

LINCOLN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF
JANUARY 9, 2007, 7:30 a.m.
Lower Level Conference Room
Courthouse,
Merrill, WI

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

Roll Call of members in attendance: Mr. Lee, Mr. Mittelsteadt, Mr. Plant and Mr. Caylor. Mr. Krueger was absent and excused.

Visitors welcomed: Carl Short, Kevin Kleinschmidt, Diane Hanson, Lt. Jeff Kraft, Graham Rankin, Frank Saal, and Sheriff Jeff Jaeger.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Caylor, second by Mittelsteadt to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and place on file. Carried.

Lutheran Social Services Update: Not available for this meeting.

Warrants: Mr. Mittelsteadt said that he noticed that the Merrill Police Department posts their warrants of the week in the newspaper and asked why the Sheriff's Department doesn't do the same. Sheriff Jaeger replied that most the City's warrants are municipal warrants for cash bonds and most of the Sheriff's Departments are criminal warrants. The Sheriff also said that sometimes there are instances where some of our warrants are not valid and explained the circumstances that are sometimes involved.

9-1-1 Hallway maintenance: This was an item previously approved last year in February. Motion by Caylor, Second by Mittelsteadt to approve carpet replacement out of Jail Assessment Fund and forward to County Board. Carried.

Reports: Motion by Mittelsteadt, Second by Plant to place Sheriff's Reports on file. Carried.

Recreation Officer Activity Report: Motion by Caylor, Second by Plant to place on file. Carried.

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Review Recreation Officer Position: Mr. Kleinschmidt said this position was originally approved in 2006, and Travis Watruba was first hired in January, 2007 but didn't complete his training and didn't begin his duties until May, 2007. He went on to say that this position has been very beneficial in that there has been a significant decrease in vandalism and problems at Campgrounds. Mr. Kleinschmidt said that since Lincoln County has a Rec. Officer many more citizens feel more secure and are now getting out there to enjoy the recreational opportunities that Lincoln County has to offer. He continued that there were several members on their own committee who were not originally in favor of this position - but have since changed their thinking after they learned how beneficial this position turned out to be for the county.

Mr. Rankin said that he was originally opposed to it, but after seeing for himself how beneficial this position has become, he now fully supports it.

Mr. Mittelsteadt said he would like to know exactly how much this position is costing the county, the reimbursement figures and he would like also to know what the Rec. Officer does when the trails are closed. He does not want to support this program without knowing this information.

Mr. Caylor said that he does support the position, but agrees with Mr. Mittelsteadt so far that he also would like to know the costs involved. Mr. Plant also agreed.

The Sheriff said that the Rec. Officer assists in patrol duties when it is required of him, but otherwise he is always out in the field in the forestry or parks. He brought all the original reports with him and offered them to any member who wanted to view them. The Sheriff will have actual figures for the June meeting. Mr. Kleinschmidt said that Travis Watruba did not start out in the field until after his training was completed, which was not until May, 2007 - it has not yet been an entire year yet.

Mr. Saal also stated that he fully supports the position after receiving further information on how beneficial this program has become to the county.

Motion by Mittelsteadt, second by Caylor to lay it over for June meeting and to receive all financial information prior to the June meeting date for review. Carried.

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Coroner's Report: Mr. Lee said that he received a call from the Coroner who was unable to attend or get his report in. He was attending a conference in Wausau. His report will be supplied at the next meeting.

9-1-1 Supervisor's Report: The written report was mailed to the Committee in their packets. Mr. Mittelsteadt asked why Mr. Handlin was not present. Sheriff Jaeger said he was receiving EMD training. Mr. Mittelsteadt also mentioned a problem that was going to be addressed at a meeting with the Corning and Pine River Fire Departments and would like this issue on the agenda for the next meeting.

Jail Maintenance: Lt. Kraft said he has been meeting and working with the architects, contractors on kitchen design, security issues, etc. Some minor issues were also worked out involving the old jail.

Video Conferencing: Lt. Kraft said that provisions are being made to address this issue in the new construction.

Schedule next regular meeting: The next regular meeting was scheduled for February 13, 2008 at 7:30 a.m., Lincoln County Courthouse - lower level. It is to be noted that Mr. Plant asked to be excused for this meeting, and was so granted.

Adjournment: Motion by Mittelsteadt, second by Lee to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.