

**DODGE COUNTY
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
May 6, 2016**

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by MaryAnn Miller, at 8:00 a.m.; a quorum was established with the following members present:

MaryAnn Miller
Dan Hilbert
Larry Bischoff
Thomas Nickel
Larry Schraufnagel

Also Present: James Mielke, County Administrator; Russell Kottke, Dodge County Board Chairman John Storck, Circuit Court Judge; Steven Bauer, Circuit Court Judge; Joseph Sciascia, Circuit Court Judge; Lynn Hron, Clerk of Courts; Kurt Klomberg, District Attorney; Bob Barrington, District Attorney Managing Attorney; Bernie Mueller, Child Support Agency; Dale Schmidt, Dodge County Sheriff; Scott Smith, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Office; Patrick Schoebel, Medical Examiner; Steven Seim, Family Court Commissioner; Barb Brandt, Br. 4 Judicial Assistant.

Miller certifies compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Election of Committee Officers:

MaryAnn Miller was nominated for Chair by Larry Bischoff with a second by Larry Schraufnagel. Carried. Larry Schraufnagel nominated Larry Bischoff as Vice-Chair with a second by Dan Hilbert. Carried. Larry Schraufnagel was nominated as Secretary by Larry Bischoff with a second by Dan Hilbert. Carried.

Approval of Agenda and Allow for Deviation: Motion made by Bischoff to approve Agenda and to allow for deviation; second by Schraufnagel. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Judge Bauer wanted the Committee to view a painting in the lobby that was done by Emily McNight. She was the recipient of the Bertha Proctor Award and he wanted to point this out for everyone's viewing.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Schraufnagel to approve Minutes of April 1, 2016; second by Bischoff. Motion carried.

Communications: None

Announcements: The Dodge County Law Enforcement Memorial is Wednesday, May 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the Administration Building. There is a meal being served after this at a cost of \$10 that can be paid at the door.

District Attorney Report: DA Klomberg informed the Committee that the DA conference is the week after next. DA Klomberg, along with Detective Dan Stiemsma, has been asked to give a presentation on the process of investigating and prosecuting prison crimes. All but one attorney from his office will be attending that conference. DA Klomberg stated that Dodge County handles more prisoner litigation than any other county in the State. Scott Smith added

that the Sheriff's Office spends quite a bit of time investigating at the various institutions in the County.

Bob Barrington added that Dodge County is the pilot county for criminal e-filing. We have been the only county in the State so far. E-filing will be mandatory in Dodge County for criminal matters beginning September 1. Bob reported that 2 more counties have visited his office recently. The best result of Dodge County being the pilot county is that Dodge County staff has had an input into how cases are processed so that the process is being done the way our District Attorney's Office prefers.

Chair Miller informed the Committee that no formal informational session would be held at this meeting because it was going to be a part of the regular Agenda in the Circuit Court Judge's report.

Circuit Court/Judge's Report: Judge Bauer gave an overview of the Court system in that there are 4 circuit court judges along with Court Commissioner/Family Court Commissioner Steve Seim. Further staff includes Court Reporters, Judicial Assistants, Register in Probate, Assistant Register in Probate and the Clerk of Courts Office. He informed the Committee that Branch II Circuit Judge John Storck will be retiring on October 7, 2016.

Dodge County Circuit Courts currently receive approximately \$300,000 from the state per year toward operating costs, and the salaries for both judges and the court reporters are paid for by the State.

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee that he previously maintained has been dormant for awhile, but may be brought back again to deal with the TAD and other grants.

Judge Sciascia gave a presentation regarding Chapter 980 and the procedure by which a convicted sex offender can be released back into a community, including filing a petition for supervised release. He gave an extensive history regarding the constitutionality of Chapter 980 including how testimony of witnesses may be handled and that if an offender meets the criteria for release and there is no conflicting evidence, that a Judge cannot disapprove of a proposed placement. Finding an appropriate placement however is another matter. Sheriff Schmidt and Judge Bauer both made further comments. Judge Bauer informed the Committee of his prior tour of Sand Ridge which is the facility that sexually violent offenders are held/treated. Regarding finding community placement, DHS does the legwork to find locations and then Law Enforcement investigates the locations. The Department of Corrections has to do the escorting of offenders whenever a party leaves the residence.

Child Support Report: Bernie Mueller reported that one person will be retiring from her office the beginning of June. She will be interviewing next week in order to fill this position, and some of the prospective people have experience. Bernie also gave an update on how the e-filing is going for her staff. All of the family cases have been converted and about half of the paternity files have been converted also. Staff is continuing training and she feels they will be prepared by the June 1 date.

Clerk of Courts Report: Lynn Hron confirmed that Dodge County will be the first county in the State for mandatory e-filing in family, paternity, civil and small claims types of cases. Attorneys, along with frequent filers (those who file 10 or more cases in a year) will be required to file everything electronically. This mandatory e-filing roll out will be county by county, and it will be at least a year and a half before the whole state is e-filing. She feels most attorneys'

offices have what they need in order to comply. While mandatory e-filing is not going to take place at this time for criminal matters, we have a number of attorneys now who are e-filing. She further reported that some of the local Bar Attorneys along with staff members have been attending trainings in the Dodge County IT training room. There are 12 computer stations there for practice and hands-on instruction. Judge Storck, Michelle Kenning and Bob Barrington held these trainings.

Brown County will be visiting soon and Lynn expects that Eau Claire County will also be coming here to see how the e-filing works for clerks' offices. Bob reported that about 25 county district attorney offices have been through his office.

CCAP will be here the week before the mandatory e-filing begins and then for the first week in order to be available for any questions. Lynn reported that there will also be a CCAP hotline that will be available for assistance.

Medical Examiner Report: ME Schoebel reported that the new Deputy Medical Examiner has started and will be in training for a few months.

He reported that the legislature passed a bill to revert all fees to the level of April 17, 2015, which was prior to the County enacting a new fee schedule for his office. Since his budget was computed using the higher amounts, this is going to have a direct effect on his office.

The Medical Examiner is on the committee that recommended a bill to enact training standards for medical examiners, but this matter was tabled for this year.

ME Schoebel answered questions regarding the difference between a coroner, an elected position, and a medical examiner, an appointed position. Neither ME's or coroners are pathologists that do autopsies, although there are about a dozen of those in the state, being located in Fond du Lac, Waukesha, Milwaukee and Dane Counties. The ME's do not do the autopsies, but they do oversee death investigations.

Sheriff Office Report:

Operational Updates: The new boat is here and is in the process of being made ready. A part-time individual has been hired for the drug task force.

Staffing update: Jason Hundt has been promoted to Deputy Jail Administrator effective April 30, 2016, taking over for Tony Bruegger who was promoted to Jail Administrator.

Sheriff Schmidt presented an Order to amend Section 5.04 regarding changes to the Civil Service hiring process for his department. He explained that his department is the only one in the county that uses the Civil Service hiring process and the lengthy delays it causes before he is able to hire new staff. He explained the Civil Service process in detail including statutory requirements. By a change he would be able to interview all candidates, it would speed up the hiring process, and save the County money. Scott Smith made further comments on the delays that are currently being experienced by the Sheriff's Office. While removing the civil service process would remove the grievance procedures for employees, the employees would still be covered by County policies for grievances. The Sheriff further stressed his frustration with the delays and possible loss of qualified personnel because the current hiring process takes too long.

The Committee wanted more time in order to review the Order presented by Sheriff Schmidt and decided they would meet at 6:15 p.m. before the County Board Meeting to vote on the Order to Amend. A note would be made in the packet going to the County Board Members with an explanation as to why this wasn't signed yet by the Law Enforcement Committee. The Sheriff asked that anyone with questions should contact him.

Other business: None – no other informational presentation at this meeting.


Next Meeting: Friday, June 3, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at the Dodge County Justice Facility.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by chair at 9:25 a.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.



Larry Schraunagel, Secretary



Barbara N. Brandt, Recording Secretary