

## **MINUTES OF THE COURTHOUSE SECURITY MEETING OF MAY 4, 2018**

### **Call to Order**

The Courthouse Security Committee was called to order on May 4, 2018, at 9:15 a.m. by Judge Sciascia.

### **Roll Call**

Members in attendance were: Judge Sciascia, Judge Bauer, Steven Seim, James Ketchem, Amy Nehls, Russ Kottke, Mary Ann Miller, Eugene Wurtz, Kurt Klomberg, Michelle Kenning, Bernie Mueller, Peggy Novak, Russ Freber, John Nehls, Greg Vollan, Steve Allermann, Rick Storzer

Other Attendees: Kevin Schultz, Anthony Brugger, Carol Zuleger, Stan Smith, Art Schroeder

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Kottke to approve the Minutes of the February 2, 2018, meeting; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Miller, Motion Carried.

### **Review the handling of prisoners from the Dodge County Jail in the courtrooms**

Judge Sciascia informed of two incidents that happened recently; in one instance a defendant almost fell into a work station. Judge suggests that instead of defendants coming up behind the court reporter to testify, that they testify from the counsel table and that they possibly be secured somehow. Judge suggests the use of an I-bolt to secure the defendants, especially for the individuals from the prison. Another option would be that one or two of the jailers could be put in the jury box.

Brugger agrees that inmates staying at the counsel table would help. Schultz states that they would prefer that inmate hearings be called first because they do not have a lot of officers to bring them over.

Klomberg is concerned in the Branch 4 courtroom because inmates have to walk behind the prosecution table to get back to the jail. He would like to have time to get out before they walk back to the holding cell.

Discussion held regarding the Bailiffs and their role in the Courtroom; they should be assisting with distributing paperwork. Judge Bauer states the Bailiffs should not be considered security officers. Judge Sciascia wonders if giving the Bailiffs a badge would give the appearance of authority. Kenning advised that there is a video on Courtnet for bailiff training. In addition she states that in all of her training, visibility of the Bailiff is important.

Discussion held regarding instances when an individual is ordered to go to jail. Someone from the Sheriff's Department needs to be in the courtroom when that happens. Judge Sciascia

states the Judges need to make a point of making sure that Security is available before sentencing someone to jail. They can take a break until everyone is in place; also the Clerks can send messages requesting that Security come to the courtroom. Kenning states that the Judges need to have control of their courtrooms and they have the ability to take a break in order to make sure everyone is prepared. She states that statistically, most incidents happen when sending an individual to prison.

Discussion had regarding the use of video conferencing and the balance between convenience and security in the courtroom and an individual's rights. Vollan offers that often there are technical problems, which becomes frustrating. Klomberg suggests that copies of the Writs that they do also be shared with the Sheriff's Department.

### **Review positioning of courthouse security officers**

Judge Sciascia believes security needs to be in front of the bar area. Ketchum states that the Security Officers need to be able to read the courtroom and decide where they need to stand. Kenning points out that in her training, eye to eye contact is important.

### **Bailiff training**

Discussion held earlier. Suggestion that the Training Committee review the training to make sure it is up to date.

### **All call tornado warning system**

Judge Sciascia states that the "all call" did not work. Brugger states that they have clarified the "all call" with the Sheriff and have decided that the Jail will handle the "all call" in the future. Nehls acknowledges that there were some issues. Jim Mielke and IT will be working on a system to link "all call" to the duress buttons and the weather service.

### **Keys to judicial chambers for bailiffs**

Judge Sciascia believes that keys for the Judges' chambers should be available for the Bailiffs. Discussion on where those keys should be kept – security station or judicial reception? Ketchum notes that there are keys in a locked box at the Court Security desk. Storzer agrees that those keys should stay at the Security desk unless a Bailiff needs them.

### **Review security incident that took place on April 19, 2018, regarding an inmate that assaulted his attorney**

The second incident that happened recently was when a State inmate assaulted his attorney in the Branch 3 holding cell. When he was brought in to make a record, he attempted to kick and swing at people. He did make contact with at least two people. Klomberg comments that the inmate should never have been brought into the courtroom after the incident with his attorney.

Discussion held regarding issues with crowded holding cells and possibly limiting the number of certain types of cases to avoid the overcrowding. Klomberg notes they have 450 felony cases per year averaging 9 prelims a week; they try to negotiate waivers before the hearing but Defense Counsel needs to talk to their clients and they try to get paper waivers otherwise they

need to go on the record. Vollan indicates he prefers paper waivers. Klomberg suggest that they do not set more than 5 or 6 hearings at a time; that a policy be put into place to limit the cases. Zuleger states that on the preliminary hearing Thursdays, Security is coming in earlier, which helps. Ketchum reminds that they can pull people off the road or from the jail if additional security is needed.

The Clerks office will follow up with scheduling.

#### **Report from Capital Improvement and Equipment Committee**

Freber indicates that are no capital improvements at this time.

Judge Sciascia states that they have asked the supplier to modify an ICON on the Security screen because the intercom button and the "door open" button are too close together. Ian from IT is working on this issue. There is also an issue regarding a camera being activated.

#### **Any updates to calendar**

None.

#### **Things to do before the next Security Committee meeting**

Clerk of Courts will work on the scheduling of preliminary hearings.

Discussion as to the funding for the Security Conference; there is a problem regarding grants. Also need to get a list of who is going to the Security Conference. All members should attend at some point.

Training and Policy Procedures report at the August meeting.


#### **New business**

Freber advises that the "Restricted Parking" signs are up in the employee parking lot.

#### **Date, time and location of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Courthouse Security Committee will take place following the Judicial and Public Protection Committee meeting on August 3, 2018, at 9:15 a.m. in Room 3038C of the Dodge County Justice Facility, 210 West Center Street, Juneau, Wisconsin.

Motion by Vollan to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Miller. Meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

  
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Judge Joseph Sciascia

  
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Lynn M. Steger, Secretary

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