Manitowoc County Public Safety Committee
Manitowoc County Heritage Center, Room 205

July 16, 2019 5:30 p.m.

Attendance: Chairperson Randy Vogel, Supervisor Dave Nickels, Supervisor James Falkowski, and Supervisor Tye Geimer.

Excused: Supervisor Rick Henrickson.

Others in attendance: Patricia Koppa, Emergency Services Director Travis Waack, Sheriff Dan Hartwig.

Chair Randy Vogel called meeting to order at 5:30. Roll circulated for signature. Supervisor Rick Henrickson is excused.

Tye Geimer moved to approve the June 12, 2019 minutes, James Falkowski seconded the motion and all present voted to approve.

No one wished to make public comment and closed at 5:31.

Sheriff Hartwig reported on the Sheriff’s Office - Movement of staff continues. Short two female officers in the jail. Another officer is on medical leave. Eight have been hired and need to get their education requirements completed. Three are out on military leave - one will be back September 1, another by end of the year, and the third just deployed for 3 months. Four patrol officers are in field training. Retirements/separations continue at a high level which resulted in promotions, though some have to be delayed in order to provide adequate coverage at each level. Starting new hiring process as have gone through the list. Two deputies have completed field training. A transfer from another county and a dispatcher transferring into support staff were among other changes. Recent applications were up with Social Media advertising (thanks Emergency Services for template.) Budget will be over in a number of areas including retirement payouts resulting in about $100,000 additional benefits and overtime of $75,000 to date among other line items. The Tahoe squad vehicles are doing well so may be some savings in vehicle maintenance. Expect to see changes in the 2020 budget regarding health care, mental health care and LTC training due to additional needs and costs. Sheriff Hartwig will email the information from report to be shared with committee members.

Chair Vogel presented the Sheriff’s RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE MANITOWOC COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE K9 UNIT. James Falkowski moved to approve the resolution for presentation to the County Board, Tye Geimer provided the second. Motion passed unanimously. Committee wishes to thank Dr. and Rosemary Nelson, C & S Machining LLC, and Roslyn Faken for their donations.

Emergency Services Director Travis Waack – Last March had 3 back to back responses. March 14 was the incident of explosives on S. 29th Street in Manitowoc. Resulted in $4600 bill that could not go out for collection from Hazmat unit. March 15th Ice jams with lots of co-ordination. Had EOC up for about 12 hrs. Approximately one week later, City of Manitowoc encountered ice jams as well. High water rescues in both locations. Diesel fuel spill in Newton. Spiller billed.
Nuclear exercises in May and June. Practice and evaluated drill. No identified issues in our response found by FEMA. New procedures all paid off. 5/2 Maritime table top with the Coast Guard. Nuke focus as well. Walked through what if plume over the lake. Ended up being the June exercise. July tabletop with Nursing Home facilities to meet their training requirement. Hazard mitigation – 5 year rotation and being modified. Will come for vote late 2019.

In Joint Dispatch, recently filled two vacancies with one starting in August. Noted improvement in applications – credits social media work. 30% under budget as of June 1. Change with Supervisors working has made a big difference. Training pod has been getting used as a mini EOC as well. Radio system is a project with Gerry and Bill of Public Works; redundancy and tower communication improved. Some channels were reallocated to volunteer fire depts. Emergency beacon for those depts. also.

Joint Dispatch Board. In April, Waack asked the board to assist with Emergency Management planning. Also to increase representation from each municipality to one each from Fire and LE rather than only one who was usually LE. Request was tabled until June. At June meeting, presented letter to TW and Chairman Brey asking for status quo to remain in place and indicating EM should not try to limit the Board’s authority. Peter Conrad helped with a response to this as it totally misconstrued the request. Chair Vogel has seen both letters. Waack notes that county responsibility for radio bands regardless of which agency uses. There has not been supervision and interoperability in the past. If Joint Dispatch Board isn’t interested in assisting in the EMD - asks for creation of a “Radio Policy” committee. The committee would be appointed by the County Executive.

Discussion followed – Ask what the issue was from Joint Dispatch Board. Why did they object? Some of the objections may go back in time with the structure of the department. Going ahead to get a resolution to create the committee since the underlying problem needs to be corrected. Waack did share the letter read at the June meeting. Will bring the resolution proposal back to the next meeting… committee would create database of users, work on the dispatch policies between agencies etc. With County holding the license this is the county responsibility.

General supervisor questions led to discussion of other water concerns and what could be done.

Motion to adjourn made by James Falkowski, second by Dave Nickels adjourned at 6:19.

Respectfully Submitted,

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