



**PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes – October 15, 2018**

**Call to Order.** Chair Beaver called the meeting of the Public Safety and Justice Committee to order at 4:00 P.M. in Conference Room N-1, Fifth Floor, Courthouse East.

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisors Beaver, Owens, Fell, and Knudson.

**Committee Members Absent:** Supervisor Hawes.

**Staff Members Present:** Josh Smith, County Administrator; Nick Osborne, Assistant to the County Administrator; Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen, Justice System Manager; Kathy Sukus, 911 Communications Center Director; Diane Michaelis, Financial Office Manager, Sheriff's Office; Marge Rothering, Administrative Secretary, Child Support; Melissa Wittwer, Child Support Supervisor, Child Support; David O'Leary, District Attorney; Perry Folts, District Attorney's Office; Lori Bienema, Chief Deputy Clerk of Court.

**Others Present:** County Board Chair Russ Podzilni; and Barry Irmen, Medical Examiner Director of Operations.

**Adoption of Agenda.** Supervisor Owens moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Knudson. ADOPTED.

**Citizen Participation, Communications, Announcement, Information.** None.

**Consent Calendar.**

**Transfers** None.

**Review of Payments** The Committee accepted the report.

**Resolution.**

**Funding for Next Generation 911 Upgrades**

**"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, does hereby urge the Governor and Wisconsin Legislature to allocate \$7 million annually for counties to upgrade local 911 centers to begin the NG911 transition; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the \$7 million for county PSAP upgrades be funded through the existing Police and Fire Protection Fee."

Supervisor Fell moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Owens.  
ADOPTED.

### **Updates.**

**Communications Center Telephone Line Failure 10/1/18** Ms. Sukus informed the Committee the non-emergency number was down for a short time on October 1, 2018 due to a contractor nicking the lines and the amount of rain we had. The non-emergency number was re-routed to the backup site in the Town of Beloit for five days. She thanked the Town of Beloit Police and Fire personnel who helped out during this time.

### **Review of 2019 Recommended Budget**

**Sheriff** Mr. Smith said the overtime at the Sheriff's Office has consistently been under-budgeted and he is recommending adding additional overtime to the budget. Mr. Smith said in the Law Enforcement Services there is a decrease in revenue due primarily to less sales tax funding; costs keep going up; he is decreasing the amount requested for gasoline as predictions are for lower prices; there are a few personnel changes, two reclassifications, elimination of a .3 FTE positions which has been vacant, and elimination of seasonal funds as the hiring for these positions has been unsuccessful. Mr. Smith said in the Correctional Services there is a decrease in revenue as more space has been devoted to county offenders which means less space for state/federal inmates. Mr. Smith said there are fewer inmates on electronic monitoring with the ability to pay; also there is a change in policy for Huber work release fees for Huber inmates who are unemployed. Mr. Smith said the number of inmates with mental health needs is up, so he is recommending an increase in hours, from 28 to 40 per week, for the mental health worker. Mr. Smith said he is recommending the following personnel changes: a Jail Re-entry specialist, to be cost shared with Human Services, to continue; and a 0.8 FTE Psychiatric Technician, also cost shared with Human Services, and funded by tax levy. Mr. Smith said with the implementation of the Courts video conferencing system the cost of gasoline and Court Services staff overtime is being reduced as more hearings are conducted via video conferencing.

Ms. Michaelis thanked the Committee and said the County Administrator is being pretty aggressive on the amount he is cutting for gasoline, but the Sheriff's Office will see what they can do. Mr. Smith said the predictions on gas prices are projected to go down and the number of trips to other institutions should be going down and acknowledged it was a more aggressive projection.

**District Attorney** Mr. Smith said the only changes really are for the addition of two positions, Lead Legal Support Specialists, and some title changes to help with productivity.

Mr. O'Leary told the Committee they are at step 3 of the reorganization to handle the volume of work. He added his office and the County Administrator are working together on some short term solutions for space needs until the changes in Phase 2 and 3 of the Courthouse Security project are complete.

**Circuit Court** Mr. Smith said the federal Veterans Administration will not fund the Veterans Court drug testing so the County will be fully funding these services. Mr. Smith said it

has been increasingly getting more difficult to retain qualified Guardian Ad Litem attorneys and he is recommending an annual increase of \$24,000. Mr. Smith said he is not recommending the request to reallocate all 26 FTE Deputy Clerk of Court positions as this was just done in 2016. Mr. Smith said, with the implementation of the new e-File system he is recommending a decrease in office supplies and postage.

**911 Communications Center** Ms. Sukus said the radio and phone equipment she requested is required for all radio frequencies, is to replace equipment that is at its end of life and cannot let them fail. She said this will also cover the first half of the pictometry flyover, and to replace analog phone lines and fiber optic lines to resolve reliability issues.

Supervisor Owens asked if the increase for overtime is due to a shortage of personnel. Ms. Sukus said they have some turnover and this also covers overtime when someone is sick.

**Medical Examiner** Mr. Smith said the budget reflects a decrease in autopsies based on the past year. Mr. Irmen added it is difficult to budget accurately for autopsies.

**Child Support** Mr. Smith said the charge backs to other departments is a large part of the budget; the new Child Support Director has placed a great emphasis on training for staff; and a request for five new positions is not recommended at this time, but will be looked at in the future.

Ms. Wittwer said the caseloads are at 1,100 to 1,200 per case manager and they would like to get that down to 500 to 600 per case manager, which is a more normal and manageable number.

Ms. Rothering said they are doing more community outreach to educate the community and are working with other agencies.

**EBDM** Mr. Smith said the increase will help implement the pre-trial and assessment programs which will help make the decisions on who goes to Jail and who would benefit from other programs.

**Committee Requests and Motions.** None.

**Adjournment.** Supervisor Owens moved adjournment at 4:36 P.M., second by Supervisor Fell. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bondehagen  
Confidential Administrative Assistant

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.**