

## Minutes of the Wood County Public Safety Committee

**DATE:** February 12, 2018

**PRESENT:** Mike Feirer, Dennis Polach, Joe Zurfluh, Bill Winch, Brad Hamilton

**EXCUSED:** Brad Hamilton at 1:15 p.m.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Clendenning, Leroy Borntrager, Mose Helmuth, Dan Schrock, Vicki Palen, Joe Eichsteadt, Dave LaFontaine, Patrick Testin, Melissa Siegler, Steve Kreuser, Chris Raber, Jonas Schrock, Bob Kulp, Dara Hamm, Lance Pliml, Randy Dorshorst, Kelli Trzinski, Scott Krug, Shawn Becker, Tom Reichert, Nanci Kinney, Brad Schimmel, Amy Sue Vruwink, Lori Heidemann, Nancy VanderMeer

**LOCATION:** Vesper Community Building – Vesper Wisconsin

### 1. Call to Order:

Mike Feirer called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

### 2. Review minutes of January 9, 2018:

**Motion by Hamilton, second by Winch to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### 3. Public Comments:

No public comments

### 4. Courthouse Security Issues and Updates:

Bill Clendenning gave updates on security. He stated there will be a meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> and a meeting of the Public Property Committee after the next County Board meeting.

### 5. Discuss railroad crossing time limits in the City of Wisconsin Rapids:

Supervisor Winch explained the reasoning behind this agenda item. He would like to see the City of Wisconsin Rapids and the County work together to address and find solutions for this issue. Rep. Krug states that he has been trying to work with Canadian National and they are not cooperating. Mr. Eichstadt from the City agrees that this is an issue. Sup. Polach asked about the idea of an overpass. Mr. Eichstadt said that there are multiple crossings so it is not a feasible idea.

Amy Sue Vruwink stated that the transportation person in Senator Kind's office, Ethan Holmes, would like to hear from individuals that are having problems with long waits, etc... This will help him when he calls Canadian National to speak about this issue. His email is [ethan.holmes@mail.house.gov](mailto:ethan.holmes@mail.house.gov)

**6. Animal Drawn Vehicles:**

Rep. Kulp gave an update on the bill in the House. It has been voted on and is up for scheduling in the Senate. Supervisor Winch explains that safety is the reasoning behind these proposed changes. Rep. Kulp speaks as to the motivations behind the State level response and reasoning. Sup. Feirer asks what the pending legislation will do to help Wood County. He states that he feels this will help Wood County more than other Counties with more restrictive Amish communities. Bill Winch questions how much authority the County has over their own roads. Vicki Palen states that discussing visibility as a separate issue is the way to go. Mose Hellmuth states that he believes that more lights are good. Dan Schrock states that he believes an amber flashing light would be a good idea. One of the Amish stated interaction with traffic has been improving since this has become a news item. Sup. Feirer states that the committee will wait to see what happens with the State Legislation. The Amish community agrees to a meeting to discuss implementation in their communities before the legislation is passed. Emergency Management and Sheriff will continue to meet with the Amish Communities, along with going into their schools to teach rules of the road to the students.

**7. Emergency Management Department:**

**a. Communications January 2018 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Communications January 2018 claims.

**b. Communications Report:**

The Committee reviewed the Communications report.

**c. Emergency Management January 2018 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Emergency Management January 2018 claims.

**d. Emergency Management Activity Report:**

The Committee reviewed the Emergency Management activity report. Steve talked about the discussion he had with the Amish as he was driving them home. Dennis asked questions about the lights and meetings. Steve explained the dam plans and the grant with Juneau County. Talked about the training course and the reimbursement that will be forthcoming for a portion of that course fee.

**8. Dispatch Department:**

**a. Dispatch January 2018 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Dispatch January 2018 claims.

**b. Dispatch Report:**

The Committee reviewed the Dispatch Report as presented. Lori talked about the new staff and that they are doing well. Lori stated that the newest hire starts on February 19<sup>th</sup> and that will put them at full staff. Bill Clendenning asks about text to 911 and Lori states that will be coming soon.

**9. Set date, time and location of next meeting:**

**March 12, 2018**

**1:00 pm**

**Marshfield Annex and Health Center**

**9. Humane Officer:**

**a. Humane Officer Report:**

The Committee reviewed the Humane Officer report.

**b. January 2018 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Humane Officer January 2018 claims.

**c. Resolution to Amend 2017 Humane Officer Budget**

**Motion by Hamilton, second by Winch to Amend to 2017 Humane Officer Budget.  
Motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Coroner:**

**a. Coroner Report:**

The Committee reviewed the Coroner report.

**b. January 2018 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Coroner January 2018 claims.

**c. Discuss Moving Coroner's Position from Part-time to Fulltime**

Coroner Hamm discussed moving the coroner's position to fulltime starting in January 2019. Coroner Hamm stated Wood County's call volume is close to Portage County. Joe Zurfluh asked Coroner Hamm to put something in writing for the next meeting regarding cost savings if the position was to become fulltime.

## **11. Sheriff's Department:**

### **a. Correspondence:**

Sheriff Reichert talked about the Federal Trial the Department was involved in and shared with the Committee that the Court ruled in the County's favor.

Sheriff Reichert told the committee he does not plan on seeking re-election; however he does plan on finishing his term.

Sheriff Reichert told the committee the kitchen transition is going exceptionally well. He believes this was a smart business decision and will be a substantial cost savings.

### **b. January 2018 Claims:**

The Committee reviewed the Sheriff's Department January 2018 claims.

### **c. Resolution to Amend the 2017 Electronic Monitoring Budget:**

Chief Deputy Randy Dorshorst explained the Resolution to the Committee.

**Motion by Zurfluh, second by Winch to amend the 2017 Electronic Monitoring budget. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **d. Bond Electronic Monitoring:**

None.

### **e. Discuss PEHP Regarding Elected Officials:**

Sheriff Reichert discussed allowing elected officials the ability to use their sick time they earned prior to becoming an elected official for post-employment health plans.

**Motion was made by Zurfluh, second by Winch to provide PEHP benefits to all fulltime elected officials in Wood County. Motion carried unanimously.**

The committee also directed that the issue be forwarded to the Legislative Committee for their consideration.

### **f. Updates:**

**Crimestoppers:** See Report.

**Safe Ride Initiative:** None.

**Criminal Justice Task Force:** None.

**K9:** None.

**Courthouse Security:** Sheriff Reichert shared with the Committee that he believed the Federal Courthouse in Madison was a good template for our county.

**e. Jail Items:**

All jail reports were reviewed.

**12. January 2018 Claims: Dispatch, Communications, Emergency Management, and Sheriff:**

**Motion by Zurfluh, second by Polach to approve the January 2018 claims of all Public Safety Committee Departments. Motion carried unanimously.**

**13. Agenda Items:**

Allowing ATVs on Roadways

**14. Adjourn:**

**Motion by Polach, second by Zurfluh to adjourn at 2:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes taken by Wood County Sheriff's Department.

***Electronically Signed by William Winch***

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Bill Winch, Secretary  
Public Safety Committee