



**PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes – December 7, 2020**

**Call to Order.** Chair Beaver called the meeting of the Public Safety and Justice Committee to order at 5:00 P.M. via teleconference.

**Committee Members Present via Phone/Video:** Supervisors Beaver, Knudson, Bomkamp (at 5:09 P.M.), Taylor and Rynes.

**Committee Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Members Present via Phone/Video:** Randy Terronez, Assistant to the County Administrator; Kathy Sukus., 911 Communications Center; David O’Leary, District Attorney; Captain Brent DeRemer, Sheriff’s Office; Sheriff Troy Knudson; Greg Winkler, Human Services Deputy Director.

**Others Present.** Supervisor Rick Richard; Supervisor Shirley Williams; Tom Hergert; Jeff Klenz, Harmony Town Chair; Marty Clift.

**Adoption of Agenda.** Supervisor Knudson moved approval of the agenda, second by Supervisor Taylor. ADOPTED.

**Approval of Minutes – November 23, 2020.** Supervisor Taylor moved approval of the minutes of November 23, 2020 as presented, second by Supervisor Knudson. ADOPTED.

**Public Comment.** None.

**Consent Calendar.**

**Transfers** None.

**Review of Payments** The Committee accepted the reports.

**Resolutions and Committee Approval.**

**Authorization for Radio System Equipment Upgrade**

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rock County Board of Supervisors assembled this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 that a contract be awarded to General Communications, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin, in the amount of \$226,657.50 to coordinate and implement this project.”

Supervisor Knudson moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Taylor. ADOPTED.

**Directing the Exploration of Alternative Housing Options for Sexually Violent Offenders on Supervised Release in Accordance with Chapter 980 of the Wisconsin Statutes**

**“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020 does hereby direct the Rock County Administrator to create a group of multidisciplinary stakeholders to study the issue of creating alternative housing resources for offenders placed on Chapter 980 supervised release, and that such group shall make a report to the Board of Supervisors on the feasibility of any such alternatives by \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such group shall consider multiple housing options and locations including constructing a housing complex adjacent to the Rock County Sheriff’s Office, the possibility of state funding sources in developing, acquiring, or constructing potential placement resources, and the potential offsets of future rental income from the State for housing Chapter 980 offenders in a County-owned facility. ”

Supervisor Knudson moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Taylor.

Mr. Hergert said he has a violent sex offender living a couple hundred feet from his house for 16 months; his wife will not set foot outside the house without him being with her; people are going out and purchasing guns; building something to house violent sex offenders would help with their interaction with others; maybe they would be able to find employment with someplace like Kandu; it would be less expensive for taxpayers to have a housing unit; and he said the property values in areas where they are housed now have gone down for neighbors.

Supervisor Richard said building a housing unit would be a better way to handle placements; it would be less expensive; and having a group look into the possibility of this would be a good idea.

Mr. Winkler said it was about 2 ½ to 3 years ago that the law changed from the state to the county responsibility to find placements; a committee meets when someone is released and we have to find someplace where they can live within the guidelines; they let the state know where the address is and a judge will make the determination on action; he has received some calls on concerns in the communities regarding property values, safety, etc.; he added he is not in a position to advocate, but it makes sense to look into a housing unit.

Mr. Klenz, Town of Harmony Board Chair, said when two sex offenders moved next to Mr. Hergert, he came to him and the Town of Harmony Board and we looked into some type of ordinance with no success; he said not all sex offenders are violent; there are 58 sex offenders living near the Town Hall; he said he is in favor of looking into alternatives further; and he hoped this committee would pass this resolution.

Mr. Clift relayed his concerns on his daughter-in-law and granddaughter living next to a sex offender. He said we need to protect the innocent.

Mr. Winkler stated, he is not opposed to this, he is just doing his job as per law.

Sheriff Knudson said it would be nice to find the best possible placement, and it seems a half-way house would be a better placement than a residence.

No one present was aware of anything like this being done. Mr. O’Leary added that we would need to be careful to not become a “dumping ground” for other counties to place these individuals, and to make sure only Rock County Sex offenders would be housed there.

PASSED on the following roll call vote: YES – Supervisor Bomkamp, Taylor, Knudson, Rynes and Beaver; NO – None.

**Request for Purchase – Inmate Telephone Services** Supervisor Knudson moved approval IC Solutions, San Antonio TX for Inmate telephone services for the Sheriff’s Office, second by Supervisor Rynes.

The Sheriff explained how this company will save money, give each inmate access to a tablet, and allow access to help groups, libraries, etc.

ADOPTED.

**Review, Discussion and Possible Action.**

**Set Meeting Time and Dates** The Committee discussed meeting times and dates and voted unanimously to:

January 4, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. – they will set the next meeting in January at this meeting

February 1, 2021 and February 15, 2021, both at 5:00 P.M.

March 1, 2021 and March 15, 2021, both at 5:00 P.M.

April 2021 meeting dates will be set at the March 15, 2021 meeting

May 3, 2021 and May 17, 2021, both at 5:00 P.M.

June 2021 meeting dates will be set at the May 17, 2021 meeting

First meeting in July 2021 will be set at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in June 2021

July 19, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.

August 2, 2021 and August 16, 2021, both at 5:00 P.M.

September 2021 meeting dates will be set at the August 16, 2021 meeting

October 4, 2021 and October 18, 2021, both at 5:00 P.M.

November 1, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.

Second meeting in November will be set at the November 1, 2021 meeting

December 6, 2021 and December 20, 2021, both at 5:00 P.M.

**Committee Requests and Motions.** None.

**Adjournment.** Supervisor Bomkamp moved adjournment at 5:46 P.M., second by Supervisor Knudson. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bondehagen  
Office Coordinator

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.**