

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
In person & via Zoom/Telephone

DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

PRESENT: BILL WINGREN
TOM ELLIS
PAUL EISEN
MIKE BRUNN
VICKI SCHORSE

ALSO PRESENT: JOHN MATZ – SHERIFF'S
SUE ERTMER – COUNTY CLERK'S
CHERYL BREHMER – CORONER'S
CHRISTIAN GOSSETT – DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S
ETHAN HOLLENBERGER – COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Ellis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and it was verified that the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Consideration of Minutes of November 8, 2021 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from November 8, 2021 was made by Paul Eisen, seconded by Mike Brunn. Carried 5-0.

3. Public comments on agenda items

None

4. Communications shared by Committee Members

None

5. Update pertaining to Coroner's office, funeral homes and contracted pathologists – Coroner – Cheryl Brehmer

Cheryl discussed the issues the coroner's office is running into with the increases in deaths. Funeral homes are short staffed and out of storage and with the increased number of deaths, the coroner's office is running into storage issues for the decedents for those whom are either awaiting autopsy's or awaiting a decision on who the family would like to use for a funeral home.

Cheryl discussed the pathologist shortage that is occurring across the country. She stated Fond du Lac County Medical Examiners Office is overwhelmed and no longer willing to do autopsy's for Winnebago County. Autopsy's are running 7 to 9 days out with no storage capacity at the medical examiner's office either. There were 8 overdose deaths within a 10-day span and with COVID deaths on top of other deaths, they are overwhelmed.

Cheryl discussed the current situation with the shortage of storage for the deceased awaiting autopsy's and stated Clark County has loaned Winnebago County a trailer to use temporarily. Supervisor Schorse asked about looking into a trailer for future use should this should keep happening in the future with the times we are facing with increased deaths. Cheryl responded stating she has a meeting coming up soon with purchasing to look into this trailer option as there is FEMA money available to use and it would apply towards these types of situations.

Supervisor Eisen asked if Winnebago County has ever thought about getting their own pathologist. Cheryl responded by stating they have looked into it but they have been having a difficult time finding a pathologist as has been the issue a crossed the country.

Chairman Wingren asked Cheryl to give an update at the next months Judiciary meeting. He also inquired about the medical examiner position. Cheryl stated HR is working on a position description and that position will begin in 2023.

6. Consideration (Vote): Accept "Smart Prosecution – Innovative Prosecution Solutions" Grant and a budget transfer for the funds (2022) – District Attorney – Christian Gossett

Christian stated this is a Department of Justice grant used for developing software to give real time feedback for criminal referral data & tracking trends. This program is tied into the "Protect" software that is currently used statewide by all district attorney's offices so this would be an extra tool that would create live data for all district attorney's offices to view.

Supervisor Ellis asked about the discrepancies in the two amounts on the budget transfer form. One amount was for \$339,568 and the other amount listed was \$335,562. It was later discovered that the finance department had money being carried over and that was the reason for the two different amounts.

A motion to approve the acceptance of the "Smart Prosecution – Innovative Prosecutions Solutions" grant was made by Vicki Schorse, seconded by Paul Eisen. Carried 4-0. Chairman Wingren abstained from the vote.

7. Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Matz stated the Sheriff's Office is going through the reaccreditation process December 14th-17th.

8. Suggested items for next agenda

9. Next Meeting Date: Monday, January 10, 2022

11. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:45 am by Mike Brunn, seconded by Vicki Schorse. Carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kimberly Delcore
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office