

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 September 5, 2023 at the Brown County Sheriff's Office, 2684 Development Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Chair Deneys, Supervisor Coenen, Supervisor Kaster, Supervisor Nicholson

Also Present: Wrightstown SRO Jess Smith and Facility Dog Betsy, Board Chair Patrick Buckley, Sheriff Todd Delain, Emergency Management Director Dan Kane, Supervisor Megan Borchardt, Interim Public Safety Communications Director Amy Shannon, Medical Examiner Director of Operations Petra Schwab, Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest and other interested parties

I. **Call meeting to order.**

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

II. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

The agenda was modified to take Communications following Item 2.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to approve as modified. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. **Approve/Modify Minutes of August 1, 2023.**

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

IV. **Election of Vice Chair.**

Chair Deneys nominated Supervisor Nicholson for Vice Chair.

Motion made by Supervisor Deneys, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public.

Jim Cairns, 1507 Sue Lane, Green Bay, WI – not a lobbyist

Cairns is a volunteer with Joshua and is here to ask the Public Safety Committee and County Board to do anything they can to alleviate overcrowding in the Jail. There are people who have been in Jail way too long awaiting appointments of Public Defenders and awaiting trials. He understands the funding issues with the Public Defenders and encouraged the Committee to do anything they can to support private attorneys stepping in to move cases along. Cairns shared a story of someone who has been in the Jail for four years because he cannot get a Public Defender and cannot make bail. There are 15 people in the Brown County Jail that have intake dates predating January 1, 2021, 12 that have intake dates that go back to 2021 and several that predate the 2017 time period, but those may have related immigration or ICE issues. Cairns would like to see people moved out of the system one way or another so it is not necessary to send inmates out to other counties. He has been told by attorneys that they are not able to represent people and not lose money with office overhead at the previous rate.

Presentation/Demonstration

1. **Presentation/Demonstration of Facility Dog re: Communication from Supervisor Coenen to invite Wrightstown SRO Jess and therapy (facility) dog Betsy to inform and update on how a therapy (facility) dog has helped the district.**

Wrightstown SRO Jess Smith introduced herself and Wrightstown Facility Dog, Betsy, to the Committee. Betsy was donated by Partners with Paws Service Dogs and was fully funded through the company. A facility dog is similar to a therapy dog but has more advanced training. Smith has seen things happen with Betsy that she has not seen in the 9 years she has been an SRO and shared several stories of the way Betsy has helped students and staff.

No action necessary.

2. Presentation by Drug Task Force.

Lt. Matthew Ronk thanked the Committee for inviting him to talk about the drug problem in the community. He informed the Drug Task Force (DTF) made 734 drug arrests in 2022 which is a record. They averaged 61 monthly arrests in all of 2022 and they are currently averaging 55 arrests per month so far in 2023. Ronk anticipates the numbers may come down slightly as they are down two investigators as of July 1. He also talked about overdoses and informed there have been 101 OD saves through August and 25 OD deaths. Charges have been forwarded on three people and it is anticipated there will be six more charges coming. In 2022, because of the growth of fentanyl in the county, the DTF seized only 32 grams of heroin. Heroin is making a comeback and to date in 2023 the DTF has seized over 1000 grams. Cocaine has also made a big comeback and the DTF has already seized more to date in 2023 than they have in any other year. Meth is also on the rise and Ronk anticipates there being more meth arrests in 2023 than in 2022 and that 2023 will have the second highest number of fentanyl seizures on record.

Ronk continued that the big concern coming out of northcentral HIDTA (high intensity drug trafficking areas) is the presence of Xylazine in fentanyl. Xylazine is a horse tranquilizer that makes fentanyl more potent and more deadly and it was noted Narcan does not work on it. As it currently stands, six out of 10 fentanyl pills currently contain a potentially lethal dose and Ronk feels there will be a day when every pill contains a lethal dose, especially if mixed with Xylazine.

No action necessary.

Although shown in the proper format here, Items 20 – 24 were taken at this time.

Consent Agenda

- 3. Minutes of Brown County Security and Facilities Committee (May 23, 2023).**
- 4. Minutes of Brown County Crime Prevention Funding Board (June 12, 2023).**
- 5. Public Safety Communications Staffing Report.**
- 6. Circuit Courts, Commissioners, Probate Budget Status Financial Report for June 2023 – Unaudited.**
- 7. Sheriff's Office – Key Factor Report through July 2023 – Unaudited.**
- 8. Audit of the bills.**

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Chair Deneys to take Consent Agenda Items 3 - 8 together. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to receive and place on file Consent Agenda Items 3 – 8. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Circuit Courts, Commissioners, Probate

- 9. Director's Report.**

Judge Hock was not able to attend the meeting, but she advised Chair Deneys that they are continuing to work on their budget with Administration, especially the Table of Organization change that was discussed in the past and there has been some positive movement.

- a. PSA Tool Review.**

See discussion regarding the PSA tool review at Item 21 below.

b. Criminal Justice Coordinating Board Accomplishments.

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Board discussed this at their last meeting and will be putting together a list of accomplishments to bring back to this Committee.

No action necessary.

District Attorney

10. District Attorney's Report.

No report; no action necessary.

Clerk of Courts

11. Clerk of Courts Report.

Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest clarified some of the information discussed in Item 23. Regarding private pay fees for people who do not qualify for a Public Defender, the Clerk of Courts often receives payment on those bills through wage assignments or garnishments. When a party qualifies for a Public Defender, those bills are the responsibility of the state, although the parties often pay a portion of it. The county appointing on SPD cases started in the last several years due to the problems in the SPD's Office; this has not been going on for decades. Final bills are starting to come in on SPD cases the county appointed on late last year or early this year and Vander Leest is making sure the SPD Office is paying for anything after July 1, but there are still some bills from January through June that the county will have to pay.

In terms of staffing, vacant Deputy Clerk positions are being filled and they are getting close to being fully staffed. Vander Leest noted he has been asked by Administration through the budget process to reduce his budget by \$70,000 and one way to do that is to reduce an open Clerk II position. Vander Leest will try to have the duties of that position absorbed by other positions in the office. He noted he will be unable to attend the Public Safety Committee budget meeting but will have staff there to answer any questions that may come up. Some of the main things Vander Leest's office has been working on include trying to reduce interpreter costs for cancellations and working on the reduction and need for SPD appointments. Vander Leest also noted interest is up which will help put his office in a good position for 2024 if they reduce some of the expenses from SPD appointments and keep doing well with collections. They are also working with Administration to fill the open Clerk II position as an LTE so they can get as many cases as possible forwarded to the state debt collection agency.

Supervisor Coenen asked if all SPD cases that were appointed by the county have been moved over to be paid by the state. Vander Leest responded that he manually went through all the cases and worked with SPD Attorney Manager Jeff Cano who started working with his staff to have the existing attorneys become SPD paid.

Supervisor Borchardt would like to know the number of cases that were converted to SPD cases and how many are still being worked on. Chair Deneys asked that Vander Leest send this information with whoever from the Clerk of Courts Office will be attending the budget meeting.

Vander Leest concluded that YTD figures through July for the amount the county has paid that should have been covered by the state on SPD cases is \$95,000 and he estimated there was an addition \$10,000 - \$15,000 paid in August. Staff is working on finalizing the numbers, but Vander Leest noted two people in financial positions have recently left the office and they are working hard to stay afloat.

No action necessary.

Medical Examiner

12. Medical Examiner's Report.

Medical Examiner Director of Operations Petra Schwab informed the second Forensic Pathologist should be starting by the end of September. They continue to recruit for part-time LTE Medicolegal Investigators and Schwab noted that all full-time positions are currently staffed. She also noted their budget process is going smoothly.

Schwab also talked about the ME Office's participation in the airport mass casualty exercise in August and noted all staff took part in the exercise and it was very constructive. It was important for the office to be involved as this is the first time they have participated in training like this in eight or nine years and it was a very good experience.

No action necessary.

Public Safety Communications

13. Director's Report.

Interim Public Safety Communications Director Amy Shannon provided several project updates. The tower project had a slight delay, but the jail tower has been active for over a week and the switchover went as smoothly as it could. They are waiting on a date for the takedown of the Cofrin antennas. The Oneida fiber project is on hold because the switches used to attach the fiber are not supportable and not capable of the extra connections. PSC is working with Motorola on this and Shannon noted they have leftover ARPA funds from the tower project they are hoping to use for the purchase of new connections. Regarding the UPS replacement, the only site that still needs to be replaced in Flintville and that is because the UPS unit was damaged enroute to the tower. Four of the five radio console upgrades are done and the fifth still needs to be removed before a new one can be put in. The ESI Net project will probably be done in 2024 as they are still waiting on ATT to assign the project.

Shannon continued that they have a meeting coming up to finalize their budget and noted Administration has been helpful in the process. She also talked about the airport training and informed that although they had a minimal part, it was a good opportunity to have some internal conversations with some of the new hires about a mass casualty event. In other training, several Dispatchers and Supervisors participated in integrated threat training which is being done around the county. This training allows staff to see what responders are doing on scene which makes it easier to dispatch.

In terms of staffing, the new Director will be starting on September 18. Shannon has talked to the new Director several times and is encouraged by her enthusiasm and the work she has already done to try to get to know Brown County and the Center. They currently have three fully trained Supervisors, one newly signed off and two in training. This is the first time this group has been fully staffed since last December. They are currently down 13.5 Telecomms. Shannon noted since the TO passed, it feels like they have stopped the slide and have been able to get a foothold and there is a feeling of hope on the floor. She also noted they have worked with Administration to use ARPA money to do a recruitment video in the Center which was a great opportunity for the Telecomms to talk about themselves and their jobs and the feedback from the person shooting the video was very positive and encouraging.

Shannon concluded by saying this should be the last time she is reporting as Interim Director and she thanked the Committee for their support, especially with the TO, and noted it meant a lot to staff to see members of the Committee and County Board recognize the the jobs they do.

No action necessary.

Emergency Management

14. Director's Report.

Emergency Management Director Dan Kane reported EM did some outreach at the veterans' appreciation event at the Fair and handed out 60 personal preparedness binders. He also talked about the HMEP (Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning) grant and noted the application has been submitted. The grant

is for a two day course focused on marine firefighting operations and is conducted by an agency from Virginia. There would not be any county match for this and Kane will keep the Committee updated.

Kane also talked about a recent tabletop exercise EM and a number of other agencies participated in which is required by US Oil every three years. This training covered US Oil's worst case scenario which would be a large oil spill on the Fox River during the breach of transfer from a boat to the pipeline. Kane also talked about the airport exercise and noted overall it went well. A lot was learned by his office and they are working on completion of an after action report. Over 70 volunteers participated in the event and a lot of the focus was centered around triage practices. He is happy they were able to pull everything together as there were a lot of moving parts and it had been some time since the last exercise was done.

No action necessary.

Sheriff

15. Sheriff's Report.

Sheriff Todd Delain informed the Jail is currently 28 Correctional Officers (CO) short which is up three since the last meeting. This number should change significantly in the new calendar year as the new budget will reflect the closure of the downtown facility and a related reduction in Correctional Officers. The new budget will increase the number of 12 hour shifts and reduce the number of eight hour shifts.

Delain continued by talking about overcrowding at the jail and informed the capacity at Curry Lane is 649 and as of this morning there were 654 inmates. Currently 42 inmates are shipped out to Door, Green Lake, Kewaunee and Oconto counties. He noted it is getting a little difficult to find jails with capacity to take additional inmates. The overcrowding is a result of not using the 131 beds at the downtown facility and Delain informed building a new pod would be far more efficient and would allow Correctional Officer staff to be reduced by 11. Deneys clarified that building a new pod would not be adding beds, it would be replacing the beds not being used in the downtown facility.

Delain concluded by talking about overtime related to guarding inmates at hospitals. He explained when individuals come into the jail with medical problems that result in them being sent to see medical personnel outside the Jail, armed deputies need to accompany them and remain with them until they get back to the Jail. Through August, over \$72,000 has been spent on overtime guarding inmates at the hospital. This money is included in the budget, but he feels it is important for the Committee to know this is occurring.

No action necessary.

16. Update – Fraud Investigator Job Duties.

Deneys reported he has met with the Health and Human Services Director and Community Services Administrator to talk about the role of the Human Services Department's role in fraud investigations. He has also talked with the Sheriff Delain and Captain Poteat regarding this and further discussions are needed to bring everyone together as there were some misunderstandings. Another meeting will be held in the next few weeks and Deneys hopes to be able to update the Committee at the next meeting and possibly have someone from Health and Human Services attend the next meeting.

No action necessary.

17. Discussion re: One time pay work rule for Correctional Officers.

This is informational only; no action is required by the Committee. Delain informed he intends to put a temporary work rule in place for specialty pay for Correctional Officers based on the number of hours they have worked in the calendar year. Correctional Officers who have hit 1,000 hours would receive \$500, those who have hit 1,500 hours would receive \$750 and after 2,000 hours the one-time payment would be \$1,250. These payments are possible due to salary savings due to open positions. Based upon analysis of HR, there would be approximately 80 Correctional Officers that would exceed 2,000 hours worked, 26 that would hit

the 1,500 hour mark and 12 that would be at the 1,000 hours mark. The estimate total cost of these one-time payments would be about \$325,000 and Delain reiterated this can be covered through his budget. He feels these one-time payments have been earned as the Correctional Officers have earned it as they have been doing the work and getting things done while being short staffed and Delain feels it is appropriate that a portion of the savings go back to the staff that have been doing the work. The Director of Administration is aware of Delain's intent for these payments and does not have a problem with it.

Coenen asked about morale among the Correctional Officers. Delain responded it is better than it was last year based upon actions taken by this Committee and the County Board. Staff appreciates the Committee and County Board talking with them and listening to them.

No action necessary.

18. Courthouse Secure Entrance Update – Standing Item.

Bids have been received for the architectural contractor and have been narrowed down to two firms which are basically equal in the scoring process. Interviews will be held between the two firms and a decision will then be made. Bids from both firms came in under the anticipated budget and Delain anticipates a decision will be made by the next meeting.

Standing Item – No action necessary.

Action Items Including Proposed Resolutions, Ordinances and Budget Adjustments

19. Sheriff's Office – Budget Adjustment Request (23-131): Reallocation of more than 10% of the funds originally appropriated between any of the levels of appropriation.

This budget adjustment is to use salary savings from vacant Jail positions to fund the purchase of 8 Dodge Charger Squad Cars. Dodge will not be producing the pursuit models in 2024 but there will be another production run of 2023 Charges to be completed. These cars will be produced and delivered before the end of 2023.

Motion made by Supervisor Coenen, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to approve BA 23-131 with no impact to the levy. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Referral from Human Services Committee

20. Communication from Supervisor Evans: Discussion and possible action as it relates to an Outreach and Resources Opioid Program in Brown County. *Action at Human Services Committee: That the Human Services Committee supports a continuing discussion about an Outreach and Resources Opioid Program in Brown County alongside the Green Bay Metro Fire Department and to forward to the Public Safety Committee.*

Green Bay Metro Fire Department Chief Matthew Knott introduced himself to the Committee. He noted there are a number of good resources in the community, but what is being missed is the critical piece of direct outreach and direct correlation and coordination of resources for people with drug-related issues. The model for an Outreach and Resources Opioid Program would be related to community paramedicine and would provide the ability for a paramedic with some additional training go out and make house calls post opioid overdose. The idea is that the individuals would go out to provide resources to the individual and family and look at resources for recovery and addiction treatment as well as providing Narcan and other potentially lifesaving tools to get the person to make it to recovery.

The program would be a pilot program to see its value. Knott feels the program would bring tremendous value to the community and provide additional resources and be a tool in this fight we are all in together. This program is scalable and phase one could be started right away. He noted that to date this year GBMFD has responded to over 150 overdoses and administered Narcan. Phase one would be to provide overdose kits containing Narcan and information that would be left at the residence and this could be started right away with no additional costs other than the Narcan and a CPR shield. Phase two would include trained

paramedics going out to an individual's residence within 24 – 72 hours of an overdose to make sure the person is safe and they have pathways to recovery and that their family members are trained on how to use Narcan if need be. Chief Knott continued that similar programs have been successful in other communities and he would like to have a similar program here.

Supervisor Nicholson questioned the cost of Narcan. Chief Knott responded that there are various programs that provide Narcan kits at no cost. Nicholson does not feel government should be involved with overdose follow-ups to be sure people are safe. He noted that a similar program had been voted down by the City of Green Bay in the past.

Buckley asked what Chief Knott is looking for at this time. Chief Knott responded at this time he would just like continued discussions. At some point they may approach the county for funding through some of the opioid dollars. He also realizes there may also be resources available through the Health Department and he wants to make sure efforts are not being duplicated by collaborating efforts.

Deneys asked if this program would be in the City only or branch out throughout the county. Chief Knott said they would be looking for a countywide resource and he will be having conversations with Fire Chiefs throughout the county to be sure everyone is onboard.

Kaster asked if there are certain individuals that use up a lot of resources by overdosing frequently. Chief Knott responded they don't see that too often, but there are individuals that struggle. The goal is to get them on the pathway to help. A perfect outcome would be for someone who had a near death experience to provide them with information and resources to get in contact with the right people to get them on the path to recovery.

No action necessary.

Communications

- 21. Communication from Supervisor Nicholson and Deneys: To direct Mark Vanden Hoogen to investigate/evaluate whether different pre-trial tools/software designed to assist with setting bonds other than the Public Safety Assessment Tool exist that meet our needs and if so, what the expense of each is – current cases will be included. Action at August meeting: To hold for one month.**

Motion made by Supervisor Coenen, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to take Items 21 and 22 together. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deneys provided an update on Item 21 and 22 and informed a work group has been created consisting of himself, a Court Commissioner, Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender's Office and Criminal Justice Services. This group has met and has had some good discussions on how the assessment tool works. The tool is customizable to some degree and changes can be made. The discussion was good and they will have another meeting to come up with better solutions. They are taking this a step at a time and Deneys suggested this Item and Item 22 be held for another month.

Motion made by Supervisor Nicholson, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to hold Items 21 and 22 for one month. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Supervisor Nicholson was excused at 6: 33 pm.

- 22. Communication from Supervisors Deneys and Nicholson: Due to the alarming amount of criminal offenses being committed while subjects are out on bond in Brown County, in order to insure the safety of the public, we request a review and assessment with possible action of the process and factors utilized by the Court Commissioners for setting of bonds in Brown County including but not limited to the utilization of the recommendation by the Public Safety Assessment tool. Action at August meeting: To hold for one month.**

See action at Item 21 above.

23. Communication from Board Chair Buckley: To request that the county lower reimbursed attorney fees from \$100/hour to \$75.00/hour for defendants that are State Public Defender qualified. Motion at August meeting: To hold for one month.

Buckley would like a request made to the judges to lower the rate for reimbursed attorney fees to \$75/hour.

Clerk of Courts John Vander Leest explained there are three fee processes for attorneys: 1) people who pay for their own private attorneys; 2) parties that are SPD and should not be in the county system at all and 3) court appointed attorneys (Dean appointments) and those parties pay back the attorney through wage assignments or through collections.

Vander Leest continued it is hard to get attorneys to take the court appointed cases at \$100/hour as everyone is busy and there are not that many attorneys that take court appointed cases. He feels if the rate is lowered to \$75/hour it will be more difficult to find Dean appointments. Buckley is not talking about the Dean appointments; he is talking about the SPD cases. Vander Leest said the SPD is going back to trying to get private attorneys to take SPD cases and he reiterated if the fee is lowered, he feels attorneys could lose interest in wanting to work with the county. His thought is to leave this alone and let it work out and in time there will be less and less needs for appointments from the SPD. If we try to encourage a reduction, Vander Leest feels attorneys will not take the cases and it will not benefit the taxpayers.

Vander Leest continued that at this time the rate is the same for SPD cases and for the private pay attorneys that the SPD pays to take their cases. There are cases where the SPD's office has a conflict and they have to get a private attorney to take a case and those attorneys are paid \$100/hour. If the rate for attorneys that have to be appointed by the judges is lowered to \$75/hour, it is going to be hard to find attorneys to take the cases when everything else is \$100/hour.

Supervisor Coenen asked if the rate can legally be changed for one type of case. Deneys said his understanding of Buckley is looking for is for Corporation Counsel to put forward a communication, not a resolution, to the judges requesting this. It would not be forcing them; it would only be asking them. Vander Leest feels instead of dealing with a specific dollar amount, the judges should just be asked to work with the SPD office to appoint because this added expense needs to go away; the county cannot afford to keep paying this.

Deneys asked Vander Leest if he has seen a reduction since the rate change. Vander Leest responded they are still seeing bills from SPD cases that the judges have appointed on because the cases are now being completed. He said there are definitely fewer judge appointments for SPD cases happening. He has worked with the SPD Office to convert active cases to SPD appointments. Without a nudge on the budget issue, it is possible some judges will continue to appoint, but he feels it should be very rare that they need to appoint at county expense.

At this time Deneys would like to take a little more time to see what the effect is on the wages being the same. If there is no change in the next three to six months, this could be revisited, but at this time he does not think enough time has passed to even see if this going to continue being an issue.

Buckley recalled that at the last Public Safety Committee meeting, Vander Leest informed that even with this change there are still judges that will appoint, even though SPD has raised their rates. To the Clerk's point, there has not been cooperation with some of the judges. We can wait and keep racking up with bills, but he feels the Clerk needs to report out on what he was asked to report on several months ago on a monthly basis.

Coenen understands where Buckley is coming from in trying to deter, but she feels if too many things are put into the equation, we will not know what is working. From what we were being told from the judges, they were trying to control this and get people moved through the system in a timely manner. She feels we need to see the numbers since the rate changes went into effect to see if the numbers are coming down.

Motion made by Supervisor Coenen, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to hold for one month and have Clerk of Courts provide comparative numbers if appointments have gone down since SPD rate has gone up and to ask Corporation Counsel to attend the next meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 24. Communication from Supervisor Deneys: To direct the new Public Safety Communications Director to examine employee retention issues including but not limited to the tier system and training hours and salaries and report back to the committee by January of 2024. *Referred from August County Board.***

Deneys informed he has talked to the Director of Administration on this and was informed that administration has the authority and funds to hire an outside consultant to come in and do this type evaluation. He feels this may be more appropriate than putting a brand new Director under the gun and possibly making them look like the bad guy.

This would apply to only the Public Safety Communications Department. Coenen feels this could take us down a rabbit hole but also feels we have to start some place.

Shannon is in favor of a consultant coming in and noted that she has talked with other counties who have done this and it has really helped with recruitment and retention. She also feels it would be beneficial in terms of maintaining the relationships with the agencies they work with as some of the funding that may be needed would have to come from their budgets.

Motion made by Chair Deneys, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to direct administration to look into hiring a consultant to effect this and come back with a report. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

- 25. Such other matters as authorized by law. None.**

- 26. Adjourn.**

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Coenen to adjourn at 7:54 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Legislative Specialist