

LINCOLN COUNTY
LAW ENFORCEMENT, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, JUDICIAL AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 7:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: Room 257/Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Via Teleconference and In-Person Attendance

MINUTES

Members Present: Michael Loka, Don Friske, and Patricia Voermans

Absent: Jeremy Ratliff and Robert Lee

Department Heads Present: Ken Schneider, Jason Hake, and Chris Marlowe

Visitors: Nathan Walrath and Kari Weiland

1. Call Meeting to Order

Sheriff's Office

2. Budgetary Discussion:

- Budgetary Discussion: Hand out of our current wage and Fringe expenditures, and discussion on this.
- General discussion on several topics such as ways to increase our Revenue at the sheriff's office, discussion on raising Civil Process fees to be more in line with other counties. There was recently an increase to inmates to cover costs and to be more in line with surrounding counties.
- Overtime for Patrol and Corrections these areas are hard to accurately calculate as there are many factors that play into them.
- Tax Levy was discussed, the county is looking at an increase in this area to cover the increase in wage and fringe for the county.
- Inmate population was discussed as there is a decrease in this area due to Marathon County fixing their jail and Covid-19. Incoming Revenue from the jail is not keeping up with expenses. The questions were asked how many inmates would our jail need to house to maintain our budget? Is there another source of inmates to house in addition to Marathon County? And it was also asked if the revenue from inmate housing was used to fund the Sheriff's office? The answer was yes and in the past years surplus has gone to offset the tax levy the sheriff's office received.
- It was brought up that Finance has the overall say on the budget after it is proposed by the Sheriff's Office finance makes adjustments to it and then it goes to the county board for approval. There are two Corrections Officers positions that are not being funded currently and that has saved \$160,000.00 on the Sheriff's Office budget, and the sheriff's office has also cut around \$111,000. From the 2021 budget.
- The question was asked how does finance handle yearly increase in fringe//Wages? The answer given by Mr. Hake was that there is an increase in each departments tax levy to match the increase in wage and fringe.
- Huber was discussed it was asked if we closed the Huber wing in our jail could we utilize electronic monitoring? It was explained that Huber has to be ordered by the sheriff, and it has to be monitored other counties who have utilized this have found there to be more violations with electronic monitoring causing it to be revoked and leaving the inmate ineligible for Huber, which in turn costs the county more money. Chief Deputy Walrath explained that electronic monitoring is mainly used for inmates with medical conditions this allows the county to save some money on medical expenses. Ms. Voermans has asked for some follow up in the future with actual Huber numbers and costs.
- Possible revenue ideas going forward would be to look at a change in our civil process fees, our scale falls well below the surrounding counties. It was also suggested to possibly look at our contracted services such as the jail MD. And Nursing staff and prescription drug service, possibly a cut here as the inmates are less. It was explained that these are based on the current population.

- Mr. Hake advised part of the problem is that we built this jail with the anticipation of filling it with Lincoln County inmates, and that has not happened. It was added that part of this problem is a change in legislature in the 80's and 90's changing the types of crimes that are housed in Jails.
 - The last topic discussed was Vehicles, and vehicle maintenance one of the trip vans will be given to Maintenance as they are in need of an extra vehicle, it was explained we purchase our tires through Pomp's at the Government Rate. Chief Deputy Walrath explained that we are far enough out in our take home vehicle program that we can see that there is no increase in the replacement cycle since we have gone to the take home squads, it has actually decreased the replacement in vehicles the last few years going from replacing vehicles every 2 years to replacing them every 5-6 years.
3. Next Meeting Date: July 8, 2020, 7:30 a.m., Lincoln County Service Center
 4. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Nathan Walrath, Kari Weiland, and Chris Marlowe