

Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee

February 7, 2025

The Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee convened on Friday, February 7, 2025 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 member(s) present: Gary Manning, David Turk via WebEx, Chad Cosgrove, and Melvin “Bob” Frank. Committee member(s) absent: Craig Woodhouse, Kerry Severson, and Julie Fleming. Supervisor Fleming joined the meeting at 8:32 AM.

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

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

Supervisor Fleming joined the meeting in person at 08:32 AM.

Approval Of Minutes From January 3, 2025 Meeting: Motion by Cosgrove, second by Fleming to approve the January 3, 2025 minutes. Brief discussion. Motion carried and minutes declared approved.

Public Comment: None.

Reports:

- A. Sheriff – Departmental Activities:** Sheriff Porter briefly presented the Sheriff’s Monthly Report for January 2025. Sheriff Porter highlighted that the number of calls for the RCFD averaged 1 a day for the month of January and Richland County EMS had been very busy as well with 133 calls. Sheriff Porter presented a staffing memo from Chief Deputy Wallace and noted that the sheriff’s Office is down one female jailor and one male jailor. Sheriff Porter presented the February 2025 squad mileage report and noted that the two new squads that were ordered in December of 2024 were on the way, but would need to be outfitted before they were placed into service. Brief discussion on qualifications for jailors.
- B. Coroner - Departmental Activities:** Michael Jessen, Emergency Management Director, presented the January 2025 Coroner’s Report on behalf of Mr. Rossing. Mr. Rossing’s report consisted of a total of 16 cases in January and those included 5 cancer, 3 cardiac, 4 brain related, 2 of which were directly caused by dementia, 1 Parkinson’s, 1 pneumonia, 1 motor vehicle accident, and there was 1 case pending the final autopsy report/toxicology. Director Jessen reported that it could take up to 6-8 weeks for the toxicology report to come back. Brief discussion ensued.
- C. Circuit Court Judge - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Ms. Jenifer Laue reported that Judge McDougal continues to be very busy with out of county cases. Ms. Lau asked the committee if there had been any movement on getting Zoom access in the small court room. MIS Director Scott joined via WebEx and gave a brief explanation of why there had not been any

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progress made since the last meeting. Brief discussion on current projects ensued. Ms. Laue reported that she is still looking at options for new or better chairs for the court rooms and jury rooms.

- D. Clerk Of Court - Departmental Activities:** Clerk of Court, Stacy Kleist presented the expenditure documents for the period of January 1, 2025-February 28, 2025. Ms. Kleist reported that her office was using the time that they were not in court to work on several large projects, including records retention auditing and purging of expired files. Extensive discussion ensued.

Chair Frank moved item 8: Discussion & Possible Action: Resolution Urging Governor Evers And The Wisconsin Legislature To Support The County Courts up so that Ms. Kleist could speak on it.

Discussion & Possible Action: Resolution Urging Governor Evers And The Wisconsin Legislature To Support The County Courts: County Clerk of Courts, Ms. Stacy Kleist gave an in-depth background on the need for a resolution urging Governor Evers and the Wisconsin Legislature to support the County Courts. Motion by Cosgrove, second by Fleming to approve the resolution urging Governor Evers and the Wisconsin Legislature to support the County Courts. Motion carried and the resolution urging Governor Evers and the Wisconsin Legislature to support the County Courts was approved and moved on to county board for final approval.

- E. Register In Probate - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Ms. Jenifer Laue presented the January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 for the Register in Probate Office and highlighted that the budget was at 82% usage at the end of 2024. Ms. Laue reported that in 2024 there were many contentious probate cases and more probate cases have gone before the judge than ever before. Ms. Laue gave a brief explanation of how out of county cases worked and why they are important for ensuring that bias does not exist in court cases. Ms. Laue highlighted the importance of the current staffing level in her office. Brief discussion ensued.
- F. District Attorney - Departmental Activities:** No one was present from the District Attorney's Office.
- G. Emergency Management - Departmental Activities:** Emergency Services Director, Michael Jessen reported on work being done with his budget and in regards to the EMS Coordinator position. Director Jessen reported that on February 14, 2025 he would be meeting with Representative Kurtz and planned to talk with him about funding and disaster planning/mitigation. Director Jessen also reported that all the requirements had been met for the 2025 EMP grant and a School Safety Committee was in progress. Brief discussion ensued.
- H. PSAP & NG-911 Grants:** MIS Director, Barbara Scott joined via WebEx and gave a brief undated on the status of the PSAP & NG-911 grants.
- I. Radio Tower Project:** Sheriff Porter reported that the drawing is set for the Yuba tower build and construction continues with progress being made with about 60 feet being completed at the Bunker Hill site. MIS Director Scott reported that the contract for the Boaz site has been signed. Discussion ensued. Chair Frank asked if someone would coordinate with Mike Day with True North Consulting Group to have him attend the March meeting and provide the committee with an update as well. Discussion ensued.

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- J. Courthouse Security Report:** Register in Probate Laue reminded the committee that the next meeting of the Courthouse Security Committee was going to be on March 18, 2025.

Approval of Monthly Invoices: Sheriff Porter presented the December 2024 and January 2025 bills. Chair Frank questioned by the monthly Dog Contract was listed as having a total of \$71,628.46. Sheriff Porter verified that that total was actually for the Jail Assessment. Chair Frank entertained a motion to approve the monthly invoices with the correction of \$71,628.46 being labeled as Jail Assessment. Motion by Cosgrove, second by Manning to approve the monthly invoices as corrected. Motion carried and the monthly invoices were approved as corrected.

Closed Session: The Chair May Entertain A Motion To Enter Closed Session Pursuant To Wis. Stat, Sec 19.85(1)(C): Considering Employment, Promotion, Compensation Or Performance Evaluation Data Of Any Public Employee Over Which The Governmental Body Has Jurisdiction Or Exercises Responsibility: Coroner's Office Personnel Performance: Motion by Manning, second by Cosgrove to enter into closed session. Motion to enter into closed session passed unanimously at 9:28 AM.

Return To Open Session: Committee returned to Open Session.

Possible Action On Items From Closed Session: No action was taken on items from Closed Session.

Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items:

Coroner's Office Presentation – Michael Jessen
Radio Tower Update With Mike Day – Bob Frank

Adjourn: Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Manning, second by Fleming to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:49 AM.



Myranda H. Hege
Deputy County Clerk