

Kewaunee County Public Safety & Justice Committee Minutes
October 13, 2021

The Public Safety & Justice Committee meeting was held on October 13, 2021 in the County Board Room, at the Kewaunee County Administration Building.

Call to Order: Scott Jahnke called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

Members Present: Joe Lukes, Doak Baker, Doug Doell , and Scott Jahnke. EOC Director Tracy Nollenberg, Sheriff Matt Joski, and Chief Deputy Jason Veaser. John Mastalir absent.

Guests Present: Daniel Olson, Scott Feldt, Lynn Thompson, Mike Buraczewski, Kate Phillips, Leanna Franklin, Keith Bancroft, Dory Stein.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Doak Baker, and second made by Joe Lukes. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from September 8, 2021 was made by Doug Doell. Second was made by Joe Lukes. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Keith Bancroft of Pine Grove Road in Kewaunee County addressed the committee first, with his concerns of the vulgar & obscene signs and flags around Kewaunee County. Bancroft's concerns of the lewd and obscene signs are inappropriate conduct, thus being disorderly conduct and believes WI Statutes in Chapter 944 identifies these signs as such. He asked the committee to address the vulgarity before it gets worse. He did share his concerns in writing for the committee.

Kate Phillips of the City of Kewaunee shared how streaming business, Netflix, does not allow any titles of shows run on their network to excite hate, and violence, and she believes the vulgar signs promote this, much like billboards do for advertising.

Lynn Thompson, from the Village of Casco, shared her concerns how these signs are put out on emotional basis, and have no rational to them. She has had comments made to her by visitors of how disrespectful the signs are to those exposed to them, and the signs give a bad impression of Kewaunee County. She recently had her two grandchildren, aged 5 and 7 ask her "grandma, why do those signs have the no-no word on them". She is concerned how many other children in our county are exposed to this?

Dory Stein of the Town of Pierce, stated these vulgar signs do not send a welcoming message to visitors to Kewaunee County, or residents. In her community involvements over her years of teaching, and other groups, respect has been very important. The signs are abusive, and hurtful in her belief, and construed as hate speech. Words such as used in some of these signs cannot be used on TV during certain hours, and she questions how we can allow them to be publicly displayed for family and children to view.

This topic will be addressed later on in the agenda today.

AGENDA:

Emergency Management:

- a. Review 2020 Budget to date/2022 Budget proposal There were no questions or concerns on either the current 2021 budget or the 2022 budget that was proposed.
- b. Review Upcoming training/exercise: They recently held the Point Beach exercise that was evaluated by FEMA last month. This went very well, and of the 13 criteria we are evaluated on, we passed all 13.
- c. Update on sirens: There are 13 sirens that are scheduled to come down by the end of the year or early 2022. In regards to the five remaining sirens, Tracy has reached out to Point Beach regarding transferring sounding systems from what is currently used to a different system to be decided. Tracy spoke about Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS). This system is a wireless emergency alert (WEA) that goes to cell phones. Kewaunee County currently does not have IPAWS, but we do have a software platform (RAVE) we could pay for and could have IPAWS capability added. It would involve online training (free/provided by FEMA) for those that would be giving the alerts, to know the types of messages that can be put out. The fee to set up IPAWS is a one-time fee with our current Mass Emergency Notification platform. IPAWS alerts any cell phone within the area. Kewaunee has a Memorandum of Understanding with Manitowoc County to have them send a WEA alert, using IPAWS on our behalf in the event of a nuclear incident. Wisconsin Emergency Management has IPAWS authority to send out WEA messages throughout the state, and we could use their service, but having our own would eliminate a middle man. The difference between RAVE and IPAWS is with RAVE you have to get citizens to register, where the IPAWS system goes to all cell phones in the area. It is a web-based system, so Tracy would be able to use from her office. Kewaunee County could not use for Amber Alerts, as that is handled by a different agency. Joe Lukes reminded Tracy to put out a public announcement again to sign up for the RAVE alerts (which is tied to your address). The sheriff department asked if there was a way they could have personnel look at an operating IPAWS system before deciding on this, and choose who they would train if this is not too difficult. They don't want to burden the already tasked dispatchers if this is a difficult system.
- d. Grant applications & closings: Tracy will be closing out the Emergency Management Performance Grant and the Emergency Planning Right-to-Know Act grants with the financial close out section due by the end of this month. The Computer and Hazmat grant will be closed out by the end of this year. Tracy shared her office received information about a "Refueling Readiness Grant Program" and that has been forwarded on to various organizations throughout the county for them to follow up with and apply for if they choose. This is a grant opportunity from Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation (OEI) and Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin for gas station/convenience stores/highway shops and for bulk fuel storage facilities. There

was no grant, but Tracy was able to get free signs for the highway department. They are “When Flooded, Turn Around, Don’t Drown” signs. They have been delivered to the Highway Department.

Sheriff’s Office:

- a. Review of 2021 Budget to date/2022 Budget proposal Sheriff Joski explained there are no alarming notifications on the current budget that are out of the ordinary on the report with numbers from August. He did make the committee aware that the department has had a number of highly involved cases in the past 3 weeks, which will impact our budget. These numbers won’t show until we get the October numbers. He just wanted this to be noted, so it is not a “surprise”. The department is fortunate the WI Department of Criminal Investigation is assisting in two of these cases, as our department does not have the manpower/staffing for these intense investigations. The only thing of note in the 2022 proposed budget involves the outlay item of the floor drain at the evidence building. It was in the proposed budget originally, then removed because there were no current bids. The sheriff’s department received updated bids on the floor drain and it has been included back into the proposed budget for 2022 that was submitted. Doak Baker inquired why the budget updates were not in their emailed packet for this meeting. No one had an answer to this.
- b. Staffing Update: Sheriff Joski announced he has received a notice of retirement, which will create a cascade of vacancies in the next few months. Also, there are a few others that potentially will be leaving law enforcement, one is leaving for another agency and another will be leaving to go back to school and change careers. The newest staff are doing well. The department is continuing our recruitment efforts. Sheriff Joski notes what we lack in quantity we make up in our quality of staff. Chief Deputy Veaser stressed it is important we fill the vacancies to avoid stress on our current staff. We can’t afford to be down 4 people, if all of the people that are potentially leaving go at once. The eligibility list is working well, and we continue to post at the local colleges. The department has cut the interview process from 2.5 months down to 2 weeks. The candidates are given all the dates upfront. The jail is still looking for a cook. The position has been re-posted, with some adjustments made to the wage.
- c. Review of Overtime by Category : Chief Deputy Veaser shared a handout breaking down the overtime year to date, with comparisons to 2019 and 2020, along with a list of contributing factors in overtime thus far in 2021. He reiterated the recent investigations on the high priority cases in which DCI has actually taken on about 50% of the investigation and interviews; or that would all be overtime on the department. The comparisons from previous years are pretty close to this year so far.
- d. Update on Jail Study Process: Sheriff Joski explained how the study group started with the original budget to build the new jail in January, and have refined the layout, and made cuts, and were able to get the project costs down, but due to time, and costs, it has increased again. The study group is scheduled to tour the new, recently opened jail in Calumet County on October 29th. This will give us a “feel” for size comparison in our

plan. Daniel Olson expressed his concerns on dealing with the economy and inflation in this process. There is another jail study meeting this Friday, and options will be looked at. Olson shared the pressure of finding savings and then to have to deal with the lost savings because of the current economy is frustrating, Joe Lukes asked the study committee share their findings at the full county board. Olson said he will be able to show the full board the details and shared he is impressed with what was done, but there needs to be significant discussion and there will be significant pressures to get this project underway.

- e. Update on current Grants: (Covid, Click It or Ticket, Speed Enforcement) Sheriff Joski stated the all of the Covid grant has been used to purchase many items that normally would have been in the normal budget. The only items left are to get and install the AVI boards for at the court house and in the safety building. The Click it or Ticket grant is one we receive every year, mostly because Kewaunee County typically are not good about wearing seat belts, and it is based on tickets issued for not wearing them. Kewaunee County has not received the Speed Enforcement grant in a while. This grant is based on accident reports, where speed is involved. These grants will allow us to put an extra deputy on to monitor "problem areas".

Chief Deputy had shared handouts on the inmate/jail population. He explained our census has been coming back up slowly, and the current average is 27.47% daily. This is in part due to Probation and Parole starting to place holds again.

- f. Discussion on possible ordinance regarding vulgarities on signs. Sheriff Joski informed he has been doing outreach in regards to the concerns and complaints being made in the county in regards to the displays of "vulgar" signs. The discussions with Corp Counsel keep coming back to it is "protected speech". Joski explained if we adopt a county ordinance, we have to be very careful. We don't have enough legal grounds as it is now, to do anything. Unfortunately, this is where we are as a country, culture, and our standards are at. Joe Lukes asked if the local townships can do anything, and it was shared law enforcement cannot go after the "content" of a sign. They can do something about the size, and easement placement, but nothing if on private property. There is something in place for political signs having to be removed when they are adjacent to a roadway only. Dan Olson shared his concerns on the sheriff's department being "strapped" for personnel now, and how it would be possible for them to enforce such an ordinance, and the possible costly litigation we could face in doing so. Olson stated we can't legislate morality, we need to teach that. It was shared, social media should be a starting point to end this hate and anger, and try to "shut it off". Doug Doell thanked the sheriff for talking to these people displaying the vulgar signs. He believes most of them are "getting a kick" out of the attention, and if we just ignore it long enough, it will go away.

Scott Jahnke shared some concerns that were raised at a recent "Parks" meeting on problems occurring at the ATV park on CTH L. There has been a continuing problem with alcohol consumption at the park. It has come to a point where it is known as a "party park" and attracting people from all around, because they can drink in this ATV

park. The county has worked with both the sheriff's department and the DNR, but it is impossible to "police" this park at all times. Discussion on a possible ordinance to not allow alcohol in the park, and a zero tolerance was discussed. Administrator Feldt shared that committee can specify only certain parks can have special restrictions, such as no alcohol. If there were special events held there that want to serve alcohol, they could apply for a permit to serve.

Next Meeting Dates: The next meeting had been set for November 10, at the Administration Building in the County Board meeting room at 8:15 a.m. Discussion took place, as Director Nollenberg currently has a conflict, and would not be present, unless the workshop is cancelled due to low participation. The meeting will be held on November 10th if Tracy's workshop is cancelled, and if her workshop is held, the November meeting will be cancelled. December 8, 2021 is the proposed date for December to be held in the County Board Room at the Administrative Building.

Travel Requests: No travel requests.

Chairperson's Comments: Scott had no comments as he sat in at chair today.

Other Matters as Authorized by Law: Ms. Stein, one of the public guests, asked what committee, or department of the county she should be talking with in regards to getting a speed limit lowered in an area in the Township of Pierce. Stein was informed to start with her township, and she could also address it with the Highway Safety committee that meets. Sheriff Joski will bring this up at the next Highway Safety meeting.

Adjourned: Doug Doell made the motion to adjourn, and Joe Lukes seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Minutes provided by:
Mary Berkovitz, Recording Secretary