

**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 January 4, 2022 at the Brown County Sheriff's Department, 2684 Development Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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

**Excused:** Supervisor Schultz

**Also Present:** Emergency Management Director Lauri Maki, Public Safety Communications Director Cullen Peltier, Sheriff Todd Delain, Board Chair Patrick Buckley and media.

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**I. Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Deneys at 6:00 pm.

**II. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to approve revised agenda. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Approve/Modify Minutes of December 7, 2021.**

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

**Comments from the Public.**

Stan Kaczmarek submitted a letter in support of Item 17 which was read into the record. A copy is attached.

**Consent Agenda**

- 1. Review Minutes of Crime Prevention Funding Board (September 7, 2021).**
- 2. Emergency Management Budget Status Financial Report for November 2021 – Unaudited (excluding Disaster Management Account).**
- 3. Emergency Management Budget Status Financial Report for November 2021 – Unaudited (including Disaster Management Account).**
- 4. Public Safety Communications Budget Status Financial Report for November 2021 – Unaudited.**
- 5. Audit of the bills.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Lund to approve Items 1 – 5. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Circuit Courts, Commissioners, Probate**

**6. Director's Report.**

Judge Hock was unable to attend this meeting but Chair Deneys received an update from her via telephone. Judge Hock informed they are still having issues with Public Defenders. Deneys informed he also spoke with District Attorney David Lasee who mentioned the same issue. It seems attorneys are not taking the public defender appointments at \$70 an hour and instead waiting to be appointed by the court at the \$100 hour rate. It was noted that several attorneys have been added in the Public Defender's Office, however, the problem is not resolving itself yet.

*No action taken.*

## **Public Safety Communications**

### **7. Director's Report.**

Public Safety Communications Director Cullen Peltier informed they are currently down nine positions, but they will hopefully be putting an offer out to someone soon. Applications are trickling in very slowly and he is working diligently with HR and Administration to come up with solutions. Peltier hopes to bring two table or organization changes to the committee next month; one to increase pay and the other to eliminate the Office Manager position and create an Administrative Supervisor position that will add focus to training and retention as well as employee development.

*No action taken.*

## **District Attorney**

### **8. District Attorney's Report.**

*No report; no action taken.*

## **Medical Examiner**

### **9. Medical Examiner's Report.**

*No report; no action taken.*

## **Clerk of Courts**

### **10. Clerk of Courts Report.**

*No report; no action taken.*

## **Emergency Management**

### **11. Director's Report.**

Emergency Management Director Lauri Maki updated the committee on a number of things his department has been working on. He informed siren maintenance has been completed with the funds from the sale of the hazmat trailer. They are working on appointments for LEPC and also continue to work with the Chamber on the PIO group. They are also working on building a resource list for first responders as well as working with the Incident Management Team on continuity of operations so there are some fail safe backup plans for the department. Work has also been done with the Healthcare Emergency Response Coalition to build a list of all equipment, resources and medical supplies to push the equipment out to those in need. Work has also been done with community partners on a tabletop exercise schedule. The Integrative Preparedness Plan is also being worked on and Emergency Management is building what they deem to be an appropriate four-year plan and are waiting to see what the state comes up with so they can piggyback off that. The state is also talking about reorganizing the structure of EOCs and once they decide what model they will go with our EM Department will look at it and determine what the best option for the county is.

*No action taken.*

## **Sheriff**

### **12. Sheriff's Report.**

Sheriff Todd Delain reported that much like other county departments and many employers, Covid is playing a significant part in the Sheriff's Department being short-staffed in all divisions. This has had a compounding impact on overtime being paid in the jail, especially in light of the shortage of Correctional Officers. There have been some cases of Covid in the jail and they continue to manage it as best they can.

Delain continued that they are currently down 23 Correctional Officers and he anticipates he may lose several more to Kewaunee County who pays about \$5 more per hour than Brown County. The process of clearing out the downtown facility continues to move forward but has been somewhat challenging due to having to keep some inmates separate in the main facility due to Covid. On the sworn side, they are currently four officers down, but

that is somewhat normal for this time of year. There is not typically a lot of problems getting and retaining sworn officers, in part because the County has done a good job keeping the wages competitive. Delain also explained some of the changes they have made in their recruitment process to expedite hiring.

Delain concluded that there have been some pretty significant and impactful calls in the last several weeks. He is very proud of his staff and said they continue to do incredible things under very stressful circumstances. He is also very proud of jail staff and the great job they have been doing keeping everything together.

*No action taken.*

### **Action Items**

#### **13. Discussion regarding non-emergency call taking.**

Board Chair Patrick Buckley asked that this item be placed on the agenda because he recently had the opportunity to utilize the call system for a non-emergency situation and he found it very cumbersome to get to the point of speaking with an officer. He explained he called the Green Bay Police Department non-emergency number and went through their recorded options on their phone tree. When you hit the option you want, it takes you to the Brown County phone tree and you have to go through all of the functions again to get to function 8 which is where you are connected with a live voice and he feels this is unacceptable.

Peltier said his staff has been asking for an auto attendant for a long time to reduce the number of administrative calls. He noted administrative calls have been increasing due to reduced staff and hours at the front desks of the area law enforcement agencies. Whenever staff is not available, the calls come back to the Comm Center to be routed out. Peltier and his staff looked at their current system and revised some things to get the message down to 56 seconds with the option to speak to someone coming in at about 54 seconds. There have been very good results with this and although 911 calls have gone up by about 1,000, overall total call volume is down about 30% and administrative calls have been reduced by about 50%.

The other thing that is concerning to Buckley is the Comm Center picking up the administrative calls for various departments. The role of the Comm Center is not to take calls for other agencies and he would like this to be addressed to see how this burden can be taken off the Comm Center. Administrative calls are not typically emergency calls and Buckley feels the other departments should have their own phone trees to get their calls where they need to go instead of those calls going through the Comm Center.

Supervisor Lund feels we need to look at what citizens have to deal with if they have a situation where they need to talk to someone, especially on the weekends. Supervisor Coenen asked if calls are ending up at the Comm Center because agencies do not have phone trees of their own. Peltier said most agencies have their own phone trees, but it varies where in the system the option is for the call to be transferred to the Comm Center. Chair Deneys dialed the County's phone tree and put it on speaker so the committee could hear how it works and what the options are. He agreed that some research should be done to find out what other agencies are doing in their off hours when they are not answering because it is concerning that all these calls are being transferred to the Comm Center.

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to refer to staff and bring back to the February Public Safety meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **14. Budget Adjustment Request (21-105): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

This 2021 budget adjustment is to increase grant revenue and increase supplies expense to participate in Homeland Security WEM ALERT SWAT Enhanced Sensing Equipment 2021 grant. The grant provides funds for the purchase of through-the-wall sensing equipment that assists the SWAT team in detecting persons behind walls in high-risk environments. There is no local match required for this grant.

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

**15. Budget Adjustment Request (22-011): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

This 2022 budget adjustment is to increase grant revenue and increase expenses to participate in a Homeland Security WEM ALERT SWAT Breaching Tools 2021 grant. This grant provides funding to purchase assorted breaching items to gain forcible entry as needed. There is no local match required for this grant.

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

**16. Budget Adjustment Request (22-012): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.**

This 2022 budget adjustment is to increase grant revenue and increase expenses to participate in a Homeland Security WEM ALERT Dive Equipment 2021 grant. This grant provides funding to purchase associated Dive Team equipment and items needed. There is no local match required for this grant.

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

**17. Discussion and possible action regarding \$2.2M Budget Adjustment for Cofrin Library 911 Cell Tower Replacement.**

Peltier said they have been working with Motorola on this and it has been determined that the best place to relocate the tower is an area near the Jail. The budgetary estimate is \$1.775M for the tower and there will be some additional costs for prep work and site work as well as running fiber from the Jail/Comm Center to the tower site. This budget adjustment includes those costs as well as contingency costs and Peltier is pretty confident the \$2.2M is enough to get the project done.

The goal is to get going on this as soon as ARPA funds are released. Supervisor Kaster asked if the new tower will be up and operational by the time the current tower comes down. Peltier said there is definitely a sense of urgency with this, but he feels it will be done by the time the old tower comes down in 2023.

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

**Communications** – None.

**Other**

**18. Such other matters as authorized by law. None.**

**19. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to adjourn at 7:03 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Legislative Specialist

**To members of the Brown County Public Safety Committee:**

I urge to pass the budget adjustment for the Cell Tower Replacement on the Cofrin Library. Our first responders rely on good communications in the time of need. Looking back to 2008 during the Farm Technology Days when severe storm was bearing down on the event, we needed good communication to keep everybody safe. We used a Communication tower from Wisconsin Emergency Management because the tower system within county lacked power for all agencies to communicate with each other.

Can one imagine the chaos if county did not upgrade to new communication system at event like at the Oneida Casino? The County needs to have this tower in place to keep everyone safe!

Thank you for time.

Stan Kaczmarek

2008 Farm Technology Days Vice-Chair

Land Conservation Sub-Committee Vice-Chair

Brown County Farm Bureau President

*Comments from  
the public*