

DODGE COUNTY
JUDICIAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING
September 10, 2019

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:

Dan Hilbert
Eugene Wurtz (arrived at 8:04am)
Thomas Nickel
(Larry Schraufnagel was excused from attending)

Also Present: Russell Kottke-Dodge County Board Chairman; Brian Pfitzinger-Circuit Court Judge; Joseph Sciascia-Circuit Court Judge; Lynn Hron-Clerk of Courts; Kurt Klomberg-District Attorney; Bob Barrington-District Attorney Managing Attorney (arrived 8:40am); Dale Schmidt-Dodge County Sheriff (arrived 8:34am); Scott Mittelstadt-Chief Deputy; Patrick Schoebel-Medical Examiner; Donna Maly-District No. 28; Judy Haadad-observer; Cathy Vergenz-observer; Gina Steinke-Br. 2 Judicial Assistant.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Thomas Nickel to approve Minutes of August 2, 2019 meeting and special meeting September 9, 2019, a correction was offered to include the name of Bob Barrington who was present on August 2. Motion by Thomas Nickel to approve; second by Dan Hilbert to accept the Minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Circuit Court/Judges: Judge Pfitzinger states he is in the midst of the budget process, his first as presiding Judge. The two counsel chairs that are being tested in the courtrooms are working out nice and he's hoping to put the remaining chairs needed into the budget.

Register in Probate office is in need of a microfiche reader and there is money in the budget to purchase a replacement but received word that they may get a free one.

Judge Pfitzinger stated he'd like to see the Guardian ad Litem pay increased to \$75/hour. He feels the kids are the most important part of our court process.

Judge states the A/V sound system updates installed in Branch 1 are awesome. Chair MaryAnn Miller asked to have a tour of Branch 1 at the next meeting, which would be in place of the informational session.

(permission to move up #9 on the agenda – so agreed)

Informational Presentation/Guardian ad Litem/Judge Sciascia: *(handout provided)* Judge Sciascia stated the Courts rely on the Guardian ad Litem, their sole mission is the interest of the child and to provide a recommendation to the Court. Judge stressed the importance of getting and keeping good and motivated GAL's.

Question by Thomas Nickel – do Judges have a list or pool they pull from? Judge responded that yes there is a list of approved GAL's.

District Attorney: Kurt Klomberg reported on the state budget – new ADA positions were to start October 1, 2019 but because of when the State pay period begins as of today they still have no answer.

Question by Chair MaryAnn Miller – what happens if new ADA does not work out as expected? Kurt Klomberg stated that ADA's are hired with a 1-year clause.

Clerk of Courts: *(handout provided)* Lynn Hron commented that the new courtroom chairs and microfiche reader are very much needed.

Lynn stated she wanted to correct some information she provided at the July 12, 2019 meeting re: the impact of Mayville's move to a municipal court. The updated information is that Human Services and the Sheriff's Office/Jail do **not** lose any revenue because of this change.

Sheriff Office: Dale Schmidt along with Scott Mittelstadt reported that the new employee in the FTO process is doing very well and should be out on the road soon. Citizen academy is starting next week and is held each Wednesday for 13 weeks. K9 Golf Scramble was held and went smoothly.

Scott Mittelstadt gave information on the 2020 budget including capital improvements.

Dale Schmidt stated that being short staffed was the only way they met their budget in 2019. Had we been full staffed we would have had to lay people off. Services are cut to the bone. The Matrix study shows they need more staff but they can't find it in the budget and are only on budget because of staffing cuts. They lost federal money last year because of J-pod closure. Sheriff Schmidt stated that 80% of the budget is staff, 10% is contracts/service agreements, and 10% everything else including squads, radios, guns, ammo, office supplies, etc.

Dale Schmidt reported that they brought a person in from the outside to do an independent evidence room audit and identified some new procedures. They have a new evidence clerk making sure they have exceptional integrity in the evidence room.

Re: the Matrix Report discussion, Eugene Wurtz commented that "it sure was a lot of nothing." Dale Schmidt responded that it was beneficial and confirmed they were doing a good job.

Dale Schmidt reported that the Recreational patrol officer, Jason Roy, left to take a job as the Dodge County Parks Supervisor. Jason asked the Sheriff to read his email to the Law Enforcement committee members which he'd sent to the Sheriff stating his reasons for leaving had nothing to do with any conflict within the Sheriff's Department.

Dale Schmidt explained that the intra-departmental transfer for Sheriff's office was for a budgeted \$1500 new K9 bite suit, so it was just a line correction.

In re: to the 2020 position resolutions:

-Abolish one full-time jail corporal and create two jail sergeants: Dale Schmidt stated that the 2 newly created jail sergeant positions will not be filled until July 2020 but the 1 full time jail corporal will be abolished beginning January 2020. Motion by Dan Hilbert to approve, second by Thomas Nickel. Motion approved and carried.

-Create one full-time deputy secretary: Motion by Thomas Nickel to approve, second by Dan Hilbert. Motion approved and carried.

-Abolish one full-time deputy sheriff and create one full-time patrol sergeant: Motion by Thomas Nickel to approve, second by Eugene Wurtz. Motion approved and carried.

-Create two part-time (less than 20 hours) court security deputies: Motion by Thomas Nickel, second by Dan Hilbert. Motion approved and carried.

Question by Eugene Wurtz re: feedback from publishing pictures of OWI offenders. Sheriff Schmidt states they've received positive and negative feedback and they had input from the District Attorney and include language stating "innocent until proven guilty" on each post.

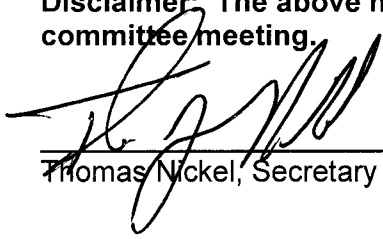
Audio Visual: Judge Brian Pfitzinger reported on this as Jim Mielke was not present and all is going well, the installations are behind schedule but moving along.

Committee Member: no report as the WCA Judicial and Public Safety Steering Committee hasn't had a new meeting since the last report.

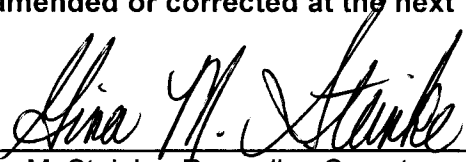
Next Meeting: Friday, October 4, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the Dodge County Justice Facility.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by Chair MaryAnn Miller at 9:09 a.m.

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



Thomas Nickel, Secretary



Gina M. Steinke, Recording Secretary