

Minutes
Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 – 3:00 PM
Virtual Meeting via Cisco Webex

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

Others Present: Criminal Justice Director Tiana Glenna, TRY Mediation Director Travis Quella, Todd Johnson, Sheriff Ron Cramer, Captain Dave Riewestahl, Captain Joel Brettingen, Lieutenant Travis Holbrook, Lieutenant Cory Schalinske, Admin. Division Manager Danielle Powers, Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Susan Warner, Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer, Chris Buske, Kim Cronk, Ryan Patterson, and 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

Chris Buske made public comment in support of Resolution 21-22/009 and Ordinance 21-22-010.

Approve Minutes from April 28, 2021 Meeting

Supervisor Roberts moved to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2021 meeting. A minor grammatical correction was noted in the Report of Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker's Task Force Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Standards section and corrected. The minutes were adopted 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 dashboard.

1st Quarter Fiscal Updates & COVID-19 Impact

- **Clerk of Court**

- Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer presented an update. Revenues are still behind but expenditures are also down. Both can be attributed to on-going operational changes due to COVID-19. New Clerk of Courts lobby area is open; Clerk Schaffer noted that facilities staff did a great job helping with the construction and the transition. Construction of the sixth courtroom will begin in June with a new judge expected to take the bench in August 2022. Clerk Schaffer noted that her department will be requesting two new staff members to accommodate the new circuit court branch: one position starting in August 2022 and another in January 2023. Moving forward, staff are slowly coming back to the office full time while court hearings are expected to remain a combination of virtual and in-person. Clerk Schaffer noted the most significant issue on the horizon is lack of civilian jury bailiffs to staff jury trials.

- **Circuit Court**

- Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer presented an update. The Circuit Court budget is largely on track for revenue and expenditures are down for the first quarter. Clerk Schaffer noted the benchmark for state certified interpreters was missed in the first quarter as they were required to find interpreters for languages that have a small number of state certified interpreters or none at all. Circuit Court stakeholders continue to meet to discuss COVID-19

operating plan. Additionally, jury trials are being held again with few restrictions and process adjustments. Clerk Schaffer noted that the Circuit Court will be requesting an additional judicial assistant to accommodate the sixth circuit branch. The requested start date for the new position would be August 2022. Clerk Schaffer expects continued utilization of Zoom video conferencing for various hearings and case types in the future.

- **Criminal Justice Collaborating Council**
 - Criminal Justice Director Tiana Glenna presented an update. The department is on target fiscally and is experiencing some savings as a staff member has resigned. Director Glenna advised she is waiting to fill the position as she explores potential changes in the job description and duties. Director Glenna noted that medical assistance will now pay for residential treatment which may have an impact on her budget and treatment options for clients. Director Glenna stated that COVID-19 has not made a significant fiscal impact for her department. She and her staff continue to work remotely and have developed online delivery methods for programming. The department also updated software to better assist with the delivery of the community service programming.
- **District Attorney**
 - Office Manager Eric Huse presented an update. The department is on track fiscally. Manager Huse noted that revenues have the appearance of being behind due to the delay in reimbursement from grants and state payments. Manager Huse did caution the Committee that expenses in some areas may see a sharp increase this year as there are likely to be more costs associated with trials as they resume from the long COVID-19 break. Overall, cases are down through the first quarter. As to operational changes due to COVID-19, Manager Huse noted that there are some silver linings. Specifically with delivery model changes to the Diversion programs. The pre-charge Diversion program now has a fully online delivery model which makes it more accessible for clients.
- **Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court**
 - Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Susan Warner presented an update. Clerk Warner noted that the first quarter focus was guardianship annual reports. Also in the first quarter, she hired new legal specialist who is going through training. Clerk Warner was able to obtain a Zoom license from the State to conduct hearings virtually now and into the future. Clerk Warner advised that the payroll benefits item in the fiscal report includes a lump sum payout for retirement but otherwise the department is under budget. Clerk Warner advised there has not been a significant fiscal impact to her department due to COVID-19. Moving forward, Zoom hearings will continue for cases as it is appropriate.
- **TRY Mediation**
 - Director Travis Quella presented an update. Director Quella announced he will be resigning and will be replaced by Todd Johnson. Mr. Johnson introduced himself to Committee. Mr. Johnson will begin in mid-June.
 - Director Quella noted that TRY Mediation is currently under budget. Director Quella also noted that participation numbers have rebounded since the onset of COVID-19. The Families in Transition class has seen increase in participants and virtual mediation has been a significant benefit. Director Quella is currently exploring permanently implementing virtual mediations and other changes that came out of COVID-19.

Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office Updates

- **1st Quarter Fiscal Update**
 - Admin. Division Manager Danielle Powers presented an update. Manager Powers indicated that revenue is lagging due to a lack of payment from Board of Prisoners reimbursement and lack of Huber inmates as the Huber Center is still closed. Expenses are largely on track for the first quarter. Manager Powers noted that cases, bookings, and total inmates are down for the quarter. In lieu of in-person trainings cancelled as a result of COVID-19, online trainings have been utilized for staff. The Sheriff's Office is now preparing for summer festivals and events.

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

- Captain Dave Riewestahl provided an update. Jail population has remained relatively flat month-to-month. Captain Riewestahl advised he has received two additional Correctional Officer (CO) resignations for a total of five current vacancies. Two CO staff are slated to start in June while other candidates are in the background investigation phase of recruitment. Captain Riewestahl advised the Committee that he is seeing fewer applicants and fewer interviews than previously which is compounding the issue of lack of staff.
- Captain Riewestahl noted other staffing concerns with the Special Deputy positions. He noted he received three resignations in the last month with another forthcoming. They are currently recruiting to fill those vacancies.
- As to COVID-19, Captain Riewestahl indicated that information and data is still being posted on website. Testing and vaccination is also still happening through partnership with the City/County Health Department. Captain Riewestahl advised that the jail is still adhering to rather strict COVID-19 protocols though they have had to compromise the quarantine period in some instances to 10 days rather than 14 days due to increases in bookings. Onsite video visitation will begin again likely in June. Moving forward the jail will be implementing other incremental changes and slowly phasing out some COVID-19 practices as it becomes appropriate.

Resolution 21-22/019 – Abolishing One (1.0 FTE) Administrative Associate III and Creating One (1.0 FTE) Administrative Specialist III in the Sheriff’s Office

Danielle Powers presented the resolution. Supervisor Janssen moved to adopt and present to the full County Board for consideration. The resolution was **approved** via voice vote 5-0.

Resolution 21-22/009 – Requesting the State of Wisconsin Decriminalize Recreational Cannabis

Supervisor Roberts presented the resolution. Supervisor Janssen moved to adopt and present to the full County Board for Consideration. The Committee engaged in discussion. The following friendly amendments were made to the resolution:

- At line 16, after states, insert “and”
- At line 17, after countries, insert a period
- At line 24, after Marquette, insert “Law School”

Chairperson Wilkie called for a roll call vote: JANSSEN aye; MCKINNEY aye; ROBERTS aye; RUSSEL aye; WILKIE aye. The resolution, as amended, was **approved** 5-0.

Ordinance 21-22/010 – Creating Section 9.85.030 of the County Code: Forfeiture; Amending Section 1.50.020 of the Code: Schedule of Deposits

Supervisor Roberts presented the resolution. Supervisor Roberts moved to adopt and present to the full County board for consideration.

Supervisor Russell moved to amend the ordinance as follows:

- At line 10 and 11, after 9.85.010, strike “or 9.85.020”
- At line 18 and 19, after Marijuana, strike “and Drug Paraphernalia”

The amendment was approved via voice vote.

Supervisor McKinney moved to table the matter to next meeting. Motion to table approved via voice vote.

Future Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled committee meeting is Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 3:00 PM.

Joint meetings with the Committee on Budget and Finance to review 2022 department budget requests are scheduled for July 28, 2021 at 3:00 PM (also a regularly scheduled meeting) and July 29, 2021 at 3:00 PM

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

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wilkie at 5:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Eric Huse
Committee Clerk