DODGE COUNTY
JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2018

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

MaryAnn Miller
Eugene Wurtz
Dan Hilbert
Larry Schraufnagel

Member Excused: Thomas Nickel

Also Present: James Mielke, County Administrator; Russ Kottke, Dodge County Chairman; Steven Bauer, Circuit Court Judge; Joseph Sciascia, Circuit Court Judge; Brian Pfitzinger, Circuit Court Judge; Michelle Kenning, Chief Deputy, Clerk of Courts; Dale Schmidt, Dodge County Sheriff; Scott Mittelstadt, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Office; Patrick Schoebel, Medical Examiner; Brooke Bittner, Chief Deputy Medical Examiner; Lynn Steger, Register in Probate.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Schraufnagel to approve Minutes of July 6, 2018 and Minutes of July 10, 2018; second by Hilbert. Motion carried.

Communications/Announcements: None

Circuit Court/Judge's Report: Judge Bauer reports that he has a new Judicial Assistant, Sara Haag, who comes from the Clerk of Courts office. The benefit of this is that the two organizations function together. He states that the Clerk of Courts is efficient and does a great job. Because he has pulled his JA from the Clerk of Courts office, they are now short a clerk but have decided to cross train the clerks and not fill that position.

Regarding the 2018 budget, Judge states that his only real issue is the reduction for reimbursement for interpreters; he informs that the formula for reimbursement by the State has changed and it appears to be reduced by one-half; this is his one area of concern. Judge believes the psychological evaluation expenses should be okay.

Judge is requesting the Committee's input in two areas; the first area of concern is Appointed Counsel. The Supreme Court has changed the rate for payment of attorneys appointed by the Court. Currently court appointed attorneys are paid $62.50/hour; beginning 1/1/2020, the Courts must pay $100/hour to court appointed attorneys. In order to maintain the budget, the Judges have discussed contracting with four attorneys to be appointed counsel. They would want efficient, experienced attorneys and they would start this in 2019, a year early, and pay $75/hour. Judge informs that they did get applications from two good attorneys. He does not believe this will have a big impact on the budget.

Secondly, Judge informs that the Family Court Counseling office provides parental education classes which they have never charged for. Judge has talked with Shelby Brandsma and has learned that other counties do charge for these classes. Judge would like to start charging $30

per parent for the Parental Education classes. In addition, Family Court Counseling currently charges $200 for step-parent adoption screenings; they would like to increase that fee to $350. Brandsma has checked with other counties and $350 is about in the middle for fees being charged.

Judge is requesting input as to these two matters. Wurtz moves that Judge Bauer be granted permission to hire four attorneys as appointed counsel and to negotiate a fee at his discretion; and to endorse the fee increase for the step-parent adoption screenings and parental education classes. Second by Schraufnagel. Motion carried.

Child Support Report: None.

Clerk of Courts Report: None.

District Attorney Report: None.

Medical Examiner Report: Schoebel distributes the six-month activity report and states it is a different year now at the 6-month point since they have been working with Milwaukee County and not Fond du Lac County. Milwaukee County's costs are cheaper because they have an in-house toxicology lab. Dr. Kelley is now working in Milwaukee County along with five other forensic pathologists. Schoebel notes that the death caseload is increasing and that cremations are also increasing. Driving the death caseload up are opioid deaths and, as the population gets older, natural deaths. Cremations are becoming more popular because they are cheaper. Inmate autopsies have been stable. Wurtz questions the cost for cremation exams. Schoebel states that Dodge County gets $175 per permit and notes that everyone that is cremated is examined; by statute the fee can only be increased by the cost of living. He did not increase the fee in 2018 but could in the future.

Schoebel advises that there is a lack in Dodge County of grief support, however, now the mother of a child who passed away has started *Bo's Heavenly Clubhouse*. That group is now providing support to families in Dodge County.

Schoebel informs that Heather Pitts and Matt Bartol have been hired; they are currently in training. These Deputy ME positions are on-call positions. They are also paid office time when they come into the office. They are excited to have Pitts and Bartol on board and now the staff will total seven.

Sheriff Office Report: Sheriff Schmidt notes that the double fatality last month brings the total fatalities to six. He informs that none of the fatal crashes were in the crash reduction areas. The Department will be revamping the crash reduction areas in order to reduce fatal crashes; they will have highly visible signs. Schmidt discusses the Beaver Dam Police Department / Spillman controversy. He informs that the Beaver Dam Chief refuses to meet with him and that they have tried to work with the Police Department to train them but to date they have refused to work with the Sheriff's Department. Schmidt believes that eventually the issues will get resolved. Schmidt informs that the Horicon and Mayville Departments came to all of the training and are doing well with the program. Mittelstadt notes that Sheboygan also went to Spillman and he feels that the process is far superior in Dodge County.

Mittelstadt advises that they are going to use $440 from the Jail Improvement Fund to replace a camera that went down in the recorded interview room.

Schmidt explains the two Resolutions for the three proposed new positions. He states that he knows that they will have difficulty funding the positions, but if they cannot fund them, he at least wants them available. They are requesting two Deputy Sheriff - Patrol positions. Schmidt explains that they currently have deputies working part time on crash team investigations, which is very time consuming and stressful. He would like to have one person as lead investigator and would want someone experienced. Secondly he would like a Deputy to partner with school districts, especially in the more rural areas. Wurtz questions if there is any type of grant through the State for this type of thing; Schmidt indicates there is not. Motion by Schraufnagel to create two positions of Deputy Sheriff – Patrol in the Dodge County Sheriff's Office; second by Wurtz. Motion Carried.

The second Resolution is to request the creation of a Detective position. Schmidt notes that at one case per week with eight detectives available they would have 416 cases per year. In 2015 they had 575 cases, 2016 had 616 cases, and for the first 11 months of 2017, there were 531 cases. He states that internet crimes are up and there is no one available to investigate. There is a backlog of cases which hinders pro-activity. Motion by Wurtz to create one position of Detective in the Dodge County Sheriff's Office; second by Nickel. Motion Carried.

Schmidt states there is good news – three of the Explorers went to the Explorers National Competition and took 1st place in the Shoot/Don't Shoot competition. They are judged on communication and accuracy; Schmidt was told that this group was the best that the competition has seen. Miller indicates that she will send a letter congratulating the Explorers.

Schmidt updates on the J-Pod closure. He states that as of today, the number is 255. He has contacted the Regional Director of ICE who indicates it will take 3 to 4 months to draw down the numbers. They would like to keep it as full as they can for as long as they can. The draw down will probably start in September. Schmidt states that he is not sure what the budget numbers will be until they get through November or December; there may be a shortfall. The first half of the year there were 270-272 individuals on average. He notes they are planning for the worst but hoping for the best.

Committee Member Reports: The WCA Steering Committee Report (Judicial & Public Safety) will be addressed at the next monthly meeting.

Informational Presentation: Miller indicates that she attended a Traffic Safety meeting last month and has asked Scott Mittelstadt to talk about the "Place of Last Drink" concept. Mittelstadt informs how law enforcement would go to taverns and have conversations about proper practices for serving individuals, i.e. having licensed bartenders, etc. in order to reduce alcohol consumption. He describes the procedures that Sheboygan County used. He notes that Public Health is in the early states of addressing alcohol abuse. Feedback from fire/EMS is that there are more injuries from falls involving alcohol than from crashes. They want to work to change the perception and they want to work together with Public Health. Miller encourages members to attend the Traffic Safety meetings.

Discussion Only: None.

Future Agenda Items: None

Next Meeting: Friday, September 7, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at the Dodge County Justice Facility.

Adjournment: Motion by Schraufnagel to adjourn meeting; second by Nickel. Motion carried.

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

Thomas Nickel, Secretary

Lynn M. Steger, Recording Secretary