

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 18, 2016**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mitch Ives, Bob Metropulos, Billy Fried, Ted Cushing, Chairman Mike Timmons

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Darryl Landeau (North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission), Medical Examiner Larry Mathein, Ken Kortenhof (Emergency Management), Jennifer Allen (Branch II), Denise Briggs (District Attorney's Office), Clerk of Court Brenda Behrle, Brian Desmond (Corporation Counsel), Daleth Mountjoy (River News/Lakeland Times).

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Timmons called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room #2, stated the meeting notice had been posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law, and noted accommodations would be made for handicap accessibility.

APPROVE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the Second Amended Agenda (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

9:15 A.M. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2016 ONEIDA COUNTY ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

The Notice of Public Hearing on the 2016 Oneida County All Hazards Mitigation Plan was read by Chairman Timmons. There was discussion regarding various locations in the plan that had moved (Hazelhurst fire department/Lakeland Senior Center). Kortenhof reported that changes could be made in the next version. Kortenhof reported there had been two updates since the first issue and the plan must be updated every five years. Kortenhof reported that because this plan was in place, we received funding for weather radios, maps of fire districts, and other projects listed in the plan. Kortenhof stated we have not had to use the plan because no storms have met the criteria, but if we had no plan, we would not receive funding.

There was discussion on monitoring the plan to see it was in place, the writing of grants, mitigation, communication with town boards, and if town boards are presented with a report on any deficiencies found in their respective township. Kortenhof stated the plan is put together so that if a flood or storm happens, damage can be replaced and built to a standard that is better so the same damage does not occur during the next storm.

There was no public input in regard to the Oneida County All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

9:30 A.M. REGULAR MEETING

APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the July 25, 2016, Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)

The next meeting was scheduled for September 15, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers, and line item transfers for Public Safety Departments (Cushing/Fried, PASSED).

Fried asked that when bills/vouchers/line item transfers are presented and money is not in budget, to announce where the money is coming from so the committee knows.

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURTS

2017 Department Budget

Behrle emailed copies of budget to committee members. Behrle reported that she looked over the last several years and compared and as far as projected revenue, this was pretty realistic. Behrle told committee to keep in mind that as far as bonds/default, jail assessment monies, Clerk of Courts office collects those funds, but they are not part of her budget. The attached graphs were a representation of fees collected, but not kept at the county level. Those monies go to the State. Fried asked what the State provides in exchange and Behrle reported computers, monitors, printers.

Behrle reported that she just found out from Corporation Counsel that LexisNexis contract is in the process of being eliminated and they would be changing to Westlaw, so the law library account could possibly go up an additional \$1,200 to \$2,500. Desmond suggested the law library transfer to his office and he would bring his budget back next month with this incorporated. Behrle reported that Corporation Counsel is the system administrator and she just pays the bill. It was decided both budgets would come back next month with the suggested changes.

Behrle explained the line item for jury fees. The budget was \$22,000 and right now actual is \$22,895. Estimated for this year was \$27,000. Margie in Finance has been made aware of this and the dollars will come out of the contingency fund. Behrle explained there were trials that were several days long, so the costs added up.

MOTION: To approve the Clerk of Circuit Court 2017 budget with one change of moving the Westlaw line item to the Corporation Counsel budget, then forward to the administrative committee (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Capital Improvement Program/Medical Examiners Replacement Vehicle

Mathein reported he put in a capital improvement for the replacement of the ME vehicle last year and it was put on hold. This item is back in again this year, with an increase of \$2,000.00 (Exhibit 1). The vehicle currently has 148,000 miles and will have well over \$160,000 by the end of the year. Looking to replace with same type of vehicle. Ives asked if any special/extra equipment needs to be installed. Mathein stated any extra that needs to go on will come from capital extra account.

MOTION: To approve replacement of Medical Examiner Vehicle as presented (Timmons/Cushing, PASSED).

2017 Department Budget

Mathein reported his department is a revenue-generating department (Exhibit 2). Consistently generate more revenue than budgeted, with a minimum of \$105,000 revenue expected this year. This has grown because of the way people handle their funeral arrangements. There is a trend toward cremation and every time that happens, ME Office has to fill out paperwork, which is a \$125.00 fee. Oneida County has 74% of deaths cremated vs. burial, Forest County is at 40%. Mathein reported autopsy is down this year. Toxicology prices on the rise. Average cost for an autopsy is \$2,100.00.

Mathein reported that if things go as anticipated, the Oneida County Medical Examiner's Office will likely assume the Vilas County Coroner responsibilities at the beginning of 2019. There was discussion on how this would work, budgeting, etc.

Fried asked with the possibility of expanding into Vilas County, if it was worthy to have a discussion with local providers regarding trying to bring autopsy services to this area instead of traveling to Fond du Lac. Mathein reported Marathon County was currently trying to work with the new incoming medical school in Wausau and being very proactive regarding this. There was discussion regarding travel costs, time savings of Fond du Lac vs. Wausau, more support staff, etc.

MOTION: To approve the Medical Examiner 2017 budget as presented and forward to the administrative committee (Timmons/Fried, PASSED).

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Emergency Management All Hazards Mitigation Plan

There was discussion on how the plan is put together, how towns need to report concerns to Emergency Management, the fact town board members are not always aware of what is in the All Hazards Mitigation Plan, and how to communicate with the individual town with any concerns/clarifications. Korten Hof reported the plan could be adjusted if a storm occurred and it was not listed in the plan, and still qualify for mitigation. If we did not have a plan, we would not qualify.

MOTION: To forward the Emergency Management All Hazards Mitigation Plan to the County Board as a Consent Agenda Item (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

Ambulance Service Update

Kortenhof gave an update on the operational plan for the Three Lakes/Sugar Camp facility. It has been approved. Nokomis will go to public hearing on November 27, 2016 for their building.

Discussion on ambulance staffing.

MOTION: No motion made. Information item only.

Capital Improvement Plan

Kortenhof discussed the replacement of Video cameras (year 2022), Tasers (year 2020) and Phase III Radios (portables – 2017, mobiles – 2018). There was discussion on which radios are used the most and take the biggest beating, officer radios vs. corrections radios, differences in radios, towers, equipment. Fried asked if money was put aside. Kortenhof reported yes, this was planned for starting in 2008, as the equipment does have a life expectancy. These were to be replaced in 2016, but were asked to hold off due to projects that are more important.

There was discussion about radio communication being very sporadic in the Minocqua area, how someone can sit in the office and Vilas County comes across clear, but Oneida sometimes will get bad. There was discussion on the communication system, possibly moving towers, new towers, overlapping areas, location of towers, reasons for low range, moving repeaters, possibly speaking with someone who could help the county apply for grants, and weather conditions that have impact on the radio communication.

Sheriff Hartman reported that he is waiting on the Next Gen 911 criteria to be established. If switched back to the 911 tax, we will have enough to pay. There was discussion on sending letters to local/state officials regarding this situation. It was decided to hold off until after elections. Fried requested that when the dates/costs of the Next Gen 911 are received, that all towns/cities are paying their share, and that the contract with the City of Rhinelander regarding 911 is outdated. There was discussion on various phases of the project, notching in monies, working to do similar for Microwave – Tower Sites and Next Gen so there is not a big shock to the County Board.

Fried commented that capital improvements as far as Sheriff's Office seemed like a light outlook. Sheriff reported the jail was in good shape. He stated the administration there wanted more holding cells, but he just did not see the need. Fried wanted to be sure that Building & Grounds was working with the Sheriff on any major maintenance so we are not in jeopardy of losing grants/state inmates. Sheriff reported that he spoke with B&G and asked them to come up with a plan.

MOTION: To approve the Capital Improvement Plan of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office/Emergency Management and forward to appropriate committee (Metropulos/Ives, PASSED).

State Inmate Update

The Sheriff reported that today's state inmate count is 78, getting paid for 77 as one inmate is at a different county today for court and will then come back. The Sheriff reported that he asked Chief Deputy Dan Hess to analyze the costs. Hess found that 13% of the \$51.46 per day is spent (9% for food, 4% for medical) and in theory, the rest is profit. The Sheriff reported that a conservative number to turn back at the end of the year would be \$500,000.00. Ives asked what the total population at the jail was. The Sheriff reported that as of Monday it was 159.

Fried commented that there was a big discussion at the Building and Grounds meeting to be proactive to maintain the jail to keep their accreditations. The Sheriff agreed that the absolute key was working with Building & Grounds.

There was discussion on the progress of the video conferencing, state inspections (once a year), and who that report was sent to. Ives asked if any of the state inmates had requested any programs yet? The Sheriff reported no one had requested anything, but they are working on the GED program.

MOTION: No motion made. Informational item only.

Illegal Drug Discussion

Fried reported that he was concerned about what he has heard on the street regarding illegal drug activity in Oneida County and wanted to be sure we were doing what we needed to control/abolish illegal drugs in Oneida County. The Sheriff reported that the county is clearly seeing heroin, a big upswing in meth, and a large increase in illegal prescription acquisitions. People are getting their prescriptions filled in the larger cities and bringing them here to sell. The Sheriff reminded the committee that approximately two years ago he moved one of the rec safety officer positions to the drug unit, without adding to the budget. The Sheriff stated the drug unit is busy, but at the appropriate staffing level.

Fried reported that comments were made to him that the use of heroin led to births of children with additions in Oneida County. Fried wanted to be sure that the county was being proactive. There was discussion on statutes to follow regarding unborn children, mandatory reporters, and if the county had the correct tools to be proactive. Desmond reported that the county was now part of the Drug Endangered Children project and funds were available for identifying/getting children out of living in drug homes.

There was discussion if sentencing effects the amount of drugs in the county, if our county was more lenient than others, factors that go into sentencing, the judge's discretion, variables in the case, and generational factors.

Fried asked if there was any profit in developing a PR campaign (billboards/tv/air/etc.) that Oneida County will not put up with this. Ives asked if Oneida County has a K-9 Unit. The Sheriff reported we do not and call on Vilas County, Three Lakes (when they had one), or the City of Rhinelander. Discussion on what K-9 is used for, costs, specialized training, investments (pros/cons) of having a K-9.

MOTION: No motion made. Informational item only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA(S)

Desmond – Legal research contract, budget, and moving law library (Westlaw) from Clerk of Courts budget to Corporation Counsel budget.

Request that budgets are given to committee members as soon as possible and to leave a hard copy in the mailboxes instead of emailing budgets.

ADJOURN

11:05 a.m. MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Cushing/Metropulos, PASSED).

Mike Timmons, Chairman

Andi Seidel, Committee Secretary

Bob Metropulos, Vice-Chairman