

MINUTES
Iowa County – Justice Committee
February 11, 2008

- 1. The Justice Committee met in the Lower Level Meeting Room of the Sheriff's Department in the City of Dodgeville on Monday, February 11, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. and was called to order by Chairman Bill Ehr.**

- 2. Roll call was taken.**
Committee members present: Sups. Bill Ehr, Larry Steffes, Bob Bunker, LaVerne Clifton, Jack Jinkins, Phil Mrozinski, Mark Masters and Ron Benish. Excused/absent: Bob Regan.

Also present: Sup. Diane McGuire, Sheriff Steve Michek, Tari Engels, Grace Engels, Judge William Dyke, Chief Deputy Jon Pepper, and Randy Terronez, County Administrator.

- 3. Election of Officers. As a result of the committee restructuring the election of officers needed to be held:**
Chairman: Motion by Sup. Larry Steffes, second by Sup. Ron Benish to nominate Bill Ehr. Motion carried.
Vice Chairman: Motion by Sup. Bob Bunker, second by Sup. Jack Jinkins to nominate Larry Steffes. Motion carried.

- 4. Motion by Sup. Mark Masters, second by Sup. Phil Mrozinski to approve the certification of the meeting. Motion carried.**

- 5. Motion by Sup. Ron Benish, second by Sup. Larry Steffes to approve the agenda for this February 11, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.**

- 6. Motion by Sup. Larry Steffes, second by Sup. Phil Mrozinski to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2008 meeting as presented. Motion carried.**

- 7. Open session – Comments from audience /Committee members: None.**

- 8. Old Business: None**

- 9. New Business**

Circuit Court

Judge William Dyke gave an update on the Alcohol Treatment proposals that were included in the agenda packet. Based upon discussions with Neil Blackburn, the Attic proposal should be given preference. Therefore, Judge Dyke recommends representatives from Attic give a presentation to the full Board. Sup. Diane McGuire commented on earlier discussions regarding a joint Social Services

and Justice Committee meeting to hear the presentation. It was agreed to schedule a special Board meeting and Judge Dyke will get possible dates from Attic. The program would be targeting 2nd – 4th drunk driving offenders. In 2005, court records reveal 86 offenders. In 2006, there were 106 offenders and in 2007 there were 87 offenders. Offenders would serve their minimum sentence and/or pay the minimum fine. The participation would be voluntary for the balance of their sentence.

Judge Dyke also reviewed a recent study of various programs that have not proven effective in reducing recidivism and includes DARE, boot camp, etc.

Register in Probate

Tari Engels, Register in Probate was present and introduced her daughter Grace. Tari presented highlights of the Office's 2007 annual report that was included in the agenda packet. She noted the decrease in estates is due to a recent change in state law that increased the threshold to \$50,000 for estate filing. As a result of this legislation, problems have surfaced with bank accounts being emptied without full knowledge of family members. Other reasons for the decrease in estate filings include more people establishing trusts. Tari also gave background on the functions of her one-person office and includes estates-wills, mental commitments proceedings, juvenile court proceedings and serving as Judge Dyke's Judicial Assistant. The Judicial Assistant duties include calendaring for all case types including criminal and family cases, docketing as needed, and preparing the judge's correspondence/rulings, etc. She works closely with the Clerk of Circuit Court office.

Motion by Sup. LaVerne Clifton, second by Sup. Phil Mrozinski to accept the Probate in Register 2007 Annual Report and forward to the full Board, Motion carried.

Emergency Government

Homeland Security Funding

Agenda enclosure reviewed and no action is necessary.

Iowa County Fire Officers Association

The Committee was briefly updated on discussions at the County's Fire group that is looking into uniform fees.

Sheriff's Department

Animal Control Ordinance Update

Sheriff Steve Michek noted that he is working with the Humane Society Executive Director Sherry Fillmore on updating the County's ordinance and will forward the proposals through corporate counsel before bringing to the Committee. Any suggestions from Committee members would be appreciated. Chair Bill Ehr requested that the section dealing with abandonment be possibly strengthened.

Sheriff Steve Michek also distributed the Humane Society's 2007 activity report.

Employment-Department Update

Sheriff Steve Michek informed the Committee of the following:

- a. in regard to staffing items: he is waiting for results of psychological evaluations for dispatch/corrections applicants;

- b. the Village of Avoca after contracting with the department for several years has decided to hire their own full-time officer and the Sheriff's Department is assisting in the recruitment process.
- c. The Village of Rewey is investigating police coverage.
- d. The department's union personnel that have been represented by the Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) will be holding an election to possibly change unions.

Grievance Committee Chapter 49

Sheriff Steve Michek reviewed agenda enclosure. It is being recommended that a standalone committee be established consisting of two members each of the Justice Committee and the Administrative Services Committee with the Board Chair. The Chapter 59 Committee would not only hear Chapter 59 (disciplinary) grievances but non disciplinary grievances. This item will be discussed at tomorrow's Administrative Services Committee.

Building Project Update

It is anticipated that the project will be complete within the next week or so.

Sergeant Promotional Process

Sheriff Steve Michek and Chief Deputy Jon Pepper updated Committee on the process. There are six qualified candidates and the 2nd /final round of interviews will be scheduled shortly. Committee members are invited to participate.

Paging Base Station Replacement

Sheriff Steve Michek informed the Committee of the problems encountered with the 15 year-old paging base station. The equipment is central to calling out the Fire and EMS responders. Cost estimates have been obtained and copies were distributed and reviewed. Motorola/ComElec quoted \$27,839 and EIC quoted \$9,122.55. The Sheriff is recommending the low bid but does not have monies budgeted for this unforeseen event.

As there are no monies budgeted, the Committee agreed to review the budget issue prior to the end of 2008 in hopes that other funds and/or cost savings may materialize.

Motion by Sup. Mark Masters, second by Sup. Ron Benish to recommend the replacement paging base station bid to EIC in the amount of \$9,122.55 and to review the department budget prior to the end of 2008 in hopes that other funds and/or cost savings may materialize. Motion carried.

Coroner's Office

Update on February 4 Incident Costs

The Committee was updated on February 4 suicide case. The deceased was indigent and a resident of Lafayette County. Efforts through Iowa County Social Services proved unsuccessful in obtaining Lafayette County's acceptance of costs. The bill was \$875 and will be charged to the Coroner's budget. Corporation Counsel will be requested to attempt to recover costs from the family and/or Lafayette County.

9. The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., at the Sheriff's Department Lower Level Conference Room.

10. Motion by Sup. Larry Steffes, second by Sup. Ron Benish to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Minutes by Randy Terronez, County Administrator

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