

**RICHLAND COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Friday, October 7, 2022**

The Richland County Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee met on Friday, October 7, 2022 at 8:30am in the County Board Room of the Richland County Court House in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Committee members present at the meeting were: Committee Chair Melissa Luck and Committee members David Turk, Kerry Severson, Bob Frank, Richard McKee, Ken Rynes and Barbara Voyce. Present from the Richland County Sheriff's Department were Sheriff Clay Porter, Chief Deputy Aaron Wallace, Lt. Mike Czys and Amber Muckler. Also present for the meeting or a portion of the meeting was Richland County Clerk of Circuit Court Stacy Kleist, DA Jennifer Harper, Jenifer Laue, Darin Gudgeon, Clinton Langreck and Lisa McDougal.

**Agenda Item #1: Call to Order:** Committee Chair Luck called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

**Agenda Item #2: Read and Approve Notice of Posting for October 7, 2022 Public Safety Committee Meeting:** Committee Chair Luck confirmed that the meeting was properly posted. Upon receiving confirmation Luck declared meeting properly posted.

**Agenda Item #3: Read and Approve the Agenda for October 7, 2022 Meeting:** Motioned by Bob Frank to approve the agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup> to this motion by Kerry Severson. Motion passed.

**Agenda Item #4: Read and Approve Minutes of the September 2, 2022 LEJC Meeting:** Motion by Bob Frank to approve the minutes as printed. 2<sup>nd</sup> to this motion by Barb Voyce. Motion passed, minutes accepted.

**Agenda Item #5: Coroner Updates:** no update for this meeting

**Agenda Item #6: Resolution 22-96 Department Responses:** Luck stated this is the resolution that will be presented to Finance that will involve budget cuts that will meet the county levy. Luck stated these numbers were created by looking at the departments that take the most levy and then figuring a percentage that department would have to cut. Public Safety utilizes the most amount of the county levy and will be asked to cut about 40% of their current budget. Luck stated public safety is a core function that the levy was created to provide. There was discussion on what should be stated if a referendum is created and what the wording would be. Departments presented their cuts or what could be done in their budgets to help fill the budget gap over the next 5 years. Clerk of Court Kleist stated that if staff were cut by 1 person, court would not be able to be served as each person on her staff currently clerk's court, the office would be forced to be closed at times and collections would not be made as there would not be sufficient staff to continue revenue collection. DA Harper stated her budget cuts will also result in a staff member with the amount be requested by the county, this would lead to office having to be closed at times and services that are currently state mandated would not be able to be covered and have not been

covered or in compliance since Marcy's Law took effect. Emergency Government Director Gudgeon stated this is his 19<sup>th</sup> budget cycle where he has had to cut his budget. Gudgeon stated he thinks that mandated services should be shown priority and then look at other services that are not mandated. Gudgeon stated cuts to his department would mean a loss of revenue to the county, and loss of services. Probate department head Jen Laue stated that she could trim her budget possibly, but any significant cut would be to cut her deputy and that would mean services would not be provided like the currently are and her office would be closed if she were in court. Sheriff Porter stated cuts could be made, none of the cuts are good cuts to make which would come down to meal contracts, there would be no new patrol position, switching fuel vendors, reducing training, computers, ammo just in 2023. The only way to meet the budget cuts in 2024 would be a reduction of 3 deputies and 1 jailer and then in 2025 additional cuts would be 4 additional deputies, jailers and an administrative assistant. There would be more cuts of staff in 2026 and 2027. In 2027 this would leave the Sheriff and 4 deputies left in the entire department. Currently we have 1.4 deputies per thousand for our county area. Porter stated if this is the staff cuts that are made by 2025 only emergency calls would be handled, no other calls would be handled due to lack of staff. There was more discussion on what the loss of people and services from all departments would do to the budget and the county as a whole and what ramifications would result in loss of services and people to serve the public.

**Agenda Item #7: Circuit Court Judge updates/comments:** Judge McDougal discussed items going on in the court with the committee.

**Agenda Item #8: Clerk of Court Update:** Clerk of Court Kleist went over her reports with the committee members.

**Agenda Item #9: Probate Updates:** Jen Laue discussed budget cuts and how it affects her department and the county.

**Agenda Item #10: District Attorney Updates:** DA Harper was at the meeting and also discussed budget cuts and what could be affected in her department.

**Agenda Item #11: Emergency Management:** Director Gudgeon talked about the mitigation plan status and that he's received a lot of good input from outside people and sources.

**Agenda Item #12: Approve monthly invoices and other Sheriff's Department reports:** Sheriff Porter went over the invoices for the month with the committee members. Motion to approve the bills made by Richard Mckee, 2<sup>nd</sup> to this motion by Kerry Severson. Motion approved. Sheriff Porter went through the jail statistics report with the committee members.

**Agenda Item #13: Invoice approval for K-9 purchase:** The department is asking the committee to approve the purchase of the new K-9 for a total of \$19,255. This cost is taken out of the K-9 account and is covered in full through the Badger Sheriff's Association and is fully donated. Motion to approve this invoice made by donated funds by resolution if needed made by Bob Frank, second to this motion by Ken Rynes. Motion approved.

**Agenda Item #14: Staffing updates:** There was a retirement of one road patrol deputy the past month.

**Agenda Item #15: Approval & discussion of ACH mental health fees and hours:** Sheriff Porter stated for a period of time the jail has not been able to fulfill the mental health needs for the inmates by HHS as they did not have staff. As of the last few days HHS did let us know they do have staffing to cover this now. The department was going to look into outside sources at a cost to help fill this need for inmates, which is a required service for the jail to provide the inmates. ACH did offer their services for \$10,000 per year plus \$150 per hour for on call hours. The Paquette Center offered services at \$4000 per month plus \$187 per hour to do weekly visits. Pine Counseling was \$7000 per year and also provide substance abuse counseling as well.

**Agenda Item #16: Update on jail & jail shower project:** Chief Deputy Wallace stated the shower project will begin after the jail inspection which would be after October 18, 2022. The grates in the jail will need to be worked on and will get Marshall Construction in the jail to work on that issue.

**Agenda Item #17: Discussion to set up Jailer/Dispatcher interview date & time:** The committee looked at the week of October 17th through October 21<sup>st</sup> and there will be 4 candidates to interview. The final date that was decided on will be Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.

**Agenda Item #18: Committee approval to get squad bids for 2023:** Approval is needed by this committee to at least get bids for 2023 squads. Motion to get squad bids made by Bob Frank, second to this motion by Richard McKee. Motion approved.

**Agenda Item #19: Resolution to recognize the retirement of Deputy Ken Moe:** Motion to approve this resolution made by Kerry Severson, second to this motion by Ken Rynes. Motion approved.

**Agenda Item #20: Resolution to approve DOJ grant spending:** The invoice made through the DOJ Grant has provided for a virtual reality simulator for deputy training on certain situations in the amount of \$67,500. Sheriff Porter stated our spending would be over by about \$8000 and would like to split that between computer maintenance and new equipment in the budget to cover that additional cost. Motion to approve this spending of the DOJ grant and the excess spending to be covered by resolution made by Kerry Severson, second to this motion by Richard McKee. Motion approved.

**Agenda Item #21: Radio Tower project updates:** Barb was not at this meeting. Dispatch counsels have been ordered and may possibly be in and hoping to have them online yet this year.

**Agenda Item #22: Mapping, Radio System & Squad Updates:** Mapping – still working towards the GIS grant. Squads – the new K-9 squad is being built and the other new squad will be outfitted in the coming weeks.

**Agenda Item #23: Possibly renaming “Public Safety Committee” to “Public Safety and Judiciary Committee”:** Luck put this on the agenda due to the fact that Public Safety does include the judicial departments as well. Motion to approve the name change of the committee to Public Safety and Judiciary Committee made by Ken Rynes, second to this motion by Richard McKee. Motion approved.

**Agenda Item #24: Future agenda items:** none

**Agenda Item #16: Adjourn;** Motion by Bob Frank to adjourn until the regular Public Safety Committee meeting on Friday, November 4, 2022 at 8:30am. Second to this motion by Ken Rynes. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Office Manager, Amber Muckler