

Manitowoc County Public Safety Committee  
Manitowoc County Public Health Building, Room 205

September 14, 2016 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: Chairperson Rick Henrickson, Supervisor Randy Vogel, Supervisor James Falkowski, Supervisor Dave Nickels and County Board Chairman Jim Brey.

Excused: Supervisor Jack Nasep

Others in attendance: Register in Probate Patricia Koppa, Sheriff Robert Hermann, District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre, Family Court Commissioner Lorene Mozinski

Chairperson Rick Henrickson called the meeting to order at 05:00 p.m. Roll call circulated.

Minutes Chairperson Henrickson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2016 committee meeting. Motion was made by Supervisor James Falkowski seconded by Supervisor Dave Nickels. Unanimous vote to approve.

Public Comment: Chairperson Rick Henrickson called three times for public comment. Seeing none, public comment was closed at 05:02 p.m.

Department Reports:

District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre mentioned having mailed information to supervisors regarding her State Budget request. It is same request made in 2014; a request for two additional assistant district attorneys with the hope of getting at least one. The physical space for one is available but fitting in two would be difficult and require some other changes from the county. The informational packet included results from a State study showing that Manitowoc should have an additional 2.73 Full time equivalent positions. Also discussion regarding the doubling, nearly tripling of felony charges over the last several years – there will be more than 800 filed this year. Supervisor Nickels moved that the committee support the request and direct that a resolution be prepared. Motion seconded by Supervisor Falkowski. Motion approved unanimously. Ms. Koppa will assist

with the logistics to get the resolution prepared, as Atty. LaBre will be in the office on a limited basis over the next several weeks.

Patricia Koppa reported as Register in Probate regarding that office. The purging and elimination of unnecessary documents from old probate files, a project that has been ongoing for many years, has been completed. Several cabinets have been freed up and will be removed creating space within the office and improve movement. Transferring files that are more than 75 years old to the State Historical Society is the next major goal in regard to old files.

Another milestone, as of 2016, all newly filed cases are being retained electronically. There is no paper file. This is in anticipation of electronic filing. All active files must be electronic before the county is eligible to transition to mandatory e-filing by attorneys. Some back-scanning of previously filed matters will be needed. This has begun for guardianship cases, the mostly group in which old cases will be active.

These projects were completed with the past assistance of interns and current work of a participant in a federal training program for seniors. Such help does not address the need for coverage when staff is out of the office or the need for succession planning. The concern remains that there is no one to take over when both the Register and the deputy are out. There is minimal call in assistance allocated in the budget but this is really just someone to take messages and open mail. Currently a retired former employee is filling that role. This has allowed some additional routine duties to be assigned. There is no training of someone for the long term.

Final report was from Sheriff Robert Hermann. The sheriff reported he was at a conference in August as a guest of the host. Spoke on experiences in Manitowoc dealing with the media in the wake of the Netflix series and related events. Expenses were paid by the Conference host and will be reported on the necessary form in the near future. Copies of the form will be provided to the Committee members.

Sheriff Hermann presented a summary page from his current budget report showing that overall the budget is in good shape. Current figures reflect purchase of the squad cars. The budget will reflect the payouts of back pay to the entitled members of the union. This payment was not placed in the original budget and will result in a significant shortfall overall.

As for staffing, Patrol is at full force with one deputy completing training. There are two .9 openings among the correction officers. Some relief for overtime due to the availability of a temporary non-benefit employee. Background checks are being completed on several persons on the Corrections list. The nurse position remains open.

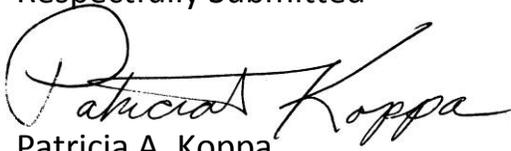
A new K-9 officer has been designated, Chris Hemauer. Funds are available in a fund to obtain a new dog. Since it will be Deputy Hemauer's first canine partner, an older dog, age 3, is being selected. The dog has dual training for drugs as well as search and rescue.

Supervisor Falkowski asked regarding using the dog in the jail to assist with searches. Drugs remain a problem but the Sheriff is budgeting for a full body scanner. It is unknown whether the executive will approve. Supervisor Nickels asked what issues arise due to the increased presence of drugs in the jail. Sheriff Hermann noted it is a health risk as well as a safety concern. There has been a death due to overdose while in custody.

Discussed the timing of the next meeting. Will meet on October 11, 2016 immediately before the County Board regarding the DA resolution and any other matters that need to be addressed.

Supervisor Nickels moved to adjourn with Supervisor Falkowski making the second. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Koppa". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patricia A. Koppa

Circuit Court Commissioner