

Minutes of the Wood County Public Safety Committee

DATE: September 16, 2019

PRESENT: Dennis Polach, Joe Zurfluh, Mike Feirer, Jason Zaleski, Bill Winch

EXCUSED:

NOT

PRESENT:

OTHERS

PRESENT:

Steve Kreuser, Scott Brehm, Randy Dorshorst, Erik Engel, Nanci Olson, Shawn Becker, Bill Clendenning, Lori Heideman, Reuben Van Tassel, Jason Demarco, Amy Kaup, Ed Newton, Quentin Ellis, Doug Machon, Sarah Christensen, Kenneth Curry

LOCATION: Wood County Courthouse

1. Call to Order:

Dennis Polach called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comments:

Joe Zurfluh stated that he wished they would have received a copy of the budget sooner. At least so they could get an idea of what they were looking at previous to the meeting.

3. Communications Department:

a. **Communications Budget Review:**

Erik included a \$218,000 maintenance contract from Moducom in his budget. That's the only major change from last year. With the loss of backup technical support from other Counties, and the expiration of the console warranty, Erik worked with Lori to find options for making sure critical systems were supported 24/7/365. Joe Zurfluh inquired about adding addition staff to the Communications Department instead of a entering into a contract. Erik did review this option and believes that the cost of hiring a new individual would be about \$80,000 per year. Mike Fierer also believes hiring a new position would be a better value than the maintenance contract.

Motion by Feirer, 2nd by Zurfluh to approve and to pass the Communications budget on to the Executive Committee with the amendment that they hire another position in the Communications Department as opposed to paying for contracted services with the maintenance contract as they believe they would get more value out of an employee. Zurfluh, Zaleski, Polach and Feirer vote yes. Winch votes no. Motion carried.

4. Emergency Management Department

a. **Emergency Management Budget Review:**

Steve talked about the budget and that it went down from what it was last year. Explained that our CIP generators were previously approved and that overall our budget was a ½ percent increase.

Motion by Zurfluh, 2nd by Zaleski to approve and pass the Emergency Management budget on to the Executive Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Dispatch Department:

a. Dispatch Budget Review:

Lori talked about the increase in wages and rent. Rent increase is for space at Norwood in order to set up a backup dispatch console. If she removes the \$37,000 for the maintenance contract her budget would come in just about even with last year.

Motion by Zaleski, 2nd by Feirer to approve and to pass the Dispatch budget on to the Executive Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Coroner:

a. Coroner Budget Review:

Scott states that his budget for 2020 decreased. Zaleski asked if he learned anything in his first year of office. Scott stated that he did, and that he has moved some money around from different areas because of that.

Motion by Zurfluh, 2nd by Winch to approve and to pass the Coroner budget on to the Executive Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Humane Officer

a. Humane Officer Budget Review:

Nanci states that her budget is very similar to last year. There is less than 1% increase.

Motion by Polach, 2nd by Feirer to approve and to pass the Humane Officer budget on to the Executive Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Sheriff's Department:

a. Sheriff's Department Budget Review:

Chief Deputy Randy Dorshorst presented the Sheriff's Department budget. There is about a \$600,000 increase for the 2020 budget. The majority of the increase is for the new courthouse security division and wages. There is also a decrease in revenue. The total amount of tax levy increase would be about \$800,000. Randy talked about the decrease in revenue from not selling the Rescue equipment. He talked about some other increases such as wage increases, rent at Wood County Annex in Marshfield and replacement of ballistic vests. The Department

is upgrading all deputies to smart phones. This will eliminate the need to carry tape recorders and cameras. This device can do it all which will eventually end in a cost savings. Randy talked about how the jail wages are separated out differently with this budget software, so it looks like a large increase when it really isn't. Randy talked about the money that they are able to return to the general fund this year. Joe states that he has no questions and that Randy does an excellent job with no frivolous spending. Questions about the grant funds that they are not receiving and Randy answers that they aren't available at this time and if they become available they will certainly apply for them. Feirer asked about the rent increase and Randy wasn't sure why it increased.

Shawn thanked Randy for all his work on the budget and commended his performance. Ed Norton states that he thinks the budget process went well this year, the first year of the new software, and that he sees it improving more in the future.

Motion by Zaleski, 2nd by Zurfluh to approve and to pass the Sheriff's Department budget on to the Executive Committee. Zaleski, Zurfluh, Polach and Feirer vote yes. Winch votes No. Motion carried.

b. Resolution of Security Policy:

Randy states that this is a working document that may change in the future. Winch inquires about the training the staff will go through. LT. Peterson spent a lot of time on the policy and it is very similar to surrounding agencies.

Motion by Feirer, 2nd by Zaleski to pass the Security Policy Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Media Plan

Discussed the press release about Courthouse Security. Sheriff Becker states that they will disseminate it within the next week or so.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Zurfluh, 2nd by Feirer to adjourn. Vice Chair Polach adjourns the meeting at 10:02 am. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes taken by Wood County Emergency Management Department.

Jason Zaleski, Secretary
Public Safety Committee