

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
April 10, 2013
KCAB 2ND FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

Members Present: Daniel Esposito, Ronald L. Johnson, Boyd Frederick, Anita Johnson, Angelina Montemurro, Douglas Noble, Audrey Simard (YIG)

Others Present: Sheriff Dave Beth, Chief Deputy Charles Smith, Capt. Larry Apker, Capt. Robert Hallisy, Capt. Ken Weyker, Lt. Ed VanTine, Sgt. Ken Urquhart, Nancy Otis, Gabe Nudo, Robert Reidl, Rebecca Matoska-Mentink, Jennifer Kopp

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Daniel Esposito

Citizen Comments: 6:30: None

Supervisor Comments: 6:31: None

Chairman Comments: 6:32: Chairman Esposito reported that YIG Trevor Foster had another commitment and was excused. David Arrington was not in attendance at the meeting. He thanked Bob Reidl for coming for the discussion on courthouse security because he was instrumental when procedures were put in place.

Minutes Read: 6:34: March 13, 2013 Meeting

Motion by: R. Johnson **Seconded by:** A. Johnson **Approved:** unanimously

Resolutions from the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department Emergency Management:

1) Approval of County Emergency Response Plan

Motion by: Frederick **Seconded by:** A. Johnson **Approved:** unanimously

6:35: Lt. VanTine presented the resolution. He explained that in early 2000 FEMA statutorily required States to create Emergency Response Plans and designed a format for this. Wisconsin then recommended counties do the same. Kenosha was not one of the five area counties to receive grant money for this purpose so we used Racine's template to create ours. This plan was reviewed and approved by Corporation Counsel, County Executive, and the Sheriff. This plan has been sent to all Department Heads that are primary players and they all approved. There was no cost involved because we used Racine's template. If we change to this format we will be in conformity with the entire region and we will meet all FEMA requirements. Supr. Noble asked Lt. VanTine if he did this himself with the template. VanTine replied yes, he just changed the Racine references to Kenosha. VanTine met with Department Heads to be sure each department's needs were met and reflected. Even if this format is accepted now, it can be changed in the future. Noble asked if the Zion Nuclear Plant was taken into consideration. VanTine replied that the plan does cover nuclear disasters but not specifically Zion. Noble commented that when Zion was active there was an evacuation plan. VanTine explained that the evacuation plan was a completely separate plan. The danger zone has been reduced such that he does not believe Kenosha is included anymore. Supr. Anita Johnson asked if sufficient time was allotted to departments to review such an extensive document; there is so much it would be easy to miss something. VanTine gave his assurance and stated that changes were made after recommendations from departments. Corporation Counsel then reviewed again. Each support function operates separately and the plan is broken down to specific areas. Esposito added that this is a much more condensed and user-friendly

plan.

Resolutions from the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department:

- 1) 2013 WIOJA Multi-Jurisdiction Drug Task Force Grant – South East Area Drug Operations Group (S.E.A.D.O.G.)

Approved by: Frederick ***Seconded by:*** A. Johnson ***Approved:*** unanimously
Sgt. Urquhart presented the resolution to accept our portion of grant money totaling \$53,140.00. The total allocation of \$211,792 is awarded to the lead agency, Walworth County, who then distributes to Kenosha, Racine, Dodge, Jefferson & Walworth counties. The funds will apply to the Sheriff's Drug Unit budget to support investigation costs such as information, drug buys, purchase of equipment, and overtime.

- 2) Funding for Purchase of a Mobile Command Post Vehicle

Approved by: A. Johnson ***Seconded by:*** Frederick ***Approved:*** unanimously
Sheriff Beth reported that funds to cover the Mobile Command Unit are: \$397,000 repurposed from 2013 squad cars; \$42,000 redirected from funds budgeted for squad equipment; \$116,000 from WI Office of Justice Assistance Bomb Squad Grant Awards; \$10,000 from sale of the old command vehicle; and other donations estimated at \$10,000. Price has gone up since the process started. A meeting has already been called to finalize plans so that if the County Board approves the purchase it can be forwarded to Purchasing for final cost determination. Another bid from Burlington LDV was used for initial cost, however, that was based on a one axle vehicle. Now with two axles, the purchase may have to go for RFP. Supr. Ron Johnson asked if the additional cost is due to the two axles. Sheriff replied yes, to \$565,000. Supr. Montemurro asked if this price includes the exterior quality updates/improvements previously referenced. Sheriff replied yes. Supr. Frederick asked how long it would take if the purchase goes to RFP. Sheriff could not give a definite answer; however, he believes it would be relatively quick. Even if they go directly with Burlington LDV it will take about six months. Frederick asked if the unit would be done by Country Thunder. Sheriff stated no but they hope to have it done before federal grants expire because they do not want to ask for an extension.

Supr. Noble expressed concerns about adding on the extra six feet to accommodate bomb equipment and that this big unit would have to be pulled out for a bomb call. Sheriff stated that this vehicle would be more practical. Currently a Ford 350 has to be obtained from one location and then go to another location 45/50 for the trailer and equipment. People from all Sheriff Department Divisions will be able to drive the unit. Much gear can be stored in the unit.

Noble commented that he is now seeing last year's new cars and asked how they are working out. Sheriff reported that deputies like them, they are AWD, and they perform well in weather as well as in general. No fuel economy reports yet. Passenger side room is a little challenging with equipment so Explorers may be use later during training when two occupants are in the car. A. Johnson added that incidents often involve response from many people, units, and departments that need to be accommodated; often for long periods of time. She recounted a recent incident on Hwy. 173 where this unit would have been beneficial. She is looking forward to getting the unit. It will also be helpful to other counties. Sheriff stated that the Tactical Team and Bomb Unit often respond together and the unit would contain equipment for both.

Esposito asked if the \$42,000 for squad equipment was approved by Finance and if it is no longer needed. Sheriff replied yes to both. Esposito expressed thoughts that maybe the amount projected from Country Thunder could be low. Sheriff explained that this unit is not just for Country Thunder and this should not be directly tied to Country Thunder. Country Thunder never asked for the current unit to be there. This is our choice. Their contribution is not definite so this is

just an estimate. A. Johnson interjected that she thinks it would be distasteful to ask for a certain amount. There is a fine line between service to the County and security. We need to stay law enforcement. Montemurro stated that she thought a charge was to be part of the service and part of our bill to Country Thunder. Esposito responded that it was never suggested to charge per service, whether the unit is used at Country Thunder or the County Fair. These events bring much revenue to Kenosha County. Esposito explained that this was just a proposal by a supervisor of \$10,000 for three years. Sheriff stated that Country Thunder has never dictated to us how to provide security, we dictate to them. They were told to follow our rules or become a church picnic. Montemurro asked that if another emergency came up while the unit was at Country Thunder, would it go. Sheriff replied yes. Noble added that if we did not bring our own unit, Country Thunder would have to provide accommodations. Sheriff responded that they would provide a tent, which they currently do.

A. Johnson asked if the new command unit will be bulletproof. Sheriff replied no, he has never heard of a mobile command unit being shot at.

Esposito asked if anyone had not seen the new 911 center at the Public Safety Building. He asked for a tour next month. A. Johnson asked for the tour to include the Evidence Room. Tour will include all areas including the new armored car. YIG Simard stated that she is eighteen; however, YIG Foster is seventeen and asked if he would be able to tour. Sheriff stated that Foster would not be able to tour all areas. Esposito said the meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. and will be held in the Sheriff's Conference Room in the Public Safety Building.

Continued Discussion Regarding Courthouse Security:

7:19: Esposito began the discussion giving an overview of last month's meeting. He asked Bob Reidl to be here this month to better answer some questions including cost information. Reidl explained that in 2005 pressure was applied by judges for courthouse security. A committee was formed including the Sheriff's Dept., Personnel, Maintenance, IT, Judges, and County Executive so everyone was heard. The late Lt. Lee Copen proposed a detailed extensive plan. Factors were dealt with comparing need vs. cost. Judges then gave a date to start and the Sheriff's Dept. first took over until an RFP could be completed for a private security firm. We still have the original company. Current budget is \$84,000 for labor and \$15,000 for equipment, etc. At the request of Esposito, he reported that the cost for one deputy would be about \$84,000. Present operation is successful. Recently several confiscated items were presented to the County Board. Now there is a roving deputy in the courthouse. If a deputy is assigned to a prisoner, the deputy cannot leave the prisoner regardless of a situation, only the roving deputy may respond. Capt. Hallisy explained that a roving deputy is not walking around the courthouse the entire shift. A. Johnson asked what the general consensus was regarding deputy vs. private security. Reidl stated that there were several opinions. The judges issued a court order to impose security so responsibility was shifted to the County Board. A. Johnson asked for the County Board decision. Noble stated, and it was confirmed by Reidl, that the majority of the County Board voted for private security. Clerk of Courts Rebecca Matoska-Mentink added that the judges said security was needed; it was up to the County Board to decide how. Sheriff said opinions were mixed among judges and some were silent. It all came down to dollars and cents and the Sheriff was asked if he could match private security and he could not. A. Johnson asked what is safer and if everyone is satisfied. Sheriff's opinion is that a deputy would be better but private is about one-third the cost and most are satisfied. A. Johnson asked what issues bring dissatisfaction and if there have been any serious incidents. Sheriff responded that deputies are not there for immediate response and there have been no serious incidents.

Esposito stated that we are probably one of the most secure in the state. Chief Deputy Smith stated that he was part of the original presentation. The Conveyance Unit is the unit that puts a deputy on campus that includes the Courthouse, Safety Building, Administration Building, and parking lots. This is in addition to transport. They are always drawing overtime and taken from other areas. They are not always available due to other assignments. All sworn personnel, including him, have responded if necessary. Courthouse security involves much more than the front door, there are inside incidences. Private Security is not armed and do not have arrest powers. A. Johnson expressed her opinion that there is enough there to be a deterrent at the entry point, however, there should be someone inside the building at all times.

Noble stated that per past meeting minutes he would like to address the wall. For eight years there have been no modifications to security except a part-time conveyance deputy. Attorneys have a pass that allows them to circumvent entrance security. Reidl stated he would solicit the judges and get back to the Committee. The County Executive insisted that employees could use the back door with a security card in order to gain access timely. People from other departments were give cards for access through the back door. Sheriff stated that they have always thought and recommended that all go through front door security. Most security would come from screening most people. Employees and attorneys would be upset. Reidl stated that there have been changes including Plexiglas dividers and scanners. It would cost \$2,100 to extend the glass and \$10 to \$11,000 for a new wall. Supr. Nudo commented that all should go through security checkpoint. Montemurro recounted the fast pass suggestion to bypass the line. Esposito said that space is limited to allow people to bypass. Reidl added that this is why attorneys are allowed to enter through the exit. Montemurro asked if currently all that can be done is to call 911; couldn't there at least be a button? If there was a sound involved it could possibly be a deterrent. Esposito replied that sound could accelerate the incident. Reidl stated that it was the Sheriff's opinion that private security should not be armed; deputies know how to handle guns. Montemurro asked about tasers. Reidl responded with the same principal. Esposito asked Capt. Hallisy's opinion about the fast pass. Hallisy replied that this could cause already agitated people to become more agitated if they are passed. People do not wait in the snow; they are in a sheltered area. People go through quite quickly. Sheriff added that steps could go even further to include that all bailiffs should be deputies. Having all be deputies would be safest but cost is the issue. There have been few issues and response has been fairly fast. 99% of the time they probably do not need deputies. Esposito asked Matoska-Mentink to bring this to the next Judges' meeting. Noble added to be sure they know we are not going for the Cadillac. The first question is should all go through security. Esposito recounted that there would be a 60% cost increase for deputies; \$2,100 for the wall extension. For now, get Judges' opinion after eight years. He wants this on the May Judiciary & Law agenda. A. Johnson would like the Sheriff's opinion on the courthouse wall for the next meeting.

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: 7:56: None

Meeting Adjourned: 7:57 p.m. on motion by Montemurro, seconded by Noble.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DeBree