

**Kewaunee County Public Safety & Justice Committee Minutes  
June 9, 2021**

The Public Safety & Justice Committee meeting was held on June 9, 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 (Doug arrived at 8:19), and Scott Jahnke. EOC Director Tracy Nollenberg, Sheriff Matt Joski, and Chief Deputy Jason Veaser. Cindy Kudick of Child Support was also present

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

**Approve Minutes:** Motion was not necessary as minutes were approved at the last county board meeting.

**Public Comment:** No Public comment.

**AGENDA:**

**Justice Reports:** Coordinator, Cindy Kudick of Kewaunee County Child Support was present to present a resolution to the committee. She explained the resolution has already been passed by 50 of the counties in the state. This resolution is in support of increased county child support funding, which includes approximately 4 million dollars going into the state budget for 2021-2023 for child support. Kudick explained if this resolution is not passed child support could be in jeopardy of not getting monies. Currently most of the monies Kewaunee County Child Support gets is from "performance" (child support). Kudick also shared her department received two awards recently, one was a certificate of excellence and the other was an outstanding achievement award.

Joe Lukes made the motion to support the resolution presented by Kudick. A second was made by Doak Baker. Motion carried.

**Emergency Management:**

- a. **Review 2020 Budget to date:** Director Nollenberg stated the budget is on schedule. She shared reimbursement from a Covid 19 grant was recently received in the amount of \$13,000 for 2020.
- b. **Review Upcoming Training/Exercises:** Emergency Management continues to assist when necessary in the vaccine clinics by Public Health. The Point Beach exercises are coming up in August and September. Tracy updated that her department had 414.25

hours donated by volunteers that helped with the vaccine clinics so far. The department is looking into possibly using the command unit to utilize as a “mobile clinic”, much like Brown County used the city busses. This is just in the discussion phase at this time. Discussion on vaccine numbers in the county took place. It was stated most of these questions needed to be addressed with Public Health.

- c. Update on Sirens: Nollenberg informed a letter will go out to municipalities in the 10 mile emergency planning zone along with some outside the immediate area, where sirens are located and no longer maintained by Point Beach. Tracy, along with Manitowoc County and Point Beach have authored this letter together, and it explains the steps the municipalities should take in regards to their wishes on the sirens located in their areas.

#### **Sheriff's Office:**

- a. Review of 2021 Budget to date: Sheriff Joski noted our budget is currently overall at 33%. Much of this is due to the unplanned expenses in the jail such as the cots, the plumbing, toilets, furnace etc., which needed to be addressed per the jail inspector, since Phase III was not passed. Joski notes most of the large purchases in outlay have been completed for 2021 already at the “front-end” of the year, so that should level out. These purchases include squads and equipment. Chief Deputy Veaser stated it has been discussed with Paul Kunesh as there is a slightly higher benchmark showing in the jail wages. It is believed this should be lower, with being short staffed for almost 9 months. The employee wellness is used up, and will probably go over this year. The department is sending officers to meet with a professional counselor when they are involved in extra-ordinary calls. We recently had officers involved with suicidal calls where they had personal relationships with the person involved, and there was a suicide where there were children at the scene. We are encouraging our officers to use these services to maintain their own mental health. Again, as said before, training will be high this year as we get back to training that was postponed during 2020 due to Covid 19. Active shooter training is coming up. Doak Baker questioned the Juvenile and Adult prisoner expenses. It was shared we are not seeing as many sent out, but the court system is still not back up to “normal” and we are still seeing some “residual” from 2020. We just received our first bill in 2021 for juvenile services in Sheboygan County. We are also at liberty of the accepting facilities, if they will take our inmates or not. Door County has refused to take some of our females. Oconto County is usually our second option. Lt. VanErem was credited with his effective scheduling. Interpreting services were asked about, and Sheriff Joski shared this is driven by the incident.
- b. Staffing Update: Sheriff Joski explained the cascading position openings that were caused by the retirement of Chief Deputy Cornelius. Deputy Vandermoss began his position as investigator this week, and Deputy Jacob Jandrin who was the cross-trained officer from the jail, has assumed his position as a road patrol deputy. Sgt. Brett Reimer was chosen through recent interviews as the next to cross-train from the jail, and he will begin that training in the near future. His sergeant position has been posted, and

interviews will be held. We are doing interviews for the eligibility list on June 14<sup>th</sup>. This is the first time there are actually no vacancies; and we are doing interviews to fill the eligibility list and not a position. Chief Deputy Ve eser added that the deputy that was out on military leave is back. Of our two trainees in the jail, one is completed, and the other will be done in about two weeks. We have one deputy out on maternity leave, and one off on a work-related injury. We have another deputy who will be out on a two-week military leave coming up.

- c. Review of Overtime by Category : A handout on the overtime was shared. The department is currently at 907 hours in 2021. Ve eser stated we are in a pretty good place as far as staffing now, and the overtime should start to level off. We have no control in the overtime caused by holidays. We may see some increase in overtime due to training as we ramp up from the delayed training in 2020.
- d. Update on Jail Study Process: Sheriff Joski said the county has reached out to Venture, along with others to begin the conversation to possibly limit phase 3 to a floor plan to refine and bring down the project cost. The sheriff believes this project needs to move forward, but instill to the county board they are in charge and can still refine the project. Joski believes nothing that has been done since January has done anything for the jail project, and we need to agree to move to Phase III to move forward. Discussions on the jail inspector's compliance list took place, and whether Nancy would relax some of these if we get back on track and show good faith that we are again moving forward with a new jail. Chief Deputy Ve eser's take is that everyone seems to be in agreement on leaning towards a new facility, due to the layout of the current jail being so out of date and unsafe for staff and inmates. It is to the point we have to stick money into the current jail, even though it is "bad money", due to the state it is in.
- e. Presentation on Active Shooter Training Chief Deputy Ve eser shared how Kewaunee County handles our active shooter training which is geared to utilizing our sources in a very different way than larger sized agencies. Kewaunee County uses the local fire departments and their vehicles, and they are included in our trainings. Rescue is also utilized. The trainer has put together training scenario's and the training will include all law enforcement agencies in the county, along with fire and rescue. We are looking forward to getting back to a regular training for these important trainings. We have learned from every active shooting incident beginning back at "Columbine", to the "Aurora movie theater" incident in Colorado. Every event has taught law enforcement something to that they can improve on the response to these incidents. Ve eser has also held active shooter trainings with the public, which included county employees recently.
- f. Update on submission for Corona Virus Grant: Sheriff Joski has received a verbal acknowledgement that Kewaunee County has received monies in the second round of the Covid 19 grant. He shared we will received \$87,000, which will be for mounted AV screens in the jail and the conference room at the court house, new "wireless" download equipment for WatchGuard so officers will be able to download their squad video from the squads, rather than having to manually bring the unit into the building and download onto the computer. All law enforcement agencies in the county were asked for their needs and put in for items in this grant. LPD requested an MDC which was approved and KPD requested air purifiers, which were also approved. A high

temperature pressure washer for the evidence building is also part of this grant. The evidence building will need a trench drain in the evidence building eventually. Updated Microsoft programs for our computers, and needle resistant gloves were also part of this grant. Everything requested in this grant had to be aimed to have a connection to Covid 19. Sheriff Joski will inform the committee once he receives the formal notice on this grant.

It was asked why no jail population/census was shared today. It was explained the jail lieutenant was out of the office this week, and Sheriff Joski stated he would obtain that once Lt. VanErem is back, and he will email that to committee members.

**Next Meeting Dates:** The next meeting had been set for July 14 at the Administration Building in the County Board meeting room at 8:15 a.m. This meeting may be cancelled, and notice will be sent at a later time and date if that happens. The proposed date for August was set today for August 11, 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 including Mary for taking minutes

**Other Matters as Authorized by Law:** Doug Doell inquired if it is true there have been a rash/rise in thefts in the county, and in particular Luxemburg lately. Sheriff Joski, shared most of the thefts in Kewaunee County, have been "solved" pretty quickly, and charges are being filed, in particular the rash of catalytic converters that were being stolen. There was a theft at a business that LPD is handling. Joski had no update on that incident. Social media was discussed as being both an asset and a hindrance in these cases.

Chief Deputy informed the committee that Kewaunee County Sheriff's Department will be sending our Honor Guard to Door County this afternoon for the funeral services of a 30 year veteran of the Door County Sheriff's Department who passed.

Nollenberg reminded all of the detours in Kewaunee County, those being the STH 42 from the south city limits of Kewaunee to the county line with Manitowoc County, and the one that will begin next week on CTH C. She just wanted to remind everyone and to be aware of these when driving.

**Adjourned:** Doug Doell made the motion to adjourn, and Doak Baker seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Minutes provided by:  
Mary Berkovitz, Recording Secretary