

**Meeting Minutes of
Lincoln County Law Enforcement Committee
Wednesday, April 12, 2006 at 7:30 a.m.
Lower Level - Courthouse, Merrill**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cohrs, Caylor, Krueger, Bloomer

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Lee (excused)

VISITORS: Tom Koth, Dave Haskins, Diane Hanson, James Kurszewski, Sara J. Gossfeld-Benzin, Mike Soucy, Mark Handlin, Earl Welker, Jeff Kraft, John Mulder

Introduction of new officer: Sara J. Gossfeld-Benzin was introduced to committee and welcomed.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Phil Cohrs, Chairman of the Committee called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
2. **Approve minutes of previous meeting:** Motion by Caylor, second by Cohrs to accept minutes of the last meeting and place on file. All ayes, motion carried.
3. **Discuss letter from James Kurszewski (Child Support Director):** The letter addressed the need for security during family support hearings. Mr. Kurszewski will notify the Sheriff's Department when an officer is needed.
4. **Lutheran Social Services Update:** Earl Welker updated the committee and submitted his statistical report. He said if anyone would like any more information to be included on his reports, that they should inform him. He said that one person was revoked and there was also 1 day reporting violation which was dealt with smoothly. He mentioned that Lincoln County was the lowest county in the state for huber fees, and said that the huber fees haven't been changed for the last 25 years.
5. **A. Reports: Sheriff's Report:** The statistical reports were mailed with the packets and the budget recap was distributed at the meeting. Some members commented on the amount of funds paid out for outside housing and the fact that funds will run short. However, the Finance Committee wanted that amount budgeted for and that if more funds were needed, the Sheriff's Department would need to come back to their committee. Motion by Caylor, second by Krueger to accept report and place on file. All ayes, motion carried.

B. Coroner's Report: Dave Haskins distributed his statistical report for review.

1). Coroner Fees: This issue was re-addressed as requested by the committee. Lincoln County is the only county in the State that does not have a fee schedule. If the committee should decide to pursue this issue, it could go into effect by January, 2007. A consensus the committee decided not the pursue coroner's fees.

2). Medical Examiner vs. Elected Coroner: Dave talked to John Larson, the Medical Examiner of Marathon County. He said in Marathon County it was working real well. He said the County Administrator establishes the criteria for the Medical Examiner. The Medical Examiner does not have to be a Doctor and the functions are controlled by the County Administrator. There are more advantages to having a Medical Examiner rather than an Elected Coroner.

John Mulder said the County Board did review an ordinance back in May of 1998. He said that there was a fairly even split in other counties between a Coroner and Medical Examiner. He said the County Board also considered contracting with Marathon County.

Dave said that this issue should be passed on to the County Board for review and that they should make a decision before the election process begins. Motion by Krueger, second by Bloomer to submit resolution to County Board for their consideration on this issue. All ayes, motion carried.

6. 9-1-1 Supervisor Update: All dispatchers are currently reviewing existing and new policies and will sign off on them in the next week.

We are back to advertising in the hiring process after the 2 candidates did not pass the screening process.

Merrill Police Department spoke with VisionAire and expects them to set the training date(s) sometime in May.

In regards to Newcom: As it looks right now, the OJA is not going to accept any other projects on the current grant. The next grant is being looked into and it looks like it will be tailored more for the end users of portable radios (fire departments, volunteer fire departments and first responders).

Mark Handlin also touched on the status of the Tripoli Volunteer Fire Department. Currently it is questionable and he has been told that they were dissolved, and also that they were still providing service for the township of Somo. He received a letter from the Somo town chair stating that all E9-1-1 will be handled by the Tomahawk Fire Department/EMS.

Concerning the Capital Improvement Projects: If the tower project does not go through, we will need to look at accomplishing that project out of pocket. We are running out of room on the current tower (after adding MARC and WISPERN antennas) and are not getting the best performance out of the current antennas due to the tight spacing. Another item to look at will be the replacement of the CAD and RMS servers prior to the end of Merrill paying for the move to Joint Dispatch.

7. **Recognition of National Telecommunicator Week:** Committee Chair signed the certificates of recognition for Lincoln County Telecommunicators.
8. **Jail Maintenance Update:** Lt. Kraft stated that the jail inspection report has not yet been received from Denise. However, during the day of the inspection, no major issues came up. Maintenance did have to repair a leak in the plumbing.
9. **Update on rolling storage:** Chief Soucy said that May 8th is the expected delivery date. He also explained the need for the semi trailer in the parking lot was to store evidence until the updates to the evidence room can be completed.
10. **Authorization to fill vacancy (sworn position):** Sheriff Koth stated he received a letter of resignation from Lt. VanderBloomen. Motion by Caylor, second by Krueger to authorize Sheriff to fill vacancy. All ayes, motion carried.

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11. **Authorization to bid for Pole Building:** Chief Soucy said that funds were budgeted for in this year's budget. Motion by Krueger, second by Caylor to authorize Chief to bid for pole building. All ayes, motion carried.
12. **Authorization to bid for squads:** Chief Soucy said that 4 patrol cars will need to be replaced. Motion by Caylor, second by Krueger to authorize Chief to bid for cars. All ayes, motion carried.
13. **Eligibility lists for Correctional Officers, Deputies and Telecommunicators:** Chief Soucy said this item was put on the agenda just to update the committee that a fresh list is needed in all of these areas.
14. **Video Conferencing:** Still on hold.
15. **Convene to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) for annual review for step increase of Lt. Handlin:** Motion by Caylor, second by Krueger to convene to closed session. Roll call vote: Caylor - aye, Krueger - aye, Bloomer - aye, Cohrs - aye. Motion carried.
16. **Reconvene to open session and take any action on issue discussed during closed session:** Motion by Caylor, second by Bloomer to reconvene to open session. Roll call vote: Caylor - aye, Krueger - aye, Bloomer - aye, Cohrs - aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Bloomer, second by Krueger to grant Lt. Handlin a favorable review and to also grant a step increase. All ayes, motion carried.
17. **Schedule next regular meeting:** Scheduled for May 10, 2006 at 7:30 a.m., Lincoln County Courthouse - lower level.
18. **Adjournment:** Motion by Caylor, second by Krueger to adjourn. All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.