

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022**

**4:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Commissioner Tim Barnes, Commissioner Brandon Haskell, Commissioner Mark Mudry, and Commissioner Jane Whitacre

**ABSENT:** Vice-Chairman Commissioner Wayne Ridge, Commissioner Brian Droscha, and Commissioner Dairus Reynnet

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chairman Jeremy Whittum, Controller John Fuentes, Sheriff Tom Reich, Undersheriff Jeff Cook, Captain Chris Kuhlman, Dispatch Director Kelly Cunningham, Deputy Dispatch Director Francis D'Huyvetter, Emergency Management Coordinator Ryan Wilkinson, Community Corrections Director Melanie Achenbach, and Jerri Nesbitt

The January 6, 2022, regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Barnes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all, led by Commissioner Barnes.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS AND CHANGES**

There were no additions or changes to the agenda. Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the Minutes of the December 2, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting. Commissioner Whitacre seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE**

Sheriff Reich provided an update on the status of position vacancies and Covid numbers. The Sheriff indicated his interest in creating a Cadet Program as a possible option for hiring individuals for training and sponsorship through an academy to fill Road Patrol vacancies. Discussion held.

Sheriff Reich expressed to the committee the need for a larger, more versatile vehicle for use as a Command Center during critical incident events, citing difficulties encountered at a recent barricaded gunman incident. Discussion held. Cost estimates will be obtained and presented at the next meeting.

Sheriff Reich reported that the Medical Director of the Jail has retired. Currently, there is a part-time registered nurse filling the vacancy and this field is very competitive. Recruitment and retention strategies are currently being discussed by the Ways and Means Committee.

Controller Fuentes reported that a grant for First Responder Training and Recruitment is available through the State of Michigan. The application is due February 15, 2022 for a maximum award of \$100,000. An application is being developed by the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Reich requested the committee's approval to hire two Road Patrol candidates at greater than entry level pay, based on prior law enforcement experience. The collective bargaining agreement requires committee approval. Commissioner Haskell made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Whitacre seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### JAIL AND YOUTH FACILITY SECURITY SYSTEM PROJECT

Controller Fuentes reported that Accurate Controls, Inc's. Value Engineering Report has been received, and the report recommends reductions of approximately \$71,000. The revised project cost exceeds the funding the County reserved for the project by approximately \$800,000 therefore additional funds will need to be identified by the Ways and Means Committee. Discussion held regarding the possible use of the American Rescue Plan funds. Commissioner Whitacre made a motion to recommend approval of the revised project costs to the Ways and Means Committee. Commissioner Mudry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### MONTHLY REPORTS

Controller Fuentes presented the monthly jail census and court security reports. There were no significant changes in the overall jail census. WRAP program and MDOC inmate numbers remained at decreased levels due to a reduction in the number of MDOC transfers currently due to COVID-19 transmission rates. There were no unusual incidents to report from court security. Discussion held.

#### CENTRAL DISPATCH UPDATE

Central Dispatch Director Cunningham provided the Department's monthly report. It was reported that the radio service vendor and the Michigan Public Safety Communications System will start conducting preventive maintenance on radios by mid-January. The installation of the tornado warning siren at Crandell Lake is moving forward, with the installation of electrical service at the site being prepared for. Public service information on the RAVE alert system and how the public can register for this system is being placed on social media and in local newspapers in response to its recent use to provide shelter-in-place announcements/advisories.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATE

Emergency Management Coordinator Wilkinson discussed the recent Silver Thaw exercise. The post exercise report and objectives were discussed with evaluators and players. A full after-action report is being compiled with corrective actions, most were technology based. The exercise did provide enhanced training and turned out well. The full report will be filed with the State of Michigan for 2021 exercise compliance. For 2022, an idea for a recovery exercise may be planned focusing on mock disaster recovery center programs available to victims.

#### PUBLIC DEFENDER UPDATE

Controller Fuentes reviewed a report submitted by Tim Havis, the Public Defender. Quarterly caseload logs were included in the report and information regarding the upcoming implementation of the Standards on Indigency and Contribution adopted by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission by April 26, 2022.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Controller Fuentes reported receiving the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report of drug-related fatalities from the Medical Examiner's office. Eaton County had five such fatalities during the quarter.

#### LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Commissioner Barnes adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held February 3, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Room in the Eaton County Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte MI.



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Commissioner Tim Barnes  
Chairperson, Public Safety Committee