

**DODGE COUNTY
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
September 6, 2013**

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
James Layman
Aaron David
Darrell Pollesch
Ernest Borchardt

Also Present: James Mielke, County Administrator; Steven G. Bauer, Circuit Court Judge, Joseph Sciascia, Circuit Court Judge; Lynn Hron, Clerk of Courts; Kurt Klomberg, District Attorney; Bob Barrington, District Attorney Managing Attorney; Patricia Ninmann, Dodge County Sheriff; Scott Smith, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Dept.; Patrick Schoebel, Medical Examiner; Bernie Mueller, Child Support Agency; Steven Seim, Family Court Commissioner; Shelby Brandsma, Family Court Counseling; Barb Brandt, Br. 4 Judicial Assistant.

Miller certifies compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

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

Public Comment: Maryann commented on the swearing in at the Dodge County Fair and the TAD symposium.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Pollesch to approve Minutes of September 6, 2013; second by Layman. Motion carried.

Communications: None

Circuit Court/Judge's Report: Judge Sciascia reviewed the memo provided by Judge Storck in Judge Storck's absence.

Regarding the budget concerns over the amounts cut from the State budget, we have been told that the grant would not be changed and we are planning accordingly.

Judge Sciascia reported to the committee the way the current Guardian ad Litem system works in Dodge County. We have a number of guardians ad litem that are on contract. Their job is to identify the best interests of the children. They are assigned cases randomly at a certain percentage. We would like to get them to the point where their compensation is \$70.00 an hour and we try to maintain \$62.50 an hour. With their current workload, the amount they receive under their contract is probably around \$50.00 an hour. It is important that we keep the quality of GAL's that we currently have. Judge also pointed out that GAL's need special training. Courts will be asking for a 5% increase.

Judge Bauer pointed out that a GAL's job is much more difficult than that of a court appointed attorney, because of the extra training that is needed. The guardians ad litem are also

appointed to represent the children in child abuse restraining orders. Judge Bauer informed the committee how the process currently works. If you can avoid a custody trial, this greatly benefits the children because the parents are helped to make decisions and continue to co-parent effectively. It is the first line in resolving issues between the parents.

Jim Mielke updated the committee that he is currently looking at a 2.5% increase instead of the requested 5% increase.

Regarding the Court Commissioner Budget, seeking to go 1 day/week instead of 1.5 days per week.

The Family Court Counseling budget will be seeking additional staff time. The half time position in that office is not adequate. They are going to be requesting an additional 4 hours per week. This department also helps to streamline the custody/placement issues. Most of that time is going to be reimbursed by fees billed out which is what the GAL fees seek to do also.

Judge Storck does not have a full time Judicial Assistant. It is being proposed to eliminate the position of administrative assistant in the Family Court office and create a new position at Judicial Reception who will cover the duties of the Family Court Counseling assistant but the desk will be on the second floor. This position will also cover reception duties. There will be no fiscal impact to the County.

Lynn Hron reported that her office will take some of the job duties of the current Family Court staff as her office will deal with all the customers. Bernie Mueller would also like to be included on discussions regarding the division of duties.

Motion made by Layman to change the above position, second by David. Motion carried.

Judge Sciascia reported on the truancy problem. He would be meeting with Human Services, Law Enforcement and schools on how to deal with this huge problem.

There is going to be a Security Meeting next week. He is putting together a priority list that includes fixing courtroom doors and installing additional security cameras. Judge Bauer stated that family cases are probably most volatile and that catastrophic events would be his concern.

Child Support Report: Bernie Mueller reported her budget is waiting for the State numbers. The contract meeting was yesterday and it would be 2 or 3 weeks for the division of funds.

Clerk of Courts Report: Lynn Hron reported that her office also receives reimbursement from Child Support.

Lynn asked for the Committee's approval for the purchase of file folders. Motion made by Borchardt, second by Pollesch. Motion carried.

Lynn reported the approximate length of her leave. Michelle Kenning will be coming to the meetings and cover for Lynn during her absence. Their office will also be down one person due to a maternity leave. They also have one open position.

District Attorney Report: Kurt and Bob met yesterday regarding that office's budget and they will not be asking for much. They are going to need a new bulk scanner. The increases will mainly be in salaries and benefits.

Kurt will be attending a vehicular homicide conference. The Sheriff's Dept. crash team will also be attending. This is put on by the DOJ and the tuition is free, so the only cost will be salaries for those attending.

Bob Barrington will be a keynote speaker at an upcoming conference. The Dodge County District Attorney's office is a leader in the state in terms of going to electronic storage for DA offices in the State. The benefit to the District Attorney office by their lead in this regard is that other offices look to them for advice and they get the new technology first.

Medical Examiner Report: PJ Schoebel reported that the electronic death system for the state has not been implemented and there are now no paper death certificates. He was one of the beta testers for this system that is now up and running for the entire state.

The number of autopsies done will affect his bottom line and final numbers will be revised.

Sheriff Department Report: Scott Smith reported that they received a \$100 donation from Horicon State Bank for presentation the department provided to a senior citizens group in Horicon.

MDC purchase starts this year and will continue into 2014. The department expects those units to last around 5 years. They will be getting MDC units that are best compatible with New World and they will then start looking to start replacement on a rotation basis instead of having to replace all at the same time.

Repairs are needed in the secure electronics in the jail regarding connectivity issues. They will get a total update as opposed to "regular" fixes. IT has been a great resource.

Employee update: There was a resignation at the jail. Civil Service tests will be completed the end of September to begin the first step in the hiring process. There are currently 3 patrol deputy openings and Sheriff is looking to hire 1 or 2 in the jail.

The K9 golf outing is today with 23 teams of 4. Over \$500 was donated from the fair for the K9's and the golf outing is anticipated to be a huge success.

September 23 is the "go live" date for New World the Sheriff's Office. Other agencies will not be online until January for records management, however they will be online for the mobile application.

There will be a T.A.D. grant application completed for the assistance with treatment and alternatives. People when initially arrested are amenable to treatment so the faster this can be started the better. When there is time between the arrest and sentencing, the cooperation with treatment goes down, and there is a higher risk of re-offense between the first arrest and sentencing. DA Klomberg would like some treatment to be a precondition of bail which would be a benefit to both the DA and the Sheriff, and would be a way of preventing another offense. The Sheriff will keep the committee advised on the status of the grant. She foresees this being a large amount. These funds would be available then through 2015 and the return on this is that for every dollar spent we would get back 1.92 in savings (by having less people in jail, etc.).

The Sheriff's Office in cooperation with Land Information will be purchasing updated equipment to be used by the crash reconstruction team. This will increase the effectiveness and will allow for one deputy to complete reconstruction of a scene vs utilizing two deputies.

They are currently working on projected jail revenues.


Jim Mielke reported that the 2013 budget forecast 275 contract beds, however 2014 will find this reduced to 230. This loss of revenue will have a ripple effect on other departments in the County. A lot of the jail's resources are used no matter how many inmates that are housed in the facility.

Other Business: Jim Mielke further informed the Committee regarding possible changes to the County's health insurance plan. Unity is coming in at a higher rate with an increase of 15.9%. They are looking at ways to handle this increase. They believe that the recommendation is going to be offering a deductible plan with \$500/\$1000. To make this change is going to require County Board approval. The monthly increase for a family would be \$12.49 per month with the \$1000 deductible. He explained that not every doctor visit would be subject to a deductible and that prescriptions would stay the same. Information will be put together for the department heads along with a letter of services that will not be subject to the deductible.

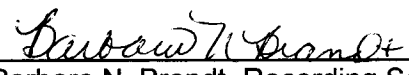
Next Meeting: Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at the Dodge County Justice Facility.

Adjournment: Motion by David to adjourn meeting; second by Pollesch. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m..

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



~~Aaron David, Secretary~~
MaryAnn Miller, chair



Barbara N. Brandt, Recording Secretary