

**Kewaunee County Public Safety & Justice Committee Minutes**  
**April 14, 2021**

The Public Safety & Justice Committee meeting was held on April 14, 2021 in the County Board Room, at the Kewaunee County Administration Building.

**Call to Order:** John Mastalir called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

**Members Present:** John Mastalir, Joe Lukes, Doak Baker, Doug Doell, and Scott Jahnke. EOC Director Tracy Nollenberg, Chief Deputy Jason Veese, Lt. Chris VanErem, and Corporation Counsel, Jeffrey Wisnicky. County Administrator Scott Feldt did join as the meeting was already in session. Sheriff Matt Joski was excused.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Doak Baker, and Joe Lukes seconded that motion. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2021 was made by Doak Baker. Doug Doell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** No Public comment.

**AGENDA:**

**Justice Reports:** Corporation Counsel, Jeffrey Wisnicky shared a resolution he drafted to present to the State of Wisconsin legislature reference to the shortage of Public Defender attorneys. Wisnicky stated there is a Public Defenders office in Green Bay which serves Brown, Door and Kewaunee County where they have staff attorneys or if there is a conflict they appoint a private attorney that are paid the public defendant rate, to anyone needing an attorney. Due to the shortage some defendants may sit in jail or in some rare cases their charges get dismissed, because they have not been able to get a Public Defender. Wisnicky said in Kewaunee County we do have access to attorneys from Green Bay and even the Fox Valley, but locally, there are limited numbers of attorneys. The shortage of public defenders causes court cases to drag out over months, and if the defendant doesn't like their Public Defender, it can extend even longer if a new PD has to be appointed. Wisnicky wants to point out this problem to the state, especially the rate per hour they are being paid. It was clarified there was an attachment that should not have been included with the others handed out via email. Only the resolution Jeff prepared on the official county letterhead should have been included with the committee signatures. Wisnicky answered some questions on what qualifies someone for a Public Defender. Doak Baker then made the motion to move this resolution forward to the County Board. A second was made by Scott Jahnke. Motion carried. Wisnicky then excused himself from the meeting.

**Emergency Management:**

- a. Review 2020 Budget to date: Director Nollenberg asked if there were any questions in regards to the EM budget. There were none. Nollenberg stated there is nothing out of the ordinary in their budget at this time.
- b. Review Upcoming Training/Exercises. Nollenberg shared that in May, Chief Deputy Veeseer will present an active threat presentation to county employees. Notice will go out to employees soon, and there will be two sessions. Also, this Thursday, April 15, the state will hold its state wide tornado drill. If there is actual severe weather, it will be on Friday. The state opted not to do the T.V. and radio notices (the auto interruptions EAS codes) this year during this drill. Due to not having the T.V. and radio announcements of the drill, Kewaunee County will **not** sound the sirens so as not to cause confusion, if community members would hear the siren and go to the tv or radio to find out and there was nothing stating it was a drill. Kewaunee County will do a RAVE alert announcing the drill at both 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. as well as a phone call. Nollenberg noted that she is aware Door County will also not be sounding their sirens, but Manitowoc County is planning on sounding theirs.
- c. Update on Sirens: Nollenberg is still working, along with Manitowoc County, with Point Beach on the sirens they are no longer maintaining. Point Beach has been asked to send letters on Point Beach letterhead to the municipalities where their former sirens exist, explaining how they can take over maintenance of them. Nollenberg also explained how the sirens (those in the EPZ) are tested the first Wednesday of each month, and there was also a "growl" test on each third Wednesday which was on behalf of the nuclear plant for documentation to NRC. Since the nuclear plant no longer has the maintenance functions of the sirens, it is no longer necessary to do this "growl" test each month, and she is going to request to discontinue this test.
- d. Brief on COVID-19: Nollenberg wished to report that the volunteers that EM has helped coordinate for the vaccine clinics, those volunteers have already put in 320 hours of volunteer time since the end of January. They will continue volunteering until completed.
- e. Virtual EOC Brief update: The latest Virtual EOC brief was held yesterday, 04/13/21. We have been doing these for a year now. Nollenberg thanked everyone for participating. Public Health did put out a mask advisory as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, since the state mask mandate was lifted. Extension office continues working with the farms in the county on getting access to vaccines and information out. The public information officer from EM has continued to do updates on the website supplied by Public Health. Law Enforcement continues not to respond to rescue calls and only remains in the area if needed. FEMA has released interim policy guidance for the COVID-19 funeral assistance program. The state has not released information on this yet, but those that have experience a COVID-19 death after January of 2020, they can reach out to FEMA to receive funeral expense reimbursement if it was a COVID-19. Nollenberg will get that information out once she receives the specifics. There are maximum amounts available for reimbursement for paid funeral expenses.
- f. HF Antennae Project at Fairgrounds Facility: Nollenberg explained we have a volunteer group of amateur radio operators in Kewaunee County which are used as backup communication in the chance of total communication failure. These radio operators utilize high frequency bands to reach Madison. The group put together a prototype of this antenna, and photos are included in the handout provided. They did test this option vs.

other areas such as on the roof, and this was the best option. Funding for this would come from Point Beach funds. Doug Doell made the motion to forward this to the Finance committee and the Parks committee. Motion was seconded by Scott Jahnke. Motion carried.

- g. Letter to WEM in regards to WDF policy language change: Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) sent a letter to Wisconsin Disaster Fund (WDF) section to consider policy language changes. Currently it reads EM has 24 hours to report damages in a disaster, and this many times is not enough time, especially small counties. WEMA's letter asks to change it to be 5 days to figure out the damages in a disaster. All EM offices were asked to send a letter to WDF committee. Nollenberg just wanted this brought to the committee's attention.

**Sheriff's Office:**

- a. Review of 2021 Budget to date: The budget is pretty much on target as of now. Overtime is currently a little under budget in the jail and slightly over in patrol. We had a few FMLA issues on patrol, as we have one person on maternity leave and an officer injured in the line of duty. Therefore, patrol is down by two officers. This would have immediately caused almost 120 hours of OT. Fortunately, we have a person in the jail who has been cross-trained, and we were able to put him on the patrol schedule.

The training overtime is predicted to be up this year, because we eliminated training during Covid last year, and we will have to make up some mandatory trainings this year.

Monitoring fees are also up, due to the increased inmates on monitoring due to Covid. The inmates on monitoring are billed unless they are indigent so some of that money will come back to us.

- b. Staffing Update/Cross Trained Position/Continuous Eligibility List Posting: We reviewed our eligibility list, where we only had nine applicants. Testing is set for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Once our two newest deputies are fully trained we should be fully staffed, however, we are currently in essence down 5 people, due to the FMLA/injured officer, maternity, one on military leave, and the two still in training. In June we should be in much better shape, once the injured officer returns, crossed-trained officer goes to patrol, and the return from military duty, along with the newest deputies being fully trained by then.

Chief Deputy Veaser explained the difficulties law enforcement is facing hiring qualified people. It is very competitive, especially when many other counties are "advertising" on WileNet, and they have a continuous recruitment going on. Veaser has heard some counties are considering hiring individuals and then sending them to school for law enforcement with the guarantee of a job when they graduate college.

Veaser would like to see an ongoing eligibility list to speed the process up in hiring, and be able to "react" faster if the right applicant and opening align. Discussion on the current process versus using an ongoing eligibility list which would cut the hiring process time considerably. Doak Baker made the motion to use a continuous eligibility list

posting for the hiring process be sent to the personnel committee. Doug Doell seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Veeseer believes when his previous position of Patrol Lieutenant was open, the personnel committee agreed to fill all subsequent positions created by the cascade effect, with the hiring from within. The County Board had granted all subsequent positions to be automatically approved for filling. It is asked because the cross-trained person leaving the jail for patrol will leave a vacant position in jail/dispatch if we can fill that position without further permissions. Mastalir would like Administrator Feldt to verify this. Later in the meeting Scott Feldt did enter the meeting and he did clarify the personnel board had previously approved the cascading/filling of positions from the Chief Deputy on down to jail/dispatchers. So, in this case where Deputy Jandrin is being moved to patrol, and it leaves an open position in the jail, that open position can be filled without additional approval.

- c. Review of Overtime by Category: Chief Deputy Veeseer shared a handout of the overtime categories. He explained the lieutenants work on their schedules constantly to avoid overtime. Issues such as the recent officer injury on duty, causes major changes in the overtime. FMLA issues and the inability to move staff around to cover shifts is a challenge. Veeseer gives credit to Lt. Pieschek and Lt VanErem for their rearranging the schedules and personnel to minimize overtime. In the case of our injured officer, they were able to cut the 120 hours of possible overtime down to 16 hours. It also helped to have the cross-trained officer to move out to patrol immediately. Veeseer pointed out the investigations overtime is at the mercy of when investigators are needed. If an incident occurs during the day there is little or no overtime, but if they are called out in the middle of the night, that is where we see large amounts of overtime. Training overtime is still low, but as said earlier, this will probably go up with mandatory training that needs to be met this year. The scheduled overtime totals are usually caused by FMLA and sick time that occurs, and there is not much we can do about those. Doug Doell asked Veeseer if he could have a comparison printout from the previous year to match up how we are doing this year compared to last year. Veeseer will provide that beginning next month.
- d. Update on Jail Study/Review of Jail Inspector Report: Chief Deputy Veeseer addressed some of the topics of the Jail Inspector's letter that was sent to the County Board on issues needed to be addressed since the County Board did not approve moving to Phase III in the Jail Study. As of the latest report, 6 beds are not available for use in the jail. We should be able to remedy some of the shut-down beds by fixing relatively low-cost items. Major issues like the building integrity, plumbing, heating, electrical, roof, mold and ceilings need to be addressed in a timely manner. These are all issues that were discussed in the first two phases of the original jail study. The newly organized jail study group is relooking in more depth at many of the issues discussed by the prior jail study committee. County Administration is looking into bringing in a neutral person to do a cost analysis to get an estimate to fix all of the issues the Jail inspector brought to the county board's attention. Veeseer pointed out we have additional issues with the jail pertaining to safety that really needs to be addressed. Having one dispatcher and one

jailer in a connected facility is a main safety issue. It is Veese's belief that sticking money into fixing the glaring issues in the jail is a waste of money as that still doesn't address our physical design flaws. Lt. VanErem shared just to fix the toilet and sink it is estimated to be around \$3,000 and he is apprehensive to fix this until he knows what the plumbing issues are as the old toilet and sink may not be compatible with new plumbing. With Nancy's inspection we have 6 months to show we have fixed the issues or are making progress on fixing them. Two of the issues are the roof and security ceiling. The security ceiling can't be installed with the roof still leaking. The roof was bid many years ago and was around \$120,000 at that time. It was pointed out there is currently a lot of equipment (antennas and such) on that roof that has to be roofed around or moved. The only access to the roof is outside via a ladder

- e. Review & Approve Resolution supporting AB187 concerning Jail cost reimbursement: Veese reports this issue has remedied itself, and a resolution is no longer needed. The state was not taking inmates sentenced to prison and counties had to hold sentenced inmates. The state has since agreed to get back on track and take sentenced inmates quicker. This did not affect Kewaunee County as much as it did larger counties, as we didn't have as high of number of inmates sentenced to prison as they did.
- f. Update on Next Gen 911 Grant & System Implementation: Lt. VanErem reported that our new NextGen 911 system has been installed. We went "live" with the system on March 31<sup>st</sup>. There was a small issue with headsets, which has been resolved and it is working great. Dispatch has 911 mapping again, it now updates every minute, and this is a huge improvement, and makes the tracking and response time better. Dispatch now has the ability to transfer calls directly to the patrol officers cell phones. It was asked if Text 911 is available, and it is not at this time but the system is prepared to handle this feature when it is available.
- g. Annual Committee Jail Tour and offer for participation in MILO training: Chief Deputy Veese informed the committee that we will conduct the annual jail tour for committee members after this meeting concludes. He also extended an invitation to members to participate or observe the MILO training the department is conducting currently. Veese explained through AGIS (our county insurance carrier), there is an interactive training called MILO, that uses a screen to play videos. Officers go "armed" with electronic firearms and tasers for the training. The "screen" puts the officers in many different scenarios law enforcement officers face. Veese invited committee members to come and observe, and gave some times of openings in classes.

**Next Meeting Dates:** The next meeting had been set for May 12 at the Administration Building in the County Board meeting room at 8:15 a.m. The proposed date for June was set today for June 9, 2021, continuing at the Admin Building at 8:15 a.m.

**Travel Requests:** There were no travel requests.

**Chairperson's Comments:** John Mastalir thanked all present today, and he wished Director Nollenberg a nice vacation.

**Other Matters as Authorized by Law:** Scott Jahnke asked Chief Deputy what the procedures were when a “Silver Alert” is issued statewide, and that elderly person is “found” in Kewaunee County. It was explained a tele-type message is sent to the issuing county, and arrangements are made with the parties that originally reported the missing person to come and pick up the party. They will either wait on site of the traffic stop, or bring the party somewhere safe until family comes for them.

Doug asked if the jail tour was mandatory for the committee, as he has toured it many times, both as a member of this committee and the original jail study group, and he knows what needs to be done. It was explained, by State Statute, a tour is to be offered annually, but it is not mandatory he does the tour.

*(59.54 (15) ANNUAL INSPECTION. At least once each year the board of each county, or a committee thereof, shall visit, inspect and examine each jail maintained by the county, as to health, cleanliness and discipline, and the keeper of the jail shall lay before the board or the committee a calendar setting forth the name, age and cause of committal of each prisoner. If it appears to the board or committee that any provisions of law have been violated or neglected, the board or the committee shall immediately give notice of the violation to the district attorney of the county.)*

**Adjourned:** Doug Doell made the motion to adjourn, and Joe Lukes seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Minutes provided by:  
Mary Berkovitz, Recording Secretary