

Minutes
Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 – 3:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

Members Present: Melissa Janssen, Sandra McKinney, Zoe Roberts, Connie Russell, and Gerald Wilkie.

Ex-Officio Member Present: Nick Smiar

Others Present: County Administrator Kathryn Schauf, Human Resources Director Jessica Rubin, Criminal Justice Director Tiana Glenna, Facilities Director Matt Theisen, Captain Dave Riewestahl, Captain Joel Brettingen, Lieutenant Cory Schalinske, Lieutenant Travis Holbrook, Admin. Division Manager Danielle Powers, Ryan Patterson, Eric Huse.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wilkie at 3:00 PM.

Call of the Roll

The Clerk called the roll. Attendance was noted above.

Confirmation of Public Meeting Notice

The Clerk confirmed this meeting was properly noticed to the public.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Approve Minutes from February 24, 2020 Meeting

Supervisor McKinney moved to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2021 meeting. The minutes were adopted as published in the meeting materials via 5-0 voice vote.

Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Dashboard Update

• **Dashboard Review**

- A link to the dashboard website was included in the meeting materials. The data is completely refreshed monthly on the website with additional data being added periodically. The committee did not specifically review the information in detail.
- Criminal Justice Director Glenna noted that she, Data Analyst Dana Swanstrom, and Captain Dave Riewestahl have been working to improve the dashboard data collection and presentation. Updates and additional details, including information specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be provided in the coming months.

6th Circuit Court Branch Update

Facilities Director Matt Theisen presented an update on the 6th Circuit Court Branch project. Director Theisen noted that construction plans had to be updated since the first draft was completed a few years ago due to changes in building code. Plans are currently being reviewed by the City of Eau Claire for approval. A tentative schedule is as follows: Initial bids completed very soon; construction beginning in June; project completion in September or October 2021. The largest concern for the project at this time is the increase cost of building materials.

Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office Updates

• **Jail Population, Staffing, & COVID-19 Response**

- Captain Dave Riewestahl provided an update. No significant change from last month in bookings and population. The jail is still recruiting/onboarding for seven vacancies: four individuals have been hired and are completing initial training; two additional individuals have been hired pending a background investigation; applications are now being accepted

- for next interview process to fill the remaining vacancy. The jail is managing at the current staffing level but they are relying on overtime shifts to cover the vacancies. The Committee asked general questions regarding staff schedules, overtime, order-in, and vacation time.
- COVID-19 statistics for the jail are still being published online. There are no active cases as of the date of this meeting. The jail, in collaboration with the City/County Health Department and health provider WellPath held a COVID-19 vaccination event on March 23, 2021. 85 individuals vaccinated yesterday consisting of 10 staff and 75 inmates (of a possible 148 total inmates). An additional vaccination event may occur in the future.
 - Captain Joel Brettingen provided an update on recruitment changes for Deputy Sheriff's. After consultation with Human Resources, recruitment requirements will change to no longer require completion the Law Enforcement Academy prior to hire. Completion of the academy is still a requirement for employment. The hope with this change is to open the applicant pool to a wider population.

Eau Claire County Policy & Procedure for Citizen Complaints

County Administrator Kathryn Schauf provided an overview of the updated Policy 203 – *Concerns and Complaints* and flowchart that were provided in the meeting materials. Administrator Schauf explained that the policy was reconfigured to make it easier for staff and community members to understand how concerns and complaints are addressed. Policy 203 compliments the formal grievance policy and other department-specific policies. Human Resources Director Jessica Rubin addressed how the updated policy will be distributed to staff and incorporated into future staff trainings. The Committee inquired as to how citizens can provide input, good and bad, about staff and engaged in a discussion about future improvements to the County website.

Resolution 20-21/127 Requesting the State of Wisconsin Strengthen Its Hate Crime Statute, Wis. Stat. § 939.645, to Provide Enhanced Security to Members of Wisconsin's Marginalized Communities

Supervisor Roberts introduced the resolution. The Committee engaged in general discussion and clarifying questions about the resolution. Supervisor McKinney moved to support the resolution and present to the full County Board for consideration. Chairperson Wilkie called for a roll call vote: JANSSEN aye; MCKINNEY aye; ROBERTS aye; RUSSEL aye; WILKIE aye. The resolution was **approved 5-0**.

State Legislative Topics

In preparation for an upcoming meeting with state legislators, the Committee had a preliminary discussion regarding the topics provided on the agenda among others brought forth at the meeting. The Committee will tentatively have a prioritized list of topics after the April meeting. Topics for further consideration by the Committee to bring forward for consideration include reimbursements for county jails holding state prison inmates, protective status for correctional officers, inmate voting on election day, and enhancement to the hate crime statute.

Future Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 3:00 PM.

Future Agenda Items

- Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office
 - Jail Population, Staffing, & COVID-19 Response
 - Audio/Visual Recording Equipment
 - Analysis of COVID-19 Impact on jail population, costs, and public safety
 - Training Opportunities for Staff
- Procedures/Policies for the Proper Execution of Search Warrants
- Procedures/Policies for Officer Involved Critical Incidents
- Appropriate System-Wide Criminal Justice Language Presentation
- Final Recommendation to Committee on Administration of State Legislative Topics
- Security in Government Center and Community

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wilkie at 4:42 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Eric Huse

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Committee Clerk