

LINCOLN COUNTY
Public Safety Committee
Wednesday, April 10, 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: Osnes, Miller, and Thiel, (4) Department heads in attendance were Tyler Verhasselt, Sheriff Schneider, Tyler Iverson, Nicholas Hoeft, Tom Barker, Becky Byer, Samantha Fenske, Valerie Caylor, Chief Klug, Collin Zoellner, Robert Kirkley Excused: James Meunier, Kristopher Ellis, Don Friske
2. Next Meeting Date and Time Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 4:00p.m.
3. M/S Thiel/Miller to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024 meeting. All ayes.
4. Public Comment – none
5. Unanimous consent by committee to move The Coroner ahead of Emergency Management on the agenda.
6. **Emergency Management**
 - a. Year-to-date Budget Report – Report reviewed, no concerns. Verhasselt indicated there will be some changes due to HMEP Core and Specialized Hazardous Material Training Grant in the amount quoted just under \$8,000. Invoice is for just under \$6,000. Awaiting a check from the State for the Computer Hazmat Grant from last October, pending determination. Report placed on file.
 - b. Travel & Expense Report – M/S Miller/Thiel to approve Verhasselt’s expense and travel reports. All ayes. Verhasselt reported increase in travel expenses is due to outreach to multiple municipalities for the State’s first Emergency Management Working Group. Verhasselt is exploring the options for county transportation.
 - c. Harrison Flowage Emergency Action Plan – Verhasselt and Dean Bowe reported that the county owns the dam which requires emergency plan to be updated annually. Inspections are required regularly. Every ten years the county contracts with an engineer for inspection and approval has been received from the Forestry Committee to seek out an engineer for the inspection due this year. Last major rehab was done in the late 1990s. Stop logs replaced a few years ago. Minor concrete work done over the years. Verhasselt reported if the engineer’s inspection comes back negative, and there are “public safety concerns”, there are FEMA grants available to apply for.
 - d. Emergency Management Activity Report – Report reviewed. Emergency Management job description updated to incorporate Occupational Safety. Federal and State government areas of focus: Preparedness, Resiliency and Whole Community Approach. Partnering with the County’s Municipal Volunteer Fire Departments to conduct a case study on the average age of the volunteer fire fighting force. Verhasselt will be submitting an application for the Safer Grant to secure funds for recruitment and retention. Report placed on file.
7. **Coroner**
 - a. Coroner’s Report – Caylor reported 1 traffic fatality within the city limits, 28 deaths and 8 investigations. Report placed on file.
 - b. Travel & Expense Report – None
 - c. Year-to-date Budget Report – Report reviewed. No concerns at this time. Report placed on file.
8. **Judicial**
 - a. District Attorney and Victim Witness
 - i. Year-to-date Budget Report – Reports reviewed. No concerns. Report placed on file.
 - ii. Active Cases and Breakdown Report – none, will be reviewed quarterly.
 - b. Clerk of Courts and Family Court – Thomas Barker
 - i. Year-to-date Budget Report – Report reviewed, no questions/concerns. Placed on file.
 - c. Register in Probate and Circuit Court – Becky Beyer
 - i. Year-to-Date Budget Report – Report reviewed, no concerns at this time. Report placed on file.
 - ii. Approval of Time Sheet – M/S Osnes/Miller to approve March time sheets. All ayes.

9. Sheriff's Office

- a. Statistical Reports
 - i. Case Summary Report – Reviewed, increase in criminal damage to property due to mail box damage. Each one is a separate case. Report placed on file.
 - ii. Expense Budget, Revenue Budget (Year-to-date Report) – reviewed, no concerns, placed on file.
 - iii. Recreational Officer Activity Report – reviewed, no concerns, placed on file. Township concerns regarding wake zones will be addressed at the next committee meeting.
 - iv. 9-1-1 Supervisor's Report – As tourism season approaches, calls will increase. Reviewed and placed on file.
 - v. Jail Census Report – Report reviewed. Numbers are low. There are new hires, however training needs to be completed. One employee to retire, one resigning, unexpected short term absences and continued competition with Marathon County salaries. Onsite visit to the jail for committee members will be scheduled in June.

10. Emergency Medical Services

- a. Tomahawk Report – Bob Kirkley introduced himself as the Regional Director for MediVac and who will be replacing Scott Langa. He and Collin Zoellner will continue to report on the Tomahawk area. Bob indicated that he will be revamping the report. Reports will remain one month behind due to Aspirus's reporting timeline. Bob indicated that the FICA and Fringe Benefit allocations are decreasing and expected to even out. He will be working with Melissa from Aspirus to review reports six months back for accuracy and will report at the next meeting. He indicated that the approved budget will be honored.
- b. Merrill Report– Chief Klug was available for questions on his report. Report reviewed. Typo under "calls for service", should read 2023-2024. Report placed on file.
- c. Discussion and Possible Action of Extended Warranties for Ambulance – Adding extended warranty, 84mo/150,000 mile power train warranty, to the Med61 ambulance and possibly the two new ambulances discussed. Cost would be \$3,570 which would be covered in current budget. New ambulances come with 36,000/3yr bumper to bumper warranty and 5yr/60,000 power train warranty. Power train warranties do not cover electrical. Ambulances are generally kept 12+ years. Cost for the extended warranty for the Med61 ambulance will come from the sale of Lucas devices (Old/Used Equipment Sale Account). M/S: Osness/Miller to approve the purchase of extended warranty for the Med61 ambulance only. All ayes.
- d. Discussion and Possible Action for the Ambulance Purchasing option for Tomahawk - No further discussion or action regarding gas vs diesel option for the Tomahawk ambulance. The city garage opts for gas option.
- e. Approval of Resolution for Patient Assist Fees – Increase to \$120 per assist after first free assist. M/S Miller/Thiel to approve the Patient Assist Fees resolution. M/S Osness/Thiel to amend the Patient Assist Fees resolution to add effective date for increase in fees of May 1, 2024. All ayes. Original motion to approve passed by vote 4-0. Boyd sponsor/Public Safety Committee in attendance as co-sponsors.
- f. Discussion and Possible Action of the 2024 Tomahawk Budget – Will remain within budget as discussed in item 10a.
- g. Closed Session – none
- h. Reconvene into Open Session – n/a
- i. Take any Necessary Action from Closed Session – none
- j. Discussion and Possible Action on written agreement with Prentice Ambulance - Fenske reported that the intercept fee charged by Aspirus is \$300. Lincoln County has charged \$150 for the past 10 years. If the committee agrees to increasing fees, Fenske will forward the contract to Corp Counsel for review. Chief Klug recommended a standard fee to include Tomahawk and Merrill. Fenske will draft the resolution to increase intercept fees from \$150 to \$300 with effective date of June 1, 2024 and present at next month's committee meeting for approval.
- k. Monthly Charge Report, Write-offs, and Collections – report reviewed. Two hundred dollar payment received. New write-off amount is \$12,283.57. M/S Osness/Thiel to approve monthly charge report, write-offs and collections. All ayes.
- l. Year-to-Date Budget Report – report reviewed, no concerns. Placed on file.

11. Adjourned at 5:57 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