

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 30, 2013**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Bob Metropulos, Dave Hintz, Billy Fried, Jack Martinson and Mike Timmons.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ken Krall (WXPR), Jonathon Anderson (Lakeland Times), Jerry Shidell (County Board Supervisor), Lara Reed (Rhineland Chamber of Commerce), Chief Steffes (Rhineland Police), Blaine Osborne (Rhineland Administrator), Tim Kingman (Rhineland Wastewater & Public Works), Gerry VanHarpen (Hodag Country Fest), Karilyne Roberts (Hodag Country Fest), Steve Sauer (Rhineland Alderman), Sheriff Hartman, Chief Deputy Sweeney (Sheriff's Office), Brian Desmond (Corporation Counsel), Larry Mathein (Medical Examiner), Bonnie Wilcox (District Attorney), Ann Prom (Family Court), Kathy Belliveau (Branch I), Brenda Behrle (Clerk of Courts), Mary Bartelt (County Clerk), Ken Korten Hof, Support Services Administrator/Emergency Management Director and Dawn Robinson, Committee Secretary.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Metropulos called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room #2, stated the meeting notice had been posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and noted accommodations would be made for handicap accessibility.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

MOTION: To approve the Agenda (Timmons/Hintz, PASSED).

**APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: To approve the September 19, 2013 Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (Martinson/Fried, PASSED).

**SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)**

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

**BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS WITH NO AGENDA ITEMS**

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Public Safety Departments (Fried/Martinson, PASSED).

*Update on City of Rhineland Negotiations (Storm Water/Dispatching)*

Committee Chairman was unaware of negotiations, felt he should have been notified to attend and thought there was no longer a Rhineland dispatching issue.

Committee member Fried explained he requested the topic be placed on the agenda to inform the Committee of negotiations. As the Building & Grounds Committee Chairman, he was been meeting with City officials regarding storm water runoff fees and was authorized by the County Board Chairman to also address dispatching during negotiations. At this time, there is no news to report and stated there has been good

dialog between both the City and the County. Committee member Fried assured the Committee the Committee of Jurisdiction overseeing negotiated items would be informed of any agreements prior to finalization.

The Committee Chairman received an email from City of Rhinelander Alderperson Young who requested a 2012 email be read into record regarding paying for dispatching services twice. The Chairman read the email into the record.

There was discussion regarding storm water runoff fees. The Rhinelander Administrator explained the City implemented a storm water runoff fee in 2012 based upon impervious surface.

The Rhinelander Wastewater & Public Works Director indicated the County can apply for credit for utilities under defined rules and proceed through the process to see if a credit is available.

The Committee Chairman stated dispatch falls under Public Safety Committee and is a separate issue than storm water runoff which falls under the Solid Waste & Building & Grounds Committee.

Committee member Fried indicated dialog has been reopened with the City of Rhinelander and felt things could be done better with a positive outcome benefiting citizens.

There was discussion with no action taken.

## **LARGE ASSEMBLY**

*Review two approved 2013 Large Assembly Applications (Hodag Country Fest and Fall Harley Ride)*

A copy of the Hodag Country Fest Application was provided, Exhibit #1.

The County Clerk stated permit applications are submitted in April, additional information was requested and received and, indicated the Large Assembly Ordinance was updated.

The Committee Chairman asked if any complaints were received, no complaints were received by the County Clerk.

A question was asked which department(s) would receive complaints. It was explained the Sheriff's Office and/or the Public Health Department would be contacted.

A copy of the Harley Fall Ride Application was provided, Exhibit #2.

The County Clerk will request Mr. Troutman to update his application with current information, current year dates and lease agreement with Town of Nokomis. The County Clerk suggested obtaining a water test every year.

*Extra Ordinary Event Fee*

Committee member Hintz request this item to be listed, referred to the Sheriff's Office budget, cited discussions during the budget process regarding charging an Extra Ordinary Event Fee.

County Board Supervisor Shidell was present, referred to the Sheriff's Office budget, stated 100% of expenses incurred are overtime expenses during the Hodag Country Festival event. Shidell felt stationing Sheriff's Deputy's on the Hodag Country Festival grounds (24/7) to patrol the event was a benefit that the County does not recoup dollars back from, provides a service on private land for a private event without charging for the service verses, patrolling during the Harley Fall Ride. There was discussion regarding sales tax revenue.

Corporation Counsel indicated this issue has been addressed numerous times in the past and indicated there is a provision in the Wisconsin Statutes, 59.56(12) that allows for an entertainment tax (recouping of administration fees). Corporation Counsel provided large assemble event examples, mentioned there is a possibility of legal challenges, stated he could research the statute and look into developing an ordinance.

There was discussion regarding singling out one event.

County Board Supervisor Shidell contacted other large assembly events in the State, cited those events and stated this could be done.

There was discussion regarding research and case law (private & public assemblies). Corporation Counsel referred to Chippewa County contracting services during Rock Fest to reimburse for deputy's time/cost (have done so for years). It is unknown if it has been legally challenged.

VanHarpen (Hodag Country Festival) informed the Committee that the festival hires a PerMar Security, a private company, to provide security and stated PerMar works with the Sheriff's Office.

Reed (Rhineland Chamber of Commerce) stated based upon economic impact by the Department of Tourism, every person that stays over night spends \$180.00 per day bringing in 3.4 Million per day into the community, not counting people who travel into the event spends \$50.00 per day.

Committee member Timmons stated the Hodag Country Festival is in the planning stages of selling 2014 event tickets yet this year and stated in fairness, if the Committee pursues the option of charging an extra ordinary event fee that the Committee take time to look into large assembly events and determine which events should charge the fee. If the Committee would decide to implement an extra ordinary event fee, a fee should take effect in 2015.

The Committee agreed Corporation Counsel should look into the extra ordinary event fee. Corporation Counsel informed the Committee Chippewa County event is on both

public and private land and is contracted with a promoter; Alpine Valley event is contracted with a promoter and has a surcharge on tickets and Dane County event is on County property with County policing the event. Corporation Counsel stated Sauk County Pro Marijuana Rally event has the most case law to reference.

There were discussions regarding if the Sheriff's Office presence is requested, overtime expenses and compensation (including grants) and the overtime costs are for the Hodag Country Festival and the Harley Fall Ride.

The Chief Deputy explained the Sheriff is responsible for public safety (staffing events and working cooperatively with venues) and the Sheriff's Office cannot discriminately send an event/venue a bill for services. The Chief Deputy stated the County Board of Supervisors would need to set a policy and develop a process to evaluate events.

Committee member Fried asked if the private security firm hired by Hodag Country Festival Officials was staffed to the size of the event and asked if the private security firm was brought up to a higher level of service would help staffing. The Sheriff stated the Patrol Lieutenant works closely with the private security firm, cited the Sheriff's Office has a good relationship with Festival Officials and mentioned the Sheriff's Office would continue to have a presence at the festival and staff the event.

MOTION: To have Corporation Counsel research other events, look into ordinance, State Statutes, charging for event fees and bring information back to the Public Safety Committee (Fried/Timmons), three 'aye' votes (Fried, Timmons and Hintz) and two 'nay' votes (Martinson and Metropulos) the motion carried.

10:38 a.m. The Committee took a brief break.

10:40 a.m. The Committee reconvened.

County Board Supervisor Shidell has a previous commitment to attend to and asked the Committee if Item #14 on the agenda could be addressed. The Committee agreed.

*Adjustments of Jail Facilities & Staffing for lower inmate population:*

County Board Supervisor Shidell drew an illustration of the jail pods location and areas that are observed by Correction Officers. Shidell explained when the architect designed the Jail, the County housed State prisoners and the County was making money. Due to the architecture design and loss of housing State inmates, the County cannot consolidate down to watch a smaller amount of inmates. Shidell asked the Committee to be aware of the issue and have the Sheriff design something to reduce work force to oversee current population. Shidell stated he requested the item to be listed on the agenda, raised the issue during the budget hearing and hopes there is a way to reduce the number of people overseeing a reduced amount of inmates housed. There was discussion.

The Sheriff addressed substantial training levels required for Correction Officers, the difficulty of employees retaining training when only working when inmate population

demands additional work force and indicated the new Jail Administrator should be part of the solution/decision.

County Board Supervisor Shidell stated when the Jail is housing 150 inmates, the County is making money. Currently, the number has dropped below 100. Shidell explained staffing levels has been addressed with other County Departments and cited those departments that have reduced the number of employees.

The Sheriff cited classifications of inmates and requirements for separate housing needs (gender, low/high level crimes, seventeen-year old offenders, etc.).

A question was asked if there are a required number of staff members to the number of inmates. The Sheriff informed the Committee an annual State inspection and audit is conducted, explained both the State and the County would have to agree on staffing levels and mentioned there is a Resolution pertaining to staffing levels.

County Board Supervisor Shidell recommended looking at staffing issues as other County departments have.

The Sheriff affirmed the Sheriff's Office is always looking at creating revenues. The Chief Deputy explained money generated from housing State inmates went into the General Fund. When the Jail housed higher number of inmates, the Sheriff's Office did not hire extra personnel. The Sheriff's Office is trying to control day-to-day costs. The Chief Deputy referred to unfunded State mandates, addressed classifications of offenders and affirmed the Jail remains safe for personnel and for inmates.

Committee member Hintz suggested pursuing efficiencies and promoting ideas to look at options. The Committee has the Sheriff's Office commitment to doing so.

There was discussion with no action taken.

#### **DEPARTMENT ITEMS:**

##### **Sheriff's Office/Emergency Management**

###### *Consolidation Update*

Due to technical difficulties, the nine-minute video and update was moved further down the agenda.

###### *State HazMat Contract*

The Committee previously approved the State HazMat Contract contingent upon Corporation Counsel's review. Corporation Counsel recommended minor changes that were cited. The Contract was reviewed by both the State Attorney and with the County's Corporation Counsel.

**MOTION:** To approve the State HazMat Contract as presented (Hintz/Martinson, PASSED).

*Telecommunicator, Jail Administrator, Deputy Sheriff Positions*

Jail Administrator has accepted a job with Marathon County. By ordinance, the waiting period is waived.

A Sheriff's Deputy has accepted a job with the State of Wisconsin. The Sheriff requested the vacancy to be filled.

A Telecommunicator has resigned. The Sheriff requested the vacancy to be filled.

MOTION: To approve filling the Telecommunicator, Jail Administrator and Deputy Sheriff Positions as recommended (Timmons/Martinson, PASSED).

*Lac du Flambeau Ambulance Contract*

Lac du Flambeau Ambulance is a volunteer staffed ambulance that is having difficulty staffing the unit, an Oneida County ambulance has been responding to the area when Lac du Flambeau is not available and the issue has been addressed with the Town of Lac du Flambeau. The Emergency Management Director explained Towns outside the County (i.e. Arbor Vitae, etc.) contract for ambulance service and recommends entering into a contract with the Town of Lac du Flambeau. As a result of the contract, Oneida would receive revenue from ambulance calls and the Town would be charged directly, similar to other ambulance contracts in place. The Director affirmed both Corporation Counsels have reviewed the contract.

There was discussion regarding charges/equalized values, call volume, Town area, training requirements and volunteer services.

MOTION: To approve the Lac du Flambeau Ambulance Contract (Martinson/Hintz, PASSED).

*Ambulance Service Update*

The Ambulance Service reflected a positive variance in the amount of \$193,000.00 and is \$32,000.00 below expenses. The Finance Director has been notified and Ministry has been and continues to be a good partner. The Committee was reminded there is one more quarter left in the year.

Committee member Hintz reminded everyone the County budget will be addressed at the November 12, 2013 County Board of Supervisors meeting.

*Budget Revisions*

The Sheriff Office was asked to cut money from the budget. In order to do so, the Sheriff's Office had to take monies from other areas.

Committee member Hintz explained the four-step budget process, cited levy limits, mentioned the County has to make cuts, stated the Sheriff's Office has the largest portion of the County's budget and confirmed the Sheriff's Office was asked to cut \$100,000.00 from their budget.

Committee member Martinson was concerned with the Dive Team's budget. The Sheriff explained all cuts were cutting the meat of the service and mentioned every year the Office is asked to reduce their budget. Martinson questioned if the County was jeopardizing safety. The Sheriff affirmed the budget is very lean and if asked to cut next year, programs would be affected.

The Chief Deputy recognizes public safety and affirmed there is a great deal of demand for assisting with recreational activities. The Chief Deputy addressed fluctuations in budgets when zeroing out the continuing appropriations account then having to replace a boat. The Chief Deputy strongly recommended looking at the \$10,000.00 in the Recreational Safety Budget as it is closer to becoming a zero especially when the County offers more ATV Trails, etc.

Committee member Hintz explained during the County Board of Supervisors Meeting, County Board Supervisors will review budgets and has an opportunity to reduce or restore money.

There was brief discussion regarding funding portion of Minocqua dispatching.

A question was asked if the Emergency Management budget is separate from the Sheriff's Budget. The Emergency Management budget is a separate budget.

Committee member Fried asked if the Sheriff's Office presented a zero increased budget at the time the Committee approved it. The Sheriff affirmed the budget was below zero and the Emergency Management Director stated the ambulance budget was below budget as well.

There was discussion regarding the 2014 Budget Summary.

*Bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Sheriff's Office*

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Sheriff's Office (Timmons/Hintz, PASSED).

*Consolidation Update*

A nine-minute Sheriff's Office video was viewed by the Committee. The video will be posted on the Sheriff's Office website, You-Tube and also used for recruitment.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment was given.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Develop agenda at Emergency Management Director's discretion.

**ADJOURN**

**11:45 a.m.** MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Fried/Hintz, PASSED).

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Bob Metropulos, Chairman

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Dawn Robinson, Committee Secretary