

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Minutes – August 18, 2014

Call to Order. Chair Beaver called the meeting of the Public Safety and Justice Committee to order at 4:00 P.M. on August 18, 2014 in the Conference Room at the Sheriff's Office.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Beaver, Brill, Fell, Kraft and Podzilni.

Committee Members Excused: Supervisors Knudson and Wiedenfeld.

Staff Members Present: Sheriff Spoden, Chief Deputy Barb Tillman, Commander Erik Chellevold and Captain Craig Strouse, Sheriff's Office; Josh Smith, County Administrator; Randy Terronez and Nick Osborne, Assistants to the County Administrator; Jeff Kuglitsch, Corporation Counsel; Jodi Timmerman, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Dave O'Connell, Human Resources Director; Kathy Sukus, 911 Communications Center Director; Louis Smit, Chief Deputy Coroner.

Others Present: Supervisors Mary Mawhinney, Wes Davis and Kathy Schulz; Nancy Stabb; Tony Farrell Sr.; Cathy Idzerda, Janesville Gazette; Kay and Neil Deupree; Jerry Lynch, Whitcomb-Lynch Funeral Home; Brian Mark, Mark Funeral Home.

Adoption of Agenda. Supervisor Fell moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Brill. ADOPTED.

Adoption of Minutes. Supervisor Brill moved approval of the minutes of August 4, 2014 as presented, second by Supervisor Fell. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications, Announcement, Information. Mr. Lynch, Whitcomb-Lynch Funeral Home, said he strongly recommends the County go with Dane County Medical Examiner's Office as the Rock County Coroner's Office has been in disarray for many years. He said that even though this would mean a little more money he feels this would be money well spent. The Dane County Medical Examiner's Office would bring a level of professionalism that is lacking in the Rock County Coroner's Office.

Mr. Farrell said that September is Suicide Prevention Month and he will be giving presentations at the Hedberg Public Library on September 3rd at 6:30 P.M. and Beloit Public Library on September 4th at 6:30 P.M. He said the program is a joint effort, a countywide program. September 10th is International World Suicide Day and the week of September 7th through September 13th is Suicide Prevention Week. YES (Youth Emotional Stability) is sponsoring a walk/run on September 27th at 4 P.M. at the Rock County Fairgrounds.

Mr. Smit said he felt the intent, when he started five years ago, of the County Board was to have more control over the Medical Examiner (ME) system, which he feels, if the County goes with Dane County, would not be the case. Also, the Dane County option would cost more money. He said he also has concern that going with the Dane County option would be 1.5 less staff for more money. He said he feels there are hidden costs that are not being shown in the Dane County option. He said it was not listed how Dane County would be taking the bodies to and from their office. Mr. Smit said that Mercy Hospital is putting in a new autopsy table; autopsies at Mercy Hospital cost \$1,100 and Dane County charges \$1,400, which adds up to quite a bit of money. He said the office gets along with the doctors at Dane County and get answers to questions free of charge. Mr. Smit said they had

60 autopsies done and, if they continue at the same rate, will be on track for 70 autopsies this year. He said if things continue the way they have in Rock County they will need two vehicles to go back and forth to Dane County with the bodies. He said he feels Rock County would do as well as Dane County for less money by keeping it here.

Commander Chellevoid said he came in a little late and requested to have item #9 removed as it needed more work.

Supervisor Brill moved to amend the agenda to remove item 9, second by Supervisor Fell. ADOPTED.

Discussion and Direction on Medical Examiner Transition. Mr. Terronez said the County has been working on the Medical Examiner (ME) transition since last year; obtaining information; looking at proposals to stand alone with a non-medical ME and contract with a larger facility for medical services; and was approached by Dane County Medical Examiner's Office to contract with them. He said he met with Law/Fire/EMS agencies and Funeral Home directors and discussed both options. The feedback was in favor of the Dane County proposal due to a higher level of professionalism. Under both options, the following would be given more weight: case consistency as much as is lost with per diem deputies and their work with Law/Fire/EMS agencies; a need to increase the number of autopsies; all autopsies should be conducted by a pathologist – Mercy Hospital charges \$1,100 for an autopsy by their pathologist (does not include toxicology or histology testing), Dane County charges \$1,450 for an autopsy by a forensic pathologist, when comparing apples to apples the cost would be about the same.

Mr. Terronez said a standalone ME department would have 6.2 FTE employees consisting of a Chief ME (non-physician), Chief Deputy ME, Deputy ME and 3.2 FTE part time Deputy MEs; start-up costs of \$18,100 and an annualized cost (less start-up cost) of \$573,676.

The Dane County proposal would have a Lead Medicolegal Investigator, 2 Medicolegal Investigators, .6 FTE Medicolegal Investigators and .4 clerical worker in Rock County with Dane County providing an on-scene forensic pathologist for high-level cases, and the Rock County employees would work under the direction of the Dane County Medical Examiner and Deputy Medical Examiner; start-up costs of \$30,164 (which includes additional management and professional oversight during the first six months) and annualized costs (less start-up costs) of \$597,789.

Mr. Terronez said in order to have a Medical Examiner system in place by January 5, 2015 we would need to look at a 60 day transition window and to have a start date of November 1st. Staff will need authorization to draft a resolution and direction on which option to go with. He added that we may need a special Committee meeting.

Supervisor Kraft asked how long a memorandum of understanding with Dane County would be. Mr. Terronez said it would probably be year by year.

Supervisor Fell said it appears the County has been working on this for some time and he feels going with Dane County would be the way to go.

Supervisor Kraft said, from the background, it seems Dane County would bring a level of professionalism we have been looking for.

Supervisor Podzilni said he feels Dane County is the way to go.

Chair Beaver said she agreed and it looks like the Committee feels this is the direction the County needs to go with contracting with Dane County.

Discussion of District Attorney's State Budget Request for 2.0 FTE GPR Funded ADA Positions. Mr. O'Leary said the State budget is due the first of September and he will be asking for two additional Assistant District Attorney (ADA) positions. He said the latest study shows the state is down about 120 ADAs, and this will be a long term battle to get these positions.

Consent Calendar.

Transfers and Appropriations. None.

Bills/Encumbrances

Sheriff	\$	6,239.54
HIDTA Grant		214.00
RECAP Operations		127.94
Sheriff's Vehicles		1,076.25
Correctional Facility		2,756.58
Local Emergency Planning Committee		622.44
911 Project Operations		242,992.90
Deferred Prosecution/Domestic Violence		40.00
Child Support		589.46

Pre-Approved Encumbrance Amendments. None.

Supervisor Brill said he will be abstaining from voting on 23-2400-0000-62420 911 Project Operations. Supervisor Fell moved approval of the above Transfers and Appropriations, Bills and Encumbrances and Pre-Approved Encumbrance Amendments for the Public Safety & Justice Committee, second by Supervisor Brill. ADOPTED.

Resolutions.

Authorization to Purchase Digital Simulcast Equipment for the New Edgerton Tower

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this ____ day of _____, 2014 that a contract be awarded to General Communications Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin in the amount of \$201,933.90 to purchase digital simulcast equipment to improve radio coverage for law, fire and EMS agencies in Edgerton and North-Central areas of Rock County.”

Supervisor Kraft moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Brill. ADOPTED.

Amend Sheriff's Budget for Project Lifesaver

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this ____ day of _____, 2014 that the Sheriff’s budget for Project Lifesaver be amended as follows:

...”

Supervisor Brill moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Fell.
ADOPTED.

Authorizing Acceptance of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant and Amending 2014 Budget

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this ____ day of _____, 2014, does approve and authorize the acceptance of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Rock County Board of Supervisors is authorized to accept all funds on behalf of the County of Rock, the City of Beloit, and the City of Janesville; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sheriff’s Office budget for 2014 be amended as follows:

...”

Supervisor Fell moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Brill.
ADOPTED.

Committee Requests and Motions.

Schedule Tours Chair Beaver said the Rock Valley Community Programs is set for October 6, 2014.

Tour. The Committee toured the Jail from 4:26 P.M. to 5:12 P.M.

Supervisor Fell left at 5:04 P.M.

Adjournment. Supervisor Brill moved adjournment at 5:12 P.M., second by Supervisor Kraft.
ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bondehagen
Confidential Administrative Assistant

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.