

# Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee

August 2, 2024

The Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee convened on Friday, August 2, 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 8:35 AM.

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

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

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

**Approval Of Minutes From July 5<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meetings:** Motion by Fleming, second by Woodhouse to approve July 5<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes. Motion carried and minutes declared approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

## Reports:

- A. Sheriff – Departmental Activities:** Sheriff Porter presented the Sheriff’s Monthly Report and a Memo relating to the staffing in the Sheriff’s Department to the committee. Sheriff Porter highlighted that there were zero vacant positions in the Sheriff’s Department. Brief discussion ensued.
- B. Coroner - Departmental Activities:** Michael Jessen, Emergency Management Director, gave report on behalf of Mr. Rossing for June and July 2024. June 2024: 9 total calls, all cremations, ages of the decedents ranged from 59-91. 4 cases were on hospice, 6 heart related, 1 cancer related, 1 kidney related, and 1 case is still pending toxicology results. There was 1 autopsy case in June. At the end of June 2024 there was a total of 60 cases for the year. At the same time last year, there were 63 cases, 52 cases 10 years ago, and 40 cases 20 years ago. July 2024: 10 total cases, all cremations, ages of the decedents ranged from 46-92. 7 cases were on hospice, 1 pulmonary embolism, 1 kidney related, 2 dementia, 1 cancer, 1 heart related, 1 lung related, 1 sepsis, 2 neurological disorders. At the end of July 2024 there was a total of 70 cases for the year. At the same time last year, there were 78 cases, 59 cases 10 years ago, and 52 cases 20 years ago. Mr. Rossing’s report also included mention of the issues with the paging system used by the Coroner’s Office due to the lack of service in certain areas and staffing changes as the weekday Deputy Coroner took other employment. Mr. Jessen explained a plan for collaboration between the Emergency Services Department and the Coroner’s Office to ensure coverage for the calls to the Coroner’s Office. Brief discussion ensued.
- C. Circuit Court Judge - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Ms. Jenifer Laue gave report on behalf of Judge McDougal as the Judge has a full court calendar. Ms. Laue reported

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that Judge McDougal has been with Richland County for two years. Judge McDougal wanted to extend her thanks to Randy Nelson, County Maintenance Manager and Darin Barto, Courthouse Custodian for their recent painting of the Jury Room. Ms. Laue reported that Court security has been improving, there has been no update on the audio/Zoom issues mentioned at the last meeting. The Judge has requested an operating budget of around \$5,000, separate from the Probate Office budget and Clerk of Court budget.

- E. Register In Probate - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Ms. Jenifer Laue, briefly spoke on the Register in Probate budget projections. Ms. Laue reported that the Judge has requested an operating budget of around \$5,000, separate from the Probate Office budget and Clerk of Court budget. Brief discussion ensued.
- D. Clerk Of Court - Departmental Activities:** Clerk of Court, Stacy Kleist presented the financial reports for the Clerk of Courts Office to the committee. Extensive discussion ensued.
- F. District Attorney - Departmental Activities:** There was no representation from the DA's Office present for the meeting.
- G. Emergency Management - Departmental Activities & Wisconsin Emergency Management Grant Funding Update:** Emergency Services Director, Michael Jessen reported on the Emergency Management Departments public outreach via social media efforts and collaboration efforts between the department and municipalities. Director Jessen reported that the Wisconsin Emergency Management Grant is in the information gathering stage. Director Jessen reported that there were no disasters in the county since the last meeting. Brief discussion ensued.
- H. PSAP & GIS Grants:** Sheriff Porter reported on behalf of MIS Director Scott that the grants were submitted. Brief discussion ensued.
- I. Radio Tower Project:** County Administrator Pesch reported zoning issues involving the Keysville tower site. Discussion ensued.
- J. Mapping, Radio Systems, And Squad Updates:** Chief Deputy Wallace presented the Sheriff Department's Squad Mileage Report, reported that the new Lieutenant squad has been finished, and reported on repairs made to squads. Brief discussion ensued.
- K. Courthouse Security Report:** Register in Probate, Ms. Laue reported that the security report from the Capital Security team will be taken to the Courthouse Security Committee in September then brought to the October Public Safety Standing Committee meeting.

**Approval of Monthly Invoices:** Sheriff Porter gave a brief explanation of the monthly invoices. Brief discussion ensued. Motion by Fleming, second by Woodhouse to approve the Sheriff's Department's monthly invoices. Motion carried and the monthly invoices were approved.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Sale Of Sheriff's Office Surplus Firearms:** Sheriff Porter reported that he had reached out to the Badger Sheriff's Association for guidance on how to proceed with the sale of surplus firearms. Extensive discussion ensued. Chair Frank recommended moving this item to the

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September meeting of the Public Safety Standing Committee. Brief discussion on the possible need for a policy to specifically address the sale of surplus firearms.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Amendments To The Richland County Sheriff's Department Ordinance No. 89-7 Relating To Department Staffing & Hiring Practices:** Committee Chair Frank gave a brief recap of the ordinance project. Attorney Windle spoke on sections recommended for removal from the ordinance. Extensive discussion ensued.

Supervisor Turk left meeting at 9:56 AM.

County Board Vice Chair Williamson joined the meeting to act in the stead of County Board Chair Turk, pursuant to the Richland County Rules of the Board 3.01(a) and 3.02(a) to ensure that quorum was maintained at 10:10 AM.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Approval To Apply For A BOTS Equipment Grant From The Wisconsin Department Of Transportation:** Sheriff Porter gave a brief explanation of the resolution. Discussion ensued. Motion by Fleming, second by Woodhouse to approve the resolution. Motion carried and the resolution forwarded to full County Board for approval.

**Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Decommission And Sale Of Emergency Management Vehicle, Discussion & Possible Action: Shared Cost / Shared Vehicle Replacement With EMS, Discussion & Possible Action: Deputy Director Of Emergency Management Position:** John Heinen, Community Emergency Coordinator/Haz Planner, requested on behalf of Emergency Management Director Jessen, that these items be moved to the next meeting of the Public Safety Standing Committee.

**Correspondence:** None

### **Future Agenda Items:**

Courthouse Security Report to be presented in October

Discussion & Possible Action: Sale Of Sheriff's Office Surplus Firearms

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Amendments To The Richland County Sheriff's Office Ordinance No. 89-7 Relating To Department Staffing & Hiring Practices

Discussion & Possible Action: Approval Of Decommission And Sale Of Emergency Management Vehicle

Discussion & Possible Action: Shared Cost / Shared Vehicle Replacement With EMS

Discussion & Possible Action: Deputy Director Of Emergency Management Position

Brief discussion on recent accident at the intersection of Highway 60 and County Highway T.

**Adjourn:** Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Fleming, second by Woodhouse to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.



Myranda H. Hege  
Deputy County Clerk