

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Thursday, October 27, 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, Marvin Finendale, Charlie Glazman, Alan Jaques, Samuel Pomush. Others present – Robert Galovich, Leslie T. Walker, Kelly Thimm, Lisa Johnson, Char Kastern, Keith Kesler, Tom Dalbec, Jerry Moe, Michele Wick, Rebecca Lovejoy, Dan Blank, Tracy Ruppe, Pamela Tafelski (Committee Clerk).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Jaques, second Finendale, to approve September 29, 2016, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

UPDATES AND REPORTS: Departmental budget reports were reviewed. Circuit Court I - Court Reporter vacancy still open; may need to advertise for visual reporter; drug court grant application denied. Clerk of Courts – 2/3's done with transferring state fines records; Deputy Clerk position posted. Electronic filing of DA records deadline March 1st; Child Support, Court Commissioner also impacted with mandated electronic records. Emergency Management/Communications Center - Parkland Tower agreement signed; upgrades ongoing. Sheriff – one vacant patrol position; jail fully staffed.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

Douglas County Jail Inmate Mental Health Evaluations and Issues: Leslie Walker, Licensed Psychotherapist, reviewed the procedure employed to evaluate, diagnose, and treat inmate mental health issues. Integrated behavioral health model summarized. Medications not ordered unless full evaluation points to definite need. Homicidal and suicidal inmates pose particular issues because of non-admittance issues with Human Development Center and hospital mental health units. Several committee members suggested Dalbec, Galovich and Walker explore the “Stepping Up” program presented during the WCA Conference recently, which addresses inmate mental health issues.

Douglas County Jail Population Data - Inmate Repeat Offenders and Common Repeat Offenses: Dalbec explained the random sampling of inmate offenses in his report. High percentage of inmates are repeat offenders. Electronic monitoring has to be assessed according to certain requirements, including risk and ability to pay. Criminal Justice Coordinator grant unsuccessful; no county budget for the position.

Resolution Authorizing Contract with State Collection Agency for Clerk of Circuit Court: Attached. Wick distributed information on state debt collection initiative/reviewed.

ACTION (RESOLUTION): Motion by Glazman, second Lear, to approve resolution as presented and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Budgetary Transfers: Emergency Management/Communications Center transfers reviewed.

ACTION (REFERRAL): Motion by Jaques, second Lear, to approve budgetary transfers as presented and refer to Administration Committee. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL – Incarceration Alternatives for Low Level Crimes Offenders: Dalbec questioned the driving force behind this continuing discussion. If it's the jail budget deficit, the number of inmates has minimal impact on overall jail operations, staffing and maintenance. Incarceration alternatives for Douglas County prisoners, such as electronic monitoring to free up beds for out-of-county prisoners, still requires full jail operations. Repeat low level crimes offenders (4 times in 1 to 2 years) more likely to get jail time or cash bail. Drug court and Criminal Justice Coordinator, both not funded, are integral components to establishing incarceration alternatives. Committee needs to identify motivation for retaining this on agenda.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Drug crimes statistics in Douglas County; incarceration alternatives.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Lear, second Jaques, to adjourn. Motion carried. Adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Submitted by,

Pamela A. Tafelski
Committee Clerk