

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Thursday, September 29, 2016, 4:00 p.m., Courthouse Room 207C
1313 Belknap Street, Superior, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Sam Pomush.

ROLL CALL: Present - Rosemary Lear, Charlie Glazman, Alan Jaques, Sam Pomush. Absent – Marvin Finendale. Others present – Jerry Moe, Tom Dalbec, Keith Kesler, Rebecca Lovejoy, Darrell Witt, Tracy Ruppe, Andy Lisak, Dan Corbin, Mark Liebaert, Michele Wick, Dan Blank, Kelly Thimm, George Glonek, Bill Stepp (Town of Gordon), Pamela Tafelski (Committee Clerk).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Lear, second Glazman, to approve August 25, 2016, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

UPDATES AND REPORTS: Budget reports attached/reviewed. **District Attorney: Jail revenue/local court bail/sentence decisions:** The issue of incarcerating low level crime offenders as opposed to other alternatives was discussed. Costs for alternative non-incarceration program and associated risks versus potential revenue from non-Douglas County/SPD prisoners would need to be studied.

ACTION: Motion by Glazman, second Lear, to request Sheriff provide data on Douglas County/SPD inmate repeat offenders, common repeat offenses, and inmate mental health issues within county's jail population. Dalbec indicated as of this meeting, jail has 39 in the jail on probation with new charges against them; 18 on probation violations. Motion carried.

Circuit Court Branch I: Drug court graduation completed; no court reporter yet; may consider digital recording system in future. Responding to "low level crimes" incarceration discussion, Thimm asserted people he's put in jail belong there; but he supports Criminal Justice Coordinator that adds information to compass helping judges to determine bail. **Clerk of Courts:** Wick and staff busy processing 1200+ past due fines that are State Department of Corrections balances owed; new process initiated by state turned over collections to County Clerks of Court. Preparing for e-filing. Wick working to establish Criminal Justice Comprehension Committee, an enhanced networking statewide. **Court Commissioner:** Busy case schedule; in-court recording system works well. **Emergency Management:** Upgrading power supplies to some tower sites. **Communications Center:** Short 1 dispatcher; 1 in training. **Sheriff – Patrol Division:** Active shooter training for last 3 days was well-received and uncovered some safety concerns. Court I's stairwell door needs new lock mechanism; Kesler will check into it. **Sheriff – Jail Division:** Revenue down; daily average of 185-200 inmates (today 161 Douglas County/SPD inmates of 187 in the jail); full staffing; interviews scheduled mid-October to establish new eligibility list.

INFORMATIONAL:

Reduction of Jail Occupants – Low Level Crimes: See discussion under District Attorney report.

Courtroom Chairs: Chair pads have to be custom-made; \$109 per chair. New chairs would cost hundreds each. Each courtroom would need 14 juror chairs.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Lear, second Jaques, to approve pads for 14 juror chairs for Court I at \$109 each, and refer this action to County Administrator for funding source and include in 2017 budget. Motion carried.

U.S. Marshall's Security Report: Several recommendations from the 2012 report have been implemented; single building entrance has not been instituted. Access points are under consideration by Security and Facilities Committee in light of Belknap Street reconstruction.

Douglas County Security Policy: Costs for implementing safety features and staffing for each entrance is significant. Lisak reported that the policy for alerting departments of possible imminent threat to county offices has been communicated to department managers. Procedure is for staff to call 911 for assistance in the event of potential or actual threat and bailiff/law enforcement will respond immediately and decide how to proceed. To reach bailiffs, always call 911 or 9-911 if within courthouse or Government Center; never call a bailiff's cell phone. No written security policy.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Presentation by Officer Walker on inmate mental health evaluations/issues; report data on number of repeat offender inmates; continue discussion of incarceration alternatives for low level crimes offenders.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Lear, second Jaques, to adjourn. Motion carried. Adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Submitted by,

Pamela A. Tafelski
Committee Clerk