

# Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee

May 3, 2024

The Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee convened on Friday, May 3, 2024 in person and virtually at 8:30 AM in the County Boardroom of the Richland County Courthouse.

**Call To Order:** Committee Chair Frank called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

**Roll Call:** Deputy Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Committee members present: Craig Woodhouse, Chad Cosgrove, Bob Frank, Kerry Severson. Committee members absent: Gary Manning, David Turk, and Julie Fleming.

**Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance:** Deputy Clerk Hege confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

**Approval Of Agenda:** Motion by Cosgrove second by Woodhouse to approve agenda. Motion carried and agenda declared approved.

Fleming arrived at 8:32 AM

**Approval Of Minutes From April 5, 2024 Meeting:** Motion by Severson, second by Cosgrove to approve April 5, 2024 minutes. Motion carried and minutes declared approved.

**Public Comment:** None present for Public Comment.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Bids For Radio Tower Construction:** MIS Director Scott reported that 8 construction bids were received for the Radio Tower Project. Mike Day with True North Consulting and Dustin Brooks with Edge Consulting joined via WebEx and reintroduced the project the new Committee members. Discussion ensued. Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to forward a resolution approving entering into a contract with Finish Excavating Inc. of East Dubuque, IL not to exceed \$3,300,000.00 on to County Board. Motion by Cosgrove, second by Severson. Motion carried and resolution approving entering into a contract with Finish Excavating Inc. of East Dubuque, IL not to exceed \$3,300,000.00 was forwarded to County Board.

## Reports:

**A. Sheriff:** Sheriff Porter presented the Sheriff's Monthly Report to the committee.

**J. Mapping, Radio Systems, And Squad Updates:** Sheriff Porter presented a Memo from Chief Deputy Wallace on staffing and personnel. Sheriff Porter presented the squad mileage report to the committee and pointed out that the names of the deputies assigned to each squad have been removed from the list for safety reasons. Brief discussion ensued. Sheriff Porter briefly shared information to the concerns involving possible need for speed limit changes at multiple intersections in the County. Brief discussion ensued.

**B. Coroner:** Sheriff Porter presented the Coroner's Report in place of James Rossing, Richland County Coroner. Total of 8 cases for Richland County in April 2024. Cases ranged in age from 65 to 82 and included: 1 cancer related, 3 heart related, 1 lung related, 1 Parkinson's related, and 1 suicide. All cases were cremations. Mr. Rossing included a note in his report that it was with great sadness that he shares the passing of former Chief Deputy Coroner Ruth Bristol. Ms. Bristol served with the Coroner's

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Office from 2013 through 2023. The Coroner's Office continues to be short staffed and Mr. Rossing is looking for two more staff members. Brief discussion ensued.

**C. Circuit Court Judge:** Deputy Register in Probate Jennifer Marroquin reported that the Circuit Court Judge was out of the office and cited the increase in case load. Ms. Marroquin introduced herself to the committee and briefly outlined the duties of the Register in Probates Office.

**E. Register In Probate:** Deputy Register in Probate Marroquin reported that the Register in Probate, Jenifer Laue, was also out of the office, but the Probate Office is currently on track with their budget.

**D. Clerk Of Court:** Committee Chair Frank reported on behalf of the Clerk of Court, Stacey Kleist, that the Clerk of Court's Office remains on track with its budget.

**F. District Attorney:** District Attorney, Jennifer Harper, gave report on two new ordinances that are currently being written, the repairs made to the Victim Witness meeting room, jury trial work load, expense of transcripts, OWI investigation procedure, overview of grants available from the State of WI, update on the effectiveness of the Treatment Court, and the security report done on the Richland County Courthouse. Ms. Harper reported that they are on track with their budget, with the exception of the increase in transcript costs.

**G. Emergency Management:** John Heinen, Interim Emergency Management Director introduced himself to the committee and gave a brief report on the active EOC trainings and the possibility for flooding in Richland County in the summer of 2024.

**H. PSAP & GIS Grants:** Chair Frank gave a brief update to the new members. MIS Director Scott reported that Richland County recently was awarded an additional \$10,000 into the PSAP grant.

**I. Radio Tower Project:** Committee Chair Frank stated that the committee should be caught up on this item from the reports and updates given earlier in the meeting.

**Approval of Monthly Invoices:** Sheriff Porter gave a brief explanation of the monthly invoices and made one correction. The CDW-Government invoices will be paid from fund 92. Brief discussion ensued. Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to approve the invoices for payment. Motion by Cosgrove, second by Fleming to approve invoices for payment. Motion carried and invoice were approved for payment.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Amendments To The Richland County Sheriff's Department Ordinance No. 89-7:** Committee Chair Frank gave a brief review of the amendments to the ordinance. Brief discussion ensued. Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to move the amended ordinance forward to the County Board. Motion by Cosgrove, second by Woodhouse to move the amended ordinance forward to the County Board. Motion carried and amended ordinance was forwarded to the County Board.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Purchasing Radios From Short-Term Borrowing:** Sheriff Porter reported that there will be some money that had been set aside for the purchase of three new squads and the Sheriff's Department ended up only purchasing two new squads. Sheriff would like to use some the left-over money for the purchase of radios instead of using short-term borrowing. No action taken as Sheriff Porter will bring more information on this process to the next committee meeting.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Set Future Meeting Date(s) And Time(s):** Committee Chair Frank asked if the current meeting date and time, being the first Friday of the month at 8:30 AM would be preferred by the committee, hearing no opposition, Committee Chair Frank declared the date and time to remain as the first Friday of the month at 8:30 AM.

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**Correspondence:** None

**Future Agenda Items:** Further budget updates from departments.

**Adjourn:** Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Fleming, second by Severson to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myranda H. Hege". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Myranda H. Hege  
Deputy County Clerk