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

February 13, 2019 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Supervisor Rick Henrickson, Supervisor Dave Nickels, Supervisor James Falkowski, and Supervisor Tye Geimer.

Excused: Chairperson Randy Vogel.

Others in attendance: Patricia Koppa, District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre and Sheriff Dan Hartwig.

Supervisor Dave Nickels called the meeting to order at 05:03 p.m. in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair. Roll call circulated. Vice Chair Henrickson arrived after the meeting began.

Minutes: Supervisor Nickels asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the January 9, 2019 committee meeting, and none being offered, asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Supervisor James Falkowski, seconded by Supervisor Tye Geimer, and unanimously approved.

Supervisor Nickels called three times for public comment. There was none and comment was closed at 5:04.

Report by District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre. She submitted her staffing request. At this point the State budget is in flux; too early to know what to expect. A Comprehensive Crime package was assembled to try to address the assistant District Attorney shortage, Public Defender private appointment reimbursement rate, and the judicial need. Package has been introduced to Assembly, Senate and Governor.

Filings from 2018: 849 felonies, continuing to increase, 714 misdemeanors, also an increase, 542 criminal traffic cases which is steady. Two retirements of note: Ann Bajdan, the victim witness coordinator retired but fortunate to hire, Mary Ann Groth, an experienced victim support specialist from Milwaukee. Assistant Mike Griesbach retired; replaced by Tony Lambrecht previously of the Public Defenders office. Tony had been a law enforcement officer prior to becoming a lawyer and was interested working in a prosecutorial capacity.

During 2018 began seeing positive results from drug court. Are doing the best they can in keeping up with hearing requirements given they are significantly understaffed for the caseload. The two staff Paralegals shoulder a lot of work.
DA LaBre then answered questions from the supervisors. Drug delivery is the most frequent charge, followed by burglary and robbery, which are also related to drug trafficking. Methamphetamine and heroin are the most common drugs. While less numerous, sexual assault and child abuse cases are time intensive. Of course the unusual number of homicides, along with the drug overdose deaths are also intensive and using significant resources.

Sheriff Dan Hartwig made his initial report to the committee. Addressing the financial questions first, closed out 5% over 2018 budget. This is primarily overtime due to departures. 21 individuals left, 16 were hired; overtime is needed to fill the shifts. So far, it appears that there will be a similar pattern for this year. Five retirements already. This results in personnel movement. Amy Mathias to Mary R’s position. Two patrol deputies promoted to Lieutenant. Another issue with not having part time officers available is that patrol officers are needed to do transport.

Currently are short seven deputies on patrol; two individuals are off on military deployments overseas and will return. Two additional are in field training. There are two others starting new on road as of Sat. February 9th. Will have another starting in 2/24 and a May graduate will come in.

Started a new recruitment list ... only three applied, reopened and have 12 total. Given the percentage of any list that are ultimately eligible, this is a concern. Suggests we begin to sponsor candidates for training as is done by many agencies. Will begin discussions on this.

There are five corrections openings in the jail with one male position is about to be filled. An additional person is out on training. So overtime is an issue currently on that side as well.

Sheriff Hartwig has had a busy first month. Has implemented some changes. Found that there is an insurance program for Sheriff Offices that automates policies and procedures for law enforcement and jail operations; this will help the department comply with federal and state requirements. They will also notify the agency of changing requirements. Anticipates savings and improved compliance as a result.

Has partnered with a Carfax program for law enforcement agencies to integrate with their system for accident reports. As this accounts for about 50% of the record requests annually, approximately 1000 requests, should be a significant time saver.

Implemented position title changes away from what was commonly used in a municipal police agency setting to Chief Deputy and Major; the more traditional military style system for Sheriff Offices.
Started a Facebook page pursuant to county policy, comments get removed after 24 hours. A spoof page was discovered and shut down with help of the state Department of Justice. Signed interoperations agreements with Emergency Management and with the Sheboygan County Sheriff.

Recently awarded a grant from DOJ designated to counter Drug Trafficking. Funds are for equipment. Watch for resolution, likely for the March meeting.

The Sheriff’s Employee Association has voluntary membership, for 2019 nearly doubled numbers. Interprets this as excitement regarding a new administration.

Responding to Supervisor’s questions, asked to compare stress levels of those on patrol vs corrections. Explained screenings and the education needs. LE tasks require only a sworn officer; unable to use security contractual agencies.

Currently is working on 2018 annual report. Transport is falling on reserve officers and when they are unavailable must use patrol. Vehicles encounter the wear. Chevy Tahoes have been great in the weather. Transport remains at high levels.

Villages of Francis Creek and Valders contract with Sheriff office for coverage, this is minimal, used for overtime. And as this is comped by those municipalities, is a win for all.

Jail assessment fund is “healthy” with a new deposit. Will be able to do some additional renovation to cameras, showers.

Vice-Chair Henrickson noted the next meeting will be March 13 same time and place. Travis Waack, Emergency Services Director will give a report in addition to any other business.

Adjournment: Supervisor James Falkowski moved to adjourn, Supervisor Tye Geimer seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 05:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

[Signature]
Patricia A. Koppa, Register in Probate
For Supervisor James Falkowski, Committee Secretary