

Kewaunee County Public Safety & Justice Committee Minutes
November 11, 2020

The Public Safety & Justice Committee meeting was held on November 11, 2020 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, and Chief Deputy David Cornelius. Sheriff Matt Joski was excused. Lt. Jason Veaser was present as the incoming Chief Deputy upon David Cornelius' retirement in January 2021

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 October 14, 2020 was made by Scott Jahnke. Doug Doell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Agenda:

Justice Reports: None.

Emergency Management:

- a. Review of 2020 Budget to date: Director Nollenberg reports her budget is on schedule. She announced they recently received the distribution check of the emergency management portion for 2019. It was just over \$2,000. Nollenberg has also submitted the 2020 reimbursement for EMPG and EPCRA . We should receive that in the next few months.
- b. Review Upcoming Training/Exercises: Earlier this week Nollenberg attended a virtual table top presentation put on by the state. The topic of discussion was how we would handle long term power outages at the state and county levels. Director Nollenberg has been in the process of preparing a PPE distribution plan. It will lay out the terms on how the PPE is distributed. The final plan is near completion.
- c. Update on Sirens: Nollenberg reports nothing has changed since last months report. She did respond via an email to Point Beach and has not received any response. There was mention about when Point Beach relinquishes the towers, but no significant communication at this time.
- d. Brief on COVID-19: Kewaunee County held their monthly Covid brief yesterday via Zoom. Public Health gave an overview of the positive cases being seen in our county.
- e. Virtual EOC Brief update: Along with Public Health's update, UW Extension gave updates for the farmers in the county during Covid. Law Enforcement shared how they

are maintaining safety in the jail, along with the safety of staff. Red Cross has been doing business mostly virtually. It was shared there are three locations available for Kewaunee County residents to be tested for Covid at this time which include, Bellin Health and Prevea in Kewaunee, along with Door County Medical Center in Algoma.

It was asked if the PPE supplies have been sufficient for the local rescue agencies. Nollenberg shared that all of the PPE supplies she has received, most requests from the agencies have been filled from those supplies. She has gotten some things that have not been requested, but also has heard of other PPE we may be receiving in the future, such as pulse-oximeters. A letter is sent out with what we have available when we receive them, and the various groups/agencies can request what they use/want. She said some of the agencies have slowed on their requests, and this is probably because they have been able to order supplies on their own, and it is not as problematic as it had been earlier this year.

Joe Lukes asked if there was any concerns of Kewaunee County employees receiving Covid pay if they become ill with it. He noted Brown County was currently having an issue of renewing payment to officers who were off with Covid. Lt. Veesser explained that the sheriff's department officers are allotted 80 hours of covid pay, separate from their own sick time. Once that 80 hours has been exhausted, then personal sick time is used. Our department has only had one officer use the entire 80 hours.

Sheriff's Office:

- a. Review of 2020 Budget to date: Chief Deputy Dave Cornelius gave the sheriff's department reports in the absence of Sheriff Joski. He reported the sheriff's department budget is good at this point and doing well. He pointed out overtime wages have gone up recently. Mostly due to officers taking their holiday and vacation time, which they were not doing while on the covid schedule earlier this year. We will be receiving approximately \$13,000 from the Click It or Ticket program which will also offset some of the overtime expense, for our deputies to perform this program. Cornelius also reminded the transfer to Outlay which will be needed to cover the recording/video equipment that needed to be replaced (informed of this last month). Overall, the sheriff's department budget is doing very well.
- b. Review of Overtime by Category: Chief Deputy Cornelius handed out the 2020 overtime summary as of November 10, 2020. The open shifts have gone up a little since last month, and that is due to the vacation/holidays the deputies are now using, which is causing some overtime. Cornelius recommended that some language should probably be considered next time contract negotiations take place, to help avoid this in the future. He shared the training hours are considerably lower this year compared to last, also due to covid, and no in person trainings have been taking place. The saturation patrol hours are up due to the Click it or Ticket Program, which will be reimbursed.
- c. Update on Facility Improvement Study Committee/Inmate Census Report: On the inmate census report which was shared, the census has slowly coming up again. We are at 16 in-house, and 9 inmates on bracelet. The revenues are starting to come back due to this. There has been no change in the Facility Improvement since last month.

- d. **Staffing & Chief Deputy Position Update:** Cornelius announced he was part of the hiring/replacement of his position of Chief Deputy and was pleased to introduce Lt. Jason Veeseer as the new Chief Deputy effective in January when Cornelius retires. Veeseer then gave a brief summary of his history in law enforcement and his 24 years with the Kewaunee County Sheriff's Department, and the various positions he has held up to his current position for the last 5 years as Operations Lieutenant. Veeseer expressed his excitement to begin this new chapter. It was shared that Chief Deputy David Cornelius is the longest running Chief Deputy in the State of Wisconsin. Cornelius shared it has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Chief Deputy all these years. Cornelius updated that Hailee Wolf has completed her FTO program, and has been added into the regular dispatch schedule. Marc Ristow had resigned recently, after making it through the FTO. Due to this resignation and the retirement "opening", it will leave the department down 2 positions. The department has been authorized to begin testing on December 5th. We currently have one out on FMLA for a serious medical issue. On January 6, 2021 we have one of our deputies enrolled to attend Police Recruit school to get certified to go to a road patrol position. With the "domino effect" that will start in the next 3 to 5 years with retirements, etc. it is important to get staff trained in order to make smooth transitions. The newest hires will need to attend Jail schools beginning in 2021 into early 2022.

It was asked if there is anything of similar concern coming from the exit interviews of those that resigned, and the majority of them state the dispatching is grueling. Some discussion took place on the dual roles of dispatching and jailing in our jail, and how they are two separate skill sets, and it would be much easier to hire separately, but due to our unique situation we currently have to dual role these positions. It was explained the importance of moving the hiring process along and filling the positions to help reduce the stress. If we would reach the point where we would have 3 or more openings, it would be tough on the department in many aspects such as the stress, the overtime, etc. We are unique in that the state allows us to dual role, and that we only have to have a minimum of two people in the jail/dispatch at a time. If this wasn't allowed we would have to have 2 jailers and 2 dispatchers which is the minimum state requirement at this time.

- e. **Update regarding impact of COVID-19 on Sheriff's Department operations:** The department has some tests pending at this time. We have implemented a "covid schedule" with the administrative assistants where one works from home and the other at the office on a rotating schedule. Dispatch is a big concern, and it was shared a local dispatch center was down to two healthy personnel, as all others were out with covid. They were asking retired employees to come in to help it is so bad. We have addressed the possibility if it got that bad in our dispatch, and we could call in the last five deputies that have gone to the road. We are looking at doing a "re-training" of dispatch duties with these five, in the case we would have to call on them to come back to cover. Lt. Veeseer shared that the Skytron disinfecting "robot" which Sheriff Joski purchased with grant monies, is arriving later today, and training will take place this afternoon. Plans are to use this mainly in the jail, but it will be available for use in the court house and other county buildings if need be.

Nollenberg shared that with the recent outbreaks of Covid in the county CBRF's there have been some staffing issues, and the county CBRF's were informed they can reach out to emergency management for help with staffing. One of our facilities has done this already.

- f. Information regarding re-configuration of Drug Task Force: Chief Deputy Cornelius explained the history of the Door Kewaunee County Drug Task Force which originated in 1988 with both Door and Kewaunee Counties, each supplying investigators to handle drug investigations. At that time, the task force was funded with grant monies, which discontinued around 2005. To fund the task force the agencies belonging to it all paid dues amounting to a little over \$30,000. In the early days we also received monies from seizures (one that was significant is what gave the funds a boost of about \$60,000). Since the grants and seizure monies are now basically non-existent, the task force relies strictly on the dues paid by the agencies (KPD, APD, LPD, SBPD, and Door and Kewaunee County Sheriff's departments). In approximately the last 18 months, Door County has expressed some concerns, and it has come to the point where we will disband the Door Kewaunee Drug Task Force and each county will operate their own drug division. With this split the task force will need to split the finances in half to each county. Kewaunee County has spoken with Paul Kunesh and Scott Feldt on how this money is to remain in a drug unit fund and only to be used for this function. It was explained this is similar to the jail assessment monies a few years ago, where it has to remain in a separate fund only for drug unit use. Paul Kunesh is in the process of setting this account up. Kewaunee County will still include KPD, APD, and LPD, and will be updating their funding/dues schedule. We also will still work with Door County if needed, as mutual aid in drug cases.

Next Meeting Dates: The next meeting had been set for December 9, 2020 at the Administration Building in the County Board meeting room at 8:15 a.m. The proposed date for January is January 13, 2021, continuing at the Admin Building at 8:15 a.m.

Travel Requests: There were no travel requests by either Emergency Management or the Sheriff's Department.

Chairperson's Comments: John Mastalir thanked all the committee members for being present today, and for Mary taking the minutes.

Other Matters as Authorized by Law: Nothing to discuss

Adjourned: Doug Doell made the motion to adjourn, and Doak Baker seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Minutes provided by:
Mary Berkovitz, Recording Secretary