

Minutes
Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Wednesday, April 28, 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: Sheriff Ron Cramer, Captain Dave Riewestahl, Captain Joel Brettingen, Lieutenant Travis Holbrook, Admin. Division Manager Danielle Powers, Criminal Justice Director Tiana Glenna, Kim Cronk, Ryan Patterson, and Eric Huse.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wilkie at 3:01 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 March 24, 2020 Meeting

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

*Supervisor Smiar arrived at this time.

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 reviewed the dashboard.
- **Report from Supervisor Russell**
 - The Criminal justice Collaborating Council (CJCC) met on April 21, 2021. Supervisor Russell relayed to the Committee various updates CJCC received. Supervisor Russell specifically noted the following: Lutheran Social Services is updating the Positive Avenues' services & delivery model and introduced the program's new name Gaining Ground. Gaining Ground will provide on-site services and resources rather than just providing a place for individuals to gather. The aim of the new Gaining Ground program, operating out of Sojourner House, is to reduce homelessness and provide additional services. The CJCC is also involved in ongoing discussion regarding equity, diversity, and inclusion within the criminal justice system.

Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office Updates

- **Jail Population, Staffing, & COVID-19 Response**
 - Captain Riewestahl provided an update. No significant changes since last month in bookings or daily population. Captain Riewestahl reported that there are two new staff members in field training but three vacancies remain. Two of those vacancies are filled pending background investigations and will begin employment in late May or early June. Interviews for remaining vacancy will occur in the next few weeks. Captain Riewestahl is

anticipating additional staff vacancies in the next quarter. As to COVID-19, Captain Riewestahl noted that there has been no significant change in the jail's response.

Safety & Security in the Eau Claire County Government Center & Community At-Large

In response to the Committee's request for information regarding safety and security, County Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts and others provided the information in the meeting materials. The Committee reviewed the information.

Report of Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker's Task Force Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Standards

The Committee reviewed the report that was included in the meeting materials. Sheriff Cramer discussed areas of concern he and his colleagues around the state have identified:

- Data collection (e.g. stats on when officer un-holsters firearm)
- Statewide use of force language
- Use-of-Force Review Board (specifically public members serving)

Captain Brettingen addressed the qualified immunity section of the report. Captain Brettingen explained that qualified immunity is essentially legal coverage for public employees acting in their official capacity. Captain Brettingen also discussed recruitment/retention issues if qualified immunity was eliminated. The Committee engaged in discussion and asked various questions. An update about body cameras was also provided. Additional product testing is being conducted in May with anticipated implementation of body cameras by the end of 2021.

State Legislative Topics Recommendation to Committee on Administration

The Committee reviewed the topics identified at the April meeting. The Committee is recommending the following priority list to the Committee on Administration for consideration for placement on the agenda for the upcoming meeting with state legislators:

1. Protective status for correctional officers
2. Reimbursement for holding state prison inmates
3. Enhancement of hate crime state statute
4. Inmate voting on election day

Future Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled committee meeting is Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 3:00 PM. Department budget review meetings are scheduled for July 28, 2021 (also a regularly scheduled meeting) and July 29, 2021.

Future Agenda Items

- Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office
 - Jail Population, Staffing, & COVID-19 Response
 - Audio/Visual Recording Equipment
 - Training Opportunities for Staff
 - Training & Standards Legislation at State Level
- Procedures/Policies for the Proper Execution of Search Warrants
- Procedures/Policies for Officer Involved Critical Incidents
- Appropriate System-Wide Criminal Justice Language Presentation
- 1st Quarter Department Updates
- Analysis of COVID-19 Impact on jail population, costs, and public safety & departments in general

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wilkie at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Eric Huse

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Committee Clerk