

LINCOLN COUNTY
Public Safety Committee
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Board Chambers, Room 257
Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452

MINUTES

1. Chair Boyd called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm with these additional supervisors in attendance: Osness, Meunier, Miller, and Thiel, (5) Department heads in attendance were Sheriff Schneider, Tyler Iverson, Tom Barker, Becky Byer, Samantha Fenske, Valerie Caylor, Chief Klug, Collin Zoellner, Scott Langa Excused: Tyler Verhasselt, Kristopher Ellis, Don Friske
2. Next Meeting Date and Time Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 4:00p.m.
3. M/S Osness/Thiel to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2024 meeting. All ayes.
4. Public Comment – none
5. **Emergency Management**
 - a. Year-to-date Budget Report – Report reviewed, no concerns. Report placed on file.
 - b. Travel & Expense Report – Two reports filed. One with taxes and one without. M/S Thiel/Meunier to approve Verhasselt’s expense for the amount of \$305.26. All ayes.
 - c. 2023 Year-to-Date Budget and Approval of 2023 Budget Modification and Contingency Request reviewed. M/S: Meunier/Miller to approve 2023 Budget Modification and Contingency Request. All ayes.
6. **Coroner**
 - a. Coroner’s Report – Caylor reported 21 deaths, 1 autopsy, no suicides. Marathon’s new Forensic Science Center will break ground in May which will save on trips to Madison.
 - b. Travel & Expense Report – M/S Thiel/Osness to approve Caylor’s February expense report. All ayes. No time sheets.
 - c. Year-to-date Budget Report – Report reviewed. No concerns at this time, but would like to monitor the autopsy line. Will be taking the indigent funeral cost to April Finance meeting. Report placed on file.
 - d. 2023 Budget Modifications reviewed. Overall budget was \$11, 11,677.06 to the good. Increased revenues by \$10,750. Budget modification is just expenditure line to expenditure line (this is good). M/S Osness/Meunier to approve 2023 Budget Modifications. All ayes.
7. **Judicial**
 - a. District Attorney and Victim Witness
 - i. Year-to-date Budget Report – No concerns at this time. Report placed on file.
 - ii. Active Cases and Breakdown Report – none, will be reviewed quarterly.
 - iii. 2024 Year-to-Date Budget Report (Victim Witness) They had a good year and are \$3057.66 to the good. Report placed on file.
 - iv. 2023 Budget Modification (DA) Overall the budget is over by \$9375. This is due to health insurance. We budgeted \$0 and a family plan cost \$27,912.
 - v. 2023 Contingency Fund Request (DA). This is from health insurance. M/S: Osness/Miller to approve the 2023 Budget Modifications and Contingency Fund Request. All ayes.
 - b. Clerk of Courts and Family Court – Thomas Barker
 - i. 2024 Year-to-date Budget Report – Report reviewed, no questions/concerns. Placed on file.
 - ii. Travel & Expense Report – M/S Thiel/Osness to approve February expense report. All ayes.
 - iii. 2023 Budget Modifications (COC) Line item adjustments. Budget was \$8093.86 to the good. \$16,869 (truly \$7818.86) to the good. M/S: Osness/Miller to approve 2023 Budget Modifications. All ayes.
 - iv. 2023 Year-to-Date Budget Report (FCC) Report reviewed, no budget modifications. Within budget \$17,403 carryover. Report placed on file.
 - c. Register in Probate and Circuit Court – Becky Beyer

- i. 2023 Contingency Fund Request – Contingency for \$5469 due to guardian ad litem fees. M/S: Osness/Meunier to approve 2023 Contingency Fund Request. All ayes.
- ii. 2023 Budget Modification –M/S: Osness/Meunier to approve 2023 Budget Modification. All Ayes.
- iii. 2024 Year-to-Date Budget Report – No concerns at this time. Circuit Court employee line already shows at 46.8% due to retiree payout and change in new hire not taking insurance. Report placed on file.
- iv. Approval of Time Sheet – M/S Miller/Theil to approve February time sheets. All ayes.

8. Sheriff's Office

- a. Statistical Reports
 - i. Case Summary Report – reviewed, no concerns, placed on file.
 - ii. Expense Budget, Revenue Budget (Year-to-date Report) – reviewed, placed on file.
 - iii. Recreational Officer Activity Report – reviewed and placed on file.
 - iv. 9-1-1 Supervisor's Report – As tourism season approaches, calls will increase. Reviewed and placed on file.
 - v. Jail Census Report – Ninth staff member just hired with a tenth in the works. One upcoming retirement. Loss of K-9 (Pancho) due to kidney disease. One canine can cost \$26,000 annually with training (as of 2017). Count remains the same. Report placed on file. Nicholas Hoeft introduced as the new Jail Administrator.
 - vi. 2023 Sheriff Budget Modifications – reviewed, within expenditure budget. M/S Miller/Meunier to approve 2023 Sheriff Budget Modifications. All ayes.
 - vii. 2023 Budget Carryover Request – four carryover requests reviewed, no concerns. M/S Osness/Miller to approve the four 2023 Budget Carryover Requests. All ayes.

9. Emergency Medical Services

- a. Merrill Report– Chief Klug was available for questions on his report. Report placed on file.
- b. Strategic Planning -MFD – Four meetings facilitated by NTC. Summary report reviewed. Annual report will be made available next month. Placed on file.
- c. Tomahawk Report – report reviewed. Reports are always two months behind. Osness inquired about additional funding from Aspirus, referencing meeting minutes from March 9, 2022. Shortages are due to staffing shortages and paying overtime. Overage of \$57,000 in salary. Budget cycle with Aspirus starts in July. M/S Osness/Miller to meet with Aspirus to discuss operational cash flow during Budget Cycle in July. All ayes.
- d. Discussion and Possible Action on 2024 Tomahawk Budget – Last quarter of 2023 reflects a spike in fringe benefits. This is a result of change in accounting standards and calculations by Aspirus system wide. If trend continues into 2024 would results in a significant budget overlap which was not part of the approved budget. No notification of a budget modification received from Aspirus. If ties were severed with Aspirus the cost of providing ambulance service would need to be evaluated. M/S Osness/Meunier to direct Finance, Corp Counsel and Scott Langa to discuss plan of action regarding fiscal impact for 2024. All ayes. Will keep on agenda for next month.
- e. Discussion of Ambulance Purchasing Options – Colin Zoellner and Robert Caylor discussed issues of “engine misfires” and melting harnesses with the new gas engines. Shawn Foster indicated that if order is changed, purchased gas chassis can be sold. Diesel are available and can be ordered. \$10,000 savings with gas. Chief Klug indicated that there are issues with both gas and diesel. Merrill would prefer to stay with gas. Committee will discuss next month. Item will remain on agenda.
- f. Patient Assist Discussion and Possible Action Plan – report reviewed. Medicare will not change reimbursement based on amount billed but by their allowed reimbursement amounts. Concern with abuse of service. Discussion of increasing amount from \$60 to \$120 and revisit after one year. M/S Thiel/Miller to have Sam Fenske draft a resolution to increase patient assist/ambulance fees for review at next committee meeting.
- g. Prentice Ambulance Intercept Discussion and Possible Action – Currently just a verbal agreement. Fenske requesting to work with Corp Counsel to draft written agreement and possible charge increase to \$150. Aspirus currently charges \$300. Sam Fenske and Scott Langa will work on price increase and bring back to the committee for further discussion.

- h. Approval of 2023 Year-to-Date Budget Modification and Carryover Request – M/S Meunier/Miller to approve Year-to-Date Budget Modification and Carryover Request. All ayes.
- i. Resolution Authorizing Increasing the 2023 Budget by \$487,613 in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Budget. – Boyd will author and Miller will sponsor. M/S Thiel/Miller to approve resolution authorizing increasing the 2023 Budget by \$487,613 in the EMS Budget. All ayes.
- j. Monthly Charge Report, Write-offs, and Collections – report reviewed. M/S Osness/Meunier to approve monthly charge report, write-offs and collections. All ayes.
- k. Year-to-Date Budget Report – report reviewed and placed on file.
- l. Approval of Replacement of Authorized Position – Position currently 72.5 hr position which was temporarily increased to 80hr. Sam is requesting to keep position at 80hrs per pay period permanently for replacement. If approved, will go to A&L for final approval. M/S: Osness/Meunier to approve increasing Ambulance Biller position permanently to 80 hours per pay period. All ayes.

10. Adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Minutes drafted by Deputy County Clerk Heather Hurley

DISTRIBUTION:

Committee Members: Jesse Boyd – Chair, Steve Osness, Jr., Laurie Thiel, James Meunier, Dana Miller, and Don Friske

Administrative Coordinator, Other County Board Supervisors, Department Heads, Family Court Commissioner – Wachsmuth, Judge Bayne-Allison – Branch 1, Judge Russell – Branch 2, Merrill Fire Chief Klug, Kelly Thomsen – Victim Witness, Scott Langa – Tomahawk EMS