

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Public Safety Committee** was held on August 3, 2021 in Room 200 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**Present:** Chair Deneys, Supervisor Kaster, Supervisor Schultz, Supervisor Coenen

**Excused:** Supervisor Lund

**Also Present:** Public Safety Communications Director Cullen Peltier, District Attorney David Lasee, Emergency Management Director Lauri Maki, Corporation Counsel David Hemery, Captain John Rousseau, Director of Administration Chad Weininger, Board Chair Pat Buckley, Deputy Executive Jeff Flynt, Supervisor Joan Brusky, Judge Tammy Jo Hock, State Public Defender Kelli Thompson, State Public Defender Legislative Liaison Adam Plotkin, State Public Defender Regional Attorney Manager Jeff Cano, Senator Robert Cowles, Senator Andre Jacques, Representative Kristina Shelton, media and other interested parties.

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**I. Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deneys at 6:09 pm.

**II. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

Chair Deneys would like to modify the agenda to take Items 5 and 3 following *Comments from the Public*.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to approve as amended. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Approve/Modify Minutes of June 29, 2021.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Comments from the Public** – None.

*Although shown in the proper format here, Item 5 was taken at this time, followed by Item 3.*

**1. Review Minutes of:**

- a) Crime Prevention Funding Board (May 4, 2021).**

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- b) Criminal Justice Coordinating Board (June 1, 2021).**

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to receive and place on file. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- c) Local Emergency Planning Committee (July 14, 2021).**

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## Circuit Courts, Commissioners, Probate.

### 2. Budget Status Financial Report for June 2021 – Unaudited.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 3. Discussion regarding Public Defender appointment backlog.

Judge Hock informed there has not been a lot of change since last time she addressed this committee. There is still concern about the lack of Public Defender appointments and there is still difficulty finding enough attorneys in Brown County to take cases. As she reported last time, at 60 days Commissioners are referring cases to the Judges for indigency reviews which means there is a high probability a Judge will appoint an attorney that will be paid through the county instead of through the State Public Defender's (SPD) Office. Judge Hock noted cases are coming through the system a little faster as defendants are asking to proceed with preliminary hearings without an attorney and then coming to Circuit Court for an arraignment without an attorney and demanding a speedy trial.

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to open the floor to allow interested parties to speak. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chair Deneys thanked representatives of the SPD for attending this meeting. Representatives introduced themselves as Kelli Thompson, State Public Defender; Adam Plotkin, Legislative Liaison; and Jeff Cano, Regional Attorney Manager.

Thompson thanked the committee for giving them the opportunity to address them and added that they are always willing to come back with updates as she understands the concerns, whether it is state versus county funding, individuals sitting in custody or constitutional issues that have a significant impact on a county. Those people waiting for attorneys are individuals who have been deemed eligible and should be represented by a Public Defender or by a private bar attorney the SPD contracts with. She added that there has been a significant increase in cases, some of them serious cases and she feels District Attorney David Lasee would agree with this.

Thompson continued by explaining how the SPD is set up. They have 37 trial offices throughout the state, two appellate offices and one administrative office. The SPD represents defendants in all counties in Wisconsin and they use their resources the best they can by setting up regional offices. As the Regional Attorney Manager, Jeff Cano supervises nine counties. The Green Bay Office represents in Brown, Kewaunee and Door counties.

In the past there have been issues keeping SPD offices fully staffed. If there is not staff to take the cases and do the appointments and all the work that goes along with it, they fall behind. Now they are fully staffed, and, in addition, they will be adding an attorney to Brown County. This attorney will come from a different office and be placed in the Brown County office.

Cano informed that since last year they have added two attorneys in the Green Bay office. This will provide a long-term affect in that any backlog of cases can be picked up; however, they are pretty new attorneys and therefore will not be able to do some of the high-level cases at this time. They have also added a very seasoned lawyer from the private bar who is taking high-level cases. The problem with that is there is now one less attorney in the private bar that they can appoint. Cano anticipates they will be able to take a significant step forward in clearing the backlog with these new attorneys. There are now 14 attorneys in the Green Bay Office which is more than there have ever been. Periodically they ask an Appleton or Oshkosh attorney to take a case, but those counties are facing similar backlogs as in Brown County, so if they take a case here, they cannot take a case in their own county.

Thompson added that Judge Hock has been very good about continuing to meet with Cano regarding the ongoing issues. She also noted that they currently have an LTE in their office and will be adding another LTE in mid-August to continue to do appointments for the conflict cases and the overflow cases. Those positions play a significant role in the office. There was talk in the the past regarding the Lee case which is a Court of Appeals case regarding appointments. What the SPD does now is take the additional step of sending a letter to the Court Commissioners and Judges to let them know how many contacts they have made on a case. If it is a conflict case that staff cannot take, they are making calls constantly to find attorneys to take those cases. There are currently about 30 attorneys

on the private bar list that take cases, but unfortunately only about 13 of them take cases on a regular basis. They have also talked to private attorneys about adding associates to take public defender cases and have also talked to them about other resource that can be provided to them so they can take additional cases.

Thompson continued that although the courts in Brown County are back up and open, the COVID backlog will remain for several months or more. All of these issues factor into the current backlog, but there are some things in place, especially with the additional attorneys and support staff, that will help.

Thompson also mentioned the use of ARPA funds to address some of these issues. Plotkin said they want to make a responsible request to address what they hope is a temporary problem. They have had conversations with the Governor's office as well as the legislators who are here tonight about use of ARPA funding to hire temporary assistance for the next 18 – 24 months to help work through the backlog. If it is determined in the next year or so that there needs to be more permanent solutions, a request will be made to the Governor for more permanent resources in the 2023 budget. At this time, they are focusing on the most expedient, immediate solution to try to access some of those resources without permanently growing the size of government to address what they hope is a temporary problem. They are looking for support on the ARPA request and Plotkin added that the WCA as well as several legislators have also contacted the Governor's office in this regard.

Board Chair Buckley asked how many people are locked up right now waiting for attorneys. Thompson did not have a specific number but said there are about 300 cases that need to be appointed and added that some of those are in custody and some are not. Buckley referenced the conference call that was held several months ago and recalled that information was requested as to how many cases were out there, how many needed attorneys, etc., but that information has not been received and he asked how to get the information. It is his understanding that some of the Judges are now starting to appoint attorneys at the county's expense, which the county does not have a budget for. He questioned where those funds are supposed to come from and if the county should send the state a bill. Something needs to be figured out because if there is a case without an attorney and the Judge is going to appoint an attorney, the county has to have a remedy to be reimbursed by the state since this is not the county's responsibility; it is the state's responsibility.

Thompson responded that they do not like to see anyone in custody unrepresented and numbers change every day because they have an appointment secretary who works on cases every single day. They will continue to add staff and work with the private bar to take cases. The last number Thompson had is that approximately 417 cases were appointed out. They hope the seasoned attorney that will be coming in the next several weeks will really help. They are appointing out more cases than they ever have before because on the front end the cases just keep coming in because of the increase in crimes and charging. Thompson said they will continue to add staff and continue to work with the private bar to take additional cases. ARPA funding would be of significant assistance in the short term. Thompson noted that just one attorney and one support staff makes a significant difference in the office. She can continue to keep the committee updated on the numbers coming in the door and what they are having difficulty appointing out and continue to provide the Commissioners and Judges with letters letting them know all the efforts that have been made for the cases that they have not been able to appoint out.

Buckley understands the SPD is working on this, but the system is failing right now; it's failing the person that is in jail waiting for a speedy trial. Even using ARPA funds, Buckley asked what the short-term fix is. Thompson responded that bail is an option and is set to have people return to court and they will continue to work day in and day out to find attorneys for these individuals. This is something people are working around the clock on in the office. There is no short-term fix except to continue to add resources to add attorneys or find private attorneys to take these cases. Thompson continued that Brown County does not seem to have a shortage of lawyers – they have a shortage of lawyers willing to take these cases which makes it difficult.

Judge Hock asked if Thompson feels paying a higher rate would help and, if so, what rate Thompson feels would be appropriate. Thompson responded that she does feel paying more would help. The SPD being able to pay at least the county rate of \$100 would be helpful. The current rate does not force the SPD to compete against the courts and the county and that is hard because if the court feels forced to appoint a case at \$100 an hour, what attorney is going to come back and say they will do SPD work for \$70 an hour? It comes down to a business decision. Staff attorneys are taking everything they possibly can so they need to rely on the private bar or try to do something with the ARPA funds. Thompson has to try everything which includes pulling attorneys from other areas, taking a seasoned attorney that Cano has strongly encouraged to come here who knows Brown County well and reaching

out to the private bar attorneys which she does daily trying to find out what the SPD can do for them and encouraging attorneys to add associates to their firms to take SPD cases. The best and most important thing is that Cano, Judge Hock and DA Lasee work very well together and are in constant communication on this and that is a great way to stay on top of things and explore all of the options. This is a statewide issue and Brown County is one of the three most difficult areas.

Deneys asked if the rate paid through the SPD could be increased to \$100 using ARPA funds. Thompson responded that increasing the rate to \$100 would have to be done in the next budget. Plotkin added that the rate was raised from \$40 to \$70 an hour in the 2019 budget which was the first increase since 1995. The rate increase went into effect January 1, 2020 and had a pretty immediate and significant impact in Brown County, and then the effects of the pandemic started shortly thereafter.

Supervisor Coenen asked Judge Hock and DA Lasee if they feel the current backlog is a temporary problem or more of a permanent problem and how long the backlog has been going on and affecting the court system. Judge Hock did not have exact numbers as to how long this backlog has been an issue but said there was a significant problem when the rate was \$40 an hour. Everyone knew raising the rate to \$70 was not going to be enough as that is the break-even point for a lot of attorneys. As far as this being a temporary versus permanent problem, Judge Hock feels that if the SPD can address this by adding permanent staff, that may be a fix. Adding staff on a temporary basis may clear the backlog, but Judge Hock does not suspect crime is going to decrease significantly in Brown County and she understands the DA's office is incredibly shorthanded and if they have more attorneys that can look at more cases, more charges will be generated and for those reasons she does not see the numbers going down.

District Attorney David Lasee agreed that this is a long-term problem and the solution is complicated. He understands the SPD is trying to address the problem but it is a huge systemic issue. There are so many factors; the private sector pay is one of the issues and being able to obtain and retain quality attorneys in the SPD office is another huge issue. Lasee continued that with all due respect, the current staff is not taking a substantial percentage of the high intensity cases because they are newer staff. There is a lot of turnover in the office and there are a lot of new lawyers that are not able to take the homicide and shooting cases. The DA's office has also suffered with obtaining and retaining attorneys. This is a complicated issue and Lasee feels it is a long-term issue. He feels it will be difficult to find lawyers to come to Brown County to take on short-term LTE positions and those lawyers who are in Brown County and like to live here are making better money doing something else. Additionally, Brown County does not have a huge private bar to handle the conflict cases and there are a number of very serious cases where people are sitting in custody for more than 60 days without a lawyer. There are also some people who have been sitting for over a year not in custody with no lawyer. Lasee said this is not for lack of effort by the SPD, but it is a problem and he does not see it going away.

Buckley asked if the SPD had approval for use of ARPA funds to supplement from \$70 to \$100 an hour. Thompson responded that ARPA funds could not be used to supplement from \$70 to \$100; they could only be used to add temporary staff or do some type of LTE work. Raising the hourly fee would have to happen in the next budget. Plotkin added that he recently attended a WCA meeting where they talked about county ARPA money being used to reimburse the county, but they have not investigated whether the state money could be used. Thompson said if they are successful with any ARPA funds, they will look at every possibility to get individuals represented.

Senator Cowles noted there is a letter being sent out soon from a group of area legislators trying to get the attention of the Governor because he has a big chunk of money. He does not think using the money to raise the hourly fee from \$70 to \$100 or get additional positions will make it through the legislature. Cowles thinks the best option is to try to convince the Governor, who has a lot of money from the federal government, to allow this. He noted that it still may not work because there are just not lawyers available, but he feels keeping the pressure on is important and said that maybe a resolution would be appropriate. Cowles continued that County Executive Troy Streckenbach is on good terms with the Governor and perhaps he can help get the attention of the Governor to help figure out how much money can be set aside from ARPA funds to help get through this crisis.

With regard to ARPA funds, Representative Shelton informed that the funding has to be used by 2024 and it will likely not address the long-term issue we have of the \$70 rate moving forward. She feels that while we do need to do something in the short-term, we also have to be wrapping our brains around what we are going to do in the long-term because she does not see this problem going away.

Supervisor Kaster noted that increasing the pay for Public Defender's is good, but right now the county is incurring expenses for court appointed attorneys that was not budgeted for. We have to figure out by the end of the year how to pay the bills we are incurring that were not expected. The county has not been remiss, they just did not expect the big backlog and having to appoint so many attorneys.

Supervisor Schultz understands and appreciates all the efforts being taken with regard to this issue. He recalled that just a few months ago this committee was looking at ways to save Brown County taxpayers from the state's failure to take their sentenced inmates and their refusal to pay the Sheriff to house those inmates. Now we are in the situation of our Judges having to appoint attorneys at the county's expense for the state's failures in the SPD. He questions where it says that when the state fails, the county taxpayers have to suck it up. He does not understand this and the only word that comes to his mind is *irresponsible*. He understands this is not the fault of those at tonight's meeting, but he questions how this works. Schultz said that as far as he knows at this time, the problem with the state prisoners in the county jail has been fixed, but he does not understand why every time the state fails, it sucks up the time of this committee where if the state was responsible, that would not be necessary. Now we are in a similar situation with the circumstances with the SPD. Cowles noted that the Governor is the only person that has the authority to distribute money and maybe with enough pressure the Governor will do that. Schultz asked if it would be best to spend time with state representatives to find ways to prevent this from happening again.

Sheldon reminded that we have to invest in the things we all share and need, and that takes money. She feels that while we should be having conversations about the ARPA funds, we should also remember that the state currently has \$1.7 billion dollars in its rainy-day fund so there is money to address this long term and she feels that from a state budget level it would behoove us to start figuring out together how to make sure this gets into the next budget so we are not sitting here again in two years discussing how the problem has gotten worse.

Coenen indicated she is disappointed that the state has failed Brown County twice and finds it very disheartening that the state felt raising the Public Defender rate from \$40 to \$70 an hour was adequate. She feels there needs to be better due process and there also needs to be an increase to a good base rate and using the ARPA funds would be a good starting point. Coenen agreed with Shelton in that we have to look long-term so we are not in the same spot when those funds are gone. She feels the SPD has been doing what they can with what they have, but we need to get more and fix the problem.

Deneys added that when he was still working in the Sheriff's Office, he was involved in the LEAN process which is picking apart the total process of something to see where the inefficiencies are and what the problems are. What he is continually hearing is that this is not just an issue with the SPD office; there are factors from the DA's office, bail, the courts and other things. He believes the correct thing to do may be to have a legislative audit done on the situation to come up with some answers as to what the big factors and problems are and how to fix them overall.

Plotkin agreed with Deneys and added that one of the things with the criminal justice system at the state level has been trying to do is work with the legislature during the budget time from a systemic standpoint. Prior to the 2019 biennial budget, the Public Defender would come in along with the DA and Judge and DOJ and fairly or unfairly they would get pitted against each other. Starting in 2019 they have been working as a coalition and they put together a budget that tries to balance all pieces. The feeling from having worked with the legislature in that way over the last two cycles is that it makes the overall issues facing the criminal justice system easier to understand and easier to solve when they present a unified front.

Deneys wrapped up the conversation with the takeaway that the SPD is doing what they can and the legislators are sending a letter and perhaps the county can work on a resolution or something similar to support that. Deneys thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting to talk about this.

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to close the floor and return to regular order of business. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*No action taken.*

#### 4. **Director's Report.**

Judge Hock reported the courts continue to try to get back to normal. They are anticipating returning to conducting jury trials the way they used to by doing everything in-house which should help reduce expenses. They are no longer using the KI Center for jury selection and the need to carry alternate jurors will also likely be reduced which will save money.

Judge Hock informed she will be supporting the increase of an additional person in the Probate and Juvenile Department. They are completing a table of organization change because they learned they do not have enough staff now that the Juvenile Department moved from the Clerk of Courts to Probate. They anticipated this could be a problem because of the way resources were utilized in the Clerk of Courts and the ability to have a lot more personnel cover court hearings and this is no longer available.

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Public Safety Communications**

##### 5. **Discussion regarding replacement of radio equipment on the Cofrin Library.**

Director of Public Safety Communications Cullen Peltier recalled that in May he found out there was a possibility of funding in the Governor's budget for the replacement of the Cofrin Library at UWGB. This affects the county as the county currently has radio equipment on the existing building. The Cofrin Library is one of seven sites throughout Brown County that serves all EMS and law enforcement agencies throughout the county. Peltier has had some initial conversations with facilities staff at UWGB regarding what the plans are. The funding has now passed through the House so it seems like this will be a done deal. There will be two phases to this for Brown County. First, when the current building is taken down, the county will have to find a temporary location for that site because all seven sites are integral to the coverage and operation of the radio system. The second phase will be to find a permanent site for the equipment. At this point, all that is known is that the new building will likely be on the same footprint as the current building, however, the new building will be significantly lower than the current building. Peltier has been working with Motorola to find out what that means, but they do not know at this point. He will continue to work with them and will be looking at getting an engineering study done as soon as possible. Even though putting up a new building will likely be a three-to-four-year process, that really is not a long time for the engineering of a public safety radio system. Peltier would like to start working on this now so they are prepared to have coverage when the building comes down. There will be coverage issues when the site comes down, but they do have some backup systems that can be used.

The final component to all this will be the cost and they need to figure out where the funding will come from. Peltier informed they will need to start expending dollars in the near future for the engineering study and that is not part of the annual service agreement so they will have to figure out what the options are. At this time Peltier is still gathering as much information as possible and he will continue to keep the committee updated.

Chair Deneys noted the county has sent a letter to Madison supporting the bill and asking for their help moving forward to keep this on the building committee's attention. Deneys has also talked to Representative Macco on this. This directly affects law enforcement entities which protect the county, including UWGB, and it also affects fire and rescue response. The county is going to have to figure out how and where to go but that is dependent on an engineering study. Peltier agreed and said the initial rough estimate is up to \$5 million dollars, but that could change.

**Motion made by Supervisor Coenen, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to open the floor to allow interested parties to speak. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Shelton informed she has talked to the Governor and his team this week and inquired about this issue. Details are still being ironed out, but she was informed by the Governor's office that they would be working very closely with Representatives to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Cowles said it would be helpful if the county could provide details regarding how much was paid by the state and how much was paid by the county the last time this was done as this information can be used in making arguments

with the Governor's office. Peltier can get that information together and Deneys added that when he spoke with Macco, he suggested a letter from the committee or Board outlining those same numbers.

**Motion made by Supervisor Coenen, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to close the floor and return to regular order of business. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*No action taken.*

**6. Director's Report.**

Peltier informed there recently was an upgrade to the CAD system which did not go very well. There were significant issues going into the weekend and the developers and support staff from Motorola as well as PSC staff worked through the weekend on those issues. Some of the things have been resolved and they continue to work on the remaining issues which Peltier hopes will be resolved relatively quickly.

Peltier continued that staffing has been a serious challenge for PSC. They continue to hire, but that is not solving the problem because there are too many people that are too new and that is creating a training gap. On paper, they will be fully staffed on August 24 when they bring on two more individuals, one who has 20 years of experience in a different state. They are struggling with a lot of overtime and inverting and are getting close to having the same issues they had before they went to the new schedule several years ago. They are doing what they can to minimize some of the effects and he will keep the committee updated.

Regarding the budget, Peltier informed they are tracking fine at this point.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**District Attorney**

**7. District Attorney Report.**

Lasee informed things are okay in his office but they continue to be very busy. Regarding the budget, the DA's office is tracking a little over in the areas of paper service, witness fees and extra witness fees. Basically, everything that is related to trial work is a little over budget. Lasee anticipates some salary savings this year which should offset the overages.

Lasee continued that he anticipates bringing forward a request for an additional position for a Clerk to do redactions. With Marsy's Law they are paying a lot closer attention to the materials they turn over to defendants as many times defendants get all the discovery from their attorney at the jail and it floats around the jail. The discovery can include the crime victim's address, date of birth names of children, etc. The discovery staff are several months behind in discovery demands which can create further delays to the system.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Medical Examiner**

**8. Medical Examiner's Report.**

Deneys informed he talked to Medical Examiner Director of Operations Barry Irmen who did not have a lot to report. They are having a meeting tomorrow to talk about the issue with the doors that was discussed last month. Irmen also informed Deneys that they interviewed three doctors for the opening, but two of them have a year left in their internships and the other has two years of fellowship left and all three of them are being looked at by other agencies as well.

*No report; no action taken.*

## Clerk of Courts

### 9. Clerk of Courts Report.

*No report; no action taken.*

## Emergency Management

### 10. Director's Report.

Emergency Management Director Lauri Maki reported they are still doing the closeouts for the 2021 grants and they are also working on their budget goals and initiatives for 2022 as well as getting ready to apply for grants next year.

Safety Town is continuing on Tuesdays and is a great opportunity for outreach. They continue to work on the PIO group with the Chamber, but there has been some changeover in the Chamber and some of the data has been lost so they are working with them to be sure they have the right people on the list before they move forward. EM participated in the annual Lambeau Field tabletop exercise going through how to react in certain scenarios that could occur at a Packers game. Maki also explained that EM is required to facilitate an exercise every year that meets Homeland Security evaluation guidelines and their exercise this year was a tabletop with NEW Water. The exercise was held in July and they are currently working on the after-action review and improvement plan.

Maki continued that they proactively activated the EOC to its lowest level on July 28 in anticipation of the forecasted severe weather which never really happened, but it was good to go through the motions with those that came in from Operation Community Cares and a local amateur radio group.

Maki concluded by saying they created the IPAWS agreement with Outagamie County. The agreement allows Brown County to cross into Outagamie County and vice versa if something should happen on the county borders. His goal for next year is to get similar agreements in place with other neighboring counties. Maki provided a handout from FEMA, a copy of which is attached, which explains a nationwide emergency alert test scheduled for August 11.

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## Sheriff

### 11. Update re: Jail Addition – *Standing Item*.

Captain John Rousseau presented to the committee for Sheriff Delain. He informed the jail addition is 99% done, but this is not impacting the jail population at this time. They anticipate a September 14 opening of the new pod.

*Standing item; no action taken.*

### 12. Budget Status Financial Report for June 2021 – Unaudited.

Rousseau noted expenses year-to-date are at 46% and revenues year-to date are at 48.4%. It is expected that revenues will remain above expenses for the remainder of the year.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 13. Key Factor Report for June 2021 – Unaudited.

Rousseau pointed out the overtime differences between 2020 and 2021. He noted that a lot of the speed grants, traffic grants and safety grants started back up in 2021 after the pandemic which has resulted in overtime being necessary. There is also an increase in overtime at the jail due to the high number of correctional officer openings.

**Motion made by Supervisor Coenen, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**14. Budget Adjustment Request (21-055): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

This budget adjustment is to increase grant revenue and related training expenses to participate in a Homeland Security ALERT SWAT Rappelling Gear grant 2020–HSW–02A–12378. This limited eligibility grant provides funds to purchase rappelling gear (harness, ropes, ascenders, descenders, carabiners, etc.) to enhance current SWAT capabilities. There is no local match.

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**15. Budget Adjustment Request (21-056): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

This budget adjustment is to increase grant revenue and increase expenses to participate in Homeland Security WEM/SWAT Tactical Robots grant (2018-HSW-02A-12439). The grant provides funds for the purchase of eight small platform robots to provide target identification, locate threats and locate victims, hostages and/or suspects. One of the eight robots will be retained by Brown County and the remainder distributed to other Wisconsin city and county ALERT teams. Each unit plus accessories and shipping is \$15,875. There is no local match required for this grant.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**16. Budget Adjustment Request (21-068): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

This 2021 budget adjustment is to increase grant revenue and increase outlay expense to participate in NCHIP Livescan Implementation 2020 grant 2020-NC-01. The grant provides funds for purchase of a new fingerprint system for the Jail. This piece of equipment is used daily in the Jail and replaces an old system that cannot be upgraded. There is a 10% local match that will be covered by personnel time allocated to the installation and implementation of this new equipment.

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**17. Sheriff's Report.**

Rousseau said the Sheriff sent his apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting; he is presenting at the Village of Hobart/Town of Lawrence regarding the police service contract for those two municipalities.

Rousseau informed there will be a Food Truck Rally at the Sheriff's Department on August 16 from 3:00 – 7:00 pm. There will be food trucks, live demonstrations, vehicle displays and a 50/50 auction. All proceeds raised will go to the Police Lights of Christmas, a program that provides gift cards for individuals families in need during the holidays.

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Senator Andre Jacque joined the meeting during the Sheriff's Report.*

**Motion made by Supervisor Coenen, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to open the floor to allow interested parties to speak. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Senator Andre Jacque informed he is part of the letter from legislators to the Governor that will be sent out requesting that ARPA funds be used to deal with the backlog in the SPD. He also talked about the resolution which passed the full County Board recently regarding the 980 notification for sex offenders.

Jacque continued that he has had a chance to talk to the County Executive's staff regarding the tower issue on Cofrin Hall and he was reminded about legislation that had been introduced previously that dealt with eliminating the phony phone tax which originally was supposed to be a funding source for projects just like Brown County

would be looking to do here in terms of making sure that there is a safety net in terms of coverage for emergency services.

Jacque concluded that if the committee has any other concerns, he would be willing to work on them. He referenced the ICAC team at the Sheriff's Department and said it is top notch and has already worked with him on some statutory changes they have been able to enact. He is continuing to work on some human trafficking legislation. If there are any other public safety ideas or public controls issues, he would be happy to work on them.

Coenen asked what Jacque's opinion is regarding a long-term fix, besides using ARPA funds to address the issues in the SPD office. Jacque responded that one of the things he has worked on in the past is dealing with the shortage of prosecutors across the state. He appreciated the work of Supervisor Brusky and others in highlighting the issue and noted they were successful and are continuing to take steps forward in terms of pay progression. The reality is that there is a workforce crunch in both the public and private sector in every area and Jacque does not see this getting any better, especially when dealing with the legal profession. When asked if he would support raising the SPD rate from \$70 to \$100 hour, Jacque responded that there has been legislation to this effect in the past that he has signed on to, but he does not know if that would relieve the issues long-term.

**Motion made by Supervisor Coenen, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to close the floor and return to regular order of business. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Resolutions & Ordinances**

**18. Resolution Adopting Brown County's 2022 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.**

Director of Administration Chad Weininger informed the five-year CIP is non-binding and shows the items that have been talked about that are not funded yet. The CIP is broken down into three parts because the first two years are still the sales tax years so cash is needed up front for projects in those years since they cannot be bonded for. The rest of the five years are when the county can start bonding again. The final page is the non-bond and not sales tax projects and the majority of those are donation projects or have other different ways of funding.

Weininger said we still need to look at the big picture because there may be ARPA funds available for some items. He urged the committee to review this and look at the projects that are not date selected so they have an idea of what is being talked about.

**Motion made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Other**

**19. Audit of bills.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Coenen, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to pay the bills. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**20. Such other matters as authorized by law.**

Deneys provided a very brief update on the work group and informed they had a very productive meeting which left the work group with a number of questions. Weininger, County Executive Troy Streckenbach and Public Works Director Paul Fontecchio are looking into the questions and will get back to the work group who will then meet again.

**21. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Coenen, seconded by Supervisor Schultz to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio, Legislative Specialist

# FEMA and FCC Plan Nationwide Emergency Alert Test for Aug. 11 Test Messages Will be Sent to TVs and Radios Along with Select Cell Phones That Have Opted-in to Receive Test Messages

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WASHINGTON – FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) this summer.

The national test will consist of two portions, testing WEA and EAS capabilities. Both tests will begin at 2:20 p.m. ET on Thursday, Aug. 11.

The Wireless Emergency Alert portion of the test will be directed only to consumer cell phones where the subscriber has opted-in to receive test messages. This will be the second nationwide WEA test, but the first nationwide WEA test on a consumer opt-in basis. The test message will display in either English or in Spanish, depending on the language settings of the wireless handset.

The Emergency Alert System portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions. This will be the sixth nationwide EAS test.

FEMA and the FCC are coordinating with EAS participants, wireless providers, emergency managers and other stakeholders in preparation for this national test to minimize confusion and to maximize the public safety value of the test. The test is intended to ensure public safety officials have the methods and systems that will deliver urgent alerts and warnings to the public in times of an emergency or disaster.

## Major information about the test includes:

- The purpose of the Aug. 11 test is to ensure that the EAS and WEA systems continue to be effective means of warning the public about emergencies, particularly those on the national level. Periodic testing of public alert and warning systems helps to



assess the operational readiness of alerting infrastructure and to identify any needed technological and administrative improvements.

- The WEA portion of the test will be initiated using FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), a centralized internet-based system administered by FEMA that enables authorities to send authenticated emergency messages to the public through multiple communications networks. The WEA test will be administered via a code that alerts only phones that have opted in to receive WEA test messages. The EAS portion of the test will be initiated using FEMA-designated Primary Entry Point stations.
- In case the Aug. 11 test is canceled due to widespread severe weather or other significant events, a back-up testing date is scheduled for Aug. 25.

**Anyone who has opted in to receive test messages on their wireless phone will receive the message only once. The following can be expected from the nationwide test:**

- Beginning at 2:20 p.m. ET, cell towers will broadcast the test for approximately 30 minutes. During this time, WEA-compatible wireless phones where the subscriber has opted-in to receive test messages, that are switched on, within range of an active cell tower and whose wireless provider participates in WEA, should be capable of receiving the test message. Wireless phones should receive the message only once.
- For consumers who have opted in to receive WEA test messages, the message that appears on their phones will read: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."
- Opt-in phones with the main menu set to Spanish will display: "ESTA ES UNA PRUEBA del Sistema Nacional de Alerta de Emergencia. No se necesita acción."
- Launched in 2012, WEA is a tool for authorized government agencies to reach the American public during times of national emergency. It is used locally to warn the public about dangerous weather, missing children, and other critical situations through alerts on cell phones.
- Alerts are created and sent by authorized federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies through IPAWS to participating wireless providers, which deliver the alerts to compatible handsets in geo-targeted areas.
- To help ensure that these alerts are accessible to the entire public, including people with disabilities, the alerts are accompanied by a unique tone and vibration. The test handling code will allow FEMA to test this capability while limiting test messages to those phones that have opted in to receive test messages.
- The EAS portion of the test is scheduled to last approximately one minute and will be conducted with the participation of radio and television broadcasters, cable systems, satellite radio and television providers and wireline video providers (EAS participants).



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## Other important information about the EAS test:

- The test message will be similar to the regular monthly EAS test messages with which the public is familiar. It will state: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Emergency Alert System. This system was developed by broadcast and cable operators in voluntary cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission, and local authorities to keep you informed in the event of an emergency. If this had been an actual emergency an official message would have followed the tone alert you heard at the start of this message. No action is required."
- Emergency alerts are created and sent by authorized federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies. EAS participants receive the alerts through IPAWS or through local "over-the-air" monitoring sources. EAS participants then disseminate the emergency alerts to affected communities

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*Background: In 2007, FEMA began modernizing the nation's public alert and warning system by integrating new technologies into the existing alert systems. The new system, known as the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) became operational in 2011. Today, IPAWS supports nearly 1,600 state, local, tribal, territorial and federal users through a standardized message format. IPAWS enables public safety alerting authorities such as emergency managers, police, and fire departments to send the same alert and warning message over multiple communication pathways at the same time to citizens in harm's way, helping to save lives. For more information on FEMA's IPAWS, go to [www.fema.gov/ipaws](http://www.fema.gov/ipaws). For more preparedness information, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).*

