the jail, or house prisoners out-of-county. As a taxpayer, Sheriff Brooks sees problems with Housing out-of-county.

The biggest complaints he receives are about the cost of their phone system and the number of hours available for visitation. Now we move them 45-80 miles away and the number of complaints will increase. He believes that one of the most important things that can be used in a jail setting in order to get conformity with the rules is the amount of visitation and the ability to

have people available as a support system are also important. It also costs a lot of money to house prisoners out-of-county and it is an economic fact that if you transfer 60-70 prisoners to another county, that county will hire extra officers and money will be spent in that community, so taxpayer money raised in Winnebago County goes to another county. Sheriff Brooks will provide updated figures regarding re-opening the Work Release Center, adding onto the jail, and housing out-of-county and what alternatives are currently being used.

There are currently 322 inmates in the jail, with 16 of those being State inmates. This is typically a slower time of year until sometime in January partly due to the fact that judges will not sentence someone to report to jail until after the holidays.

7. Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Brooks advised that all four-(4) of his Lieutenants attended the Northwestern Police & Staff Command School and graduated on 11/13/09. Each week, their class got together and held raffles and raised over \$4,200 for a member of the Sheriff's Office with a family member who is very ill.

8. Items for next agenda

- Resolution to upgrade county-wide radio system
- Options for addressing jail expansion
- MyState USA

9. Future meeting date

December 7, 2009.

10. County Jail Tour by the Judiciary Committee

The committee began their tour of the jail at 10:17 a.m.

11. Adjournment

The committee's tour of the jail was completed at 10:45 a.m. and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandy Schauz
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office