

# Waukesha County Board of Supervisors

## Minutes of the Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee Friday, April 16, 2021

Chair Wolff called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Peter Wolff, Christine Howard, Mike Crowley, Tyler Foti, Darlene Johnson, Jacob LaFontain, and Larry Nelson.

**Also Present:** Legislative Policy Advisor Alex Ignatowski, Business Managers Josh Joost and Bob Snow, Financial Analyst Cathy Kienast, Clerk of Courts Monica Paz, and Facilities Manager Shane Waeghe.

### **Approve Minutes of March 12, 2021**

MOTION: Crowley moved, second by Johnson to approve the minutes of March 12. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Next Meeting Date**

- May 14, 2021

### **Executive Committee Report of March 15, 2021**

Wolff said the Executive Committee, at their last meeting, approved an ordinance and three appointments, and heard an update on information technology.

### **Ordinance 176-O-008 Amend the 2021 Sheriff's Department Budget and Approve Expenditures for Multiple Purchases**

Joost and Kienast were present to discuss this item. Enrolled ordinance 141-41 (1986) authorized the Sheriff's Department to participate in a federal program, which transfers forfeited assets (seized funds) to those state and local agencies that contributed directly to the seizure of that property. Federal guidelines require that these seized funds must be used to enhance law enforcement activities, not to supplant existing adopted budget appropriations. Joost said they are requesting to use up to a maximum of \$8,000 of seized funds expenditure authority to purchase small drones (\$5,000) and training equipment for the firearms unit (\$3,000). It is estimated that on-going operating/maintenance costs for equipment items will be minimal and will be the responsibility of the Sheriff's Department. This ordinance results in no additional direct tax levy impact in 2021.

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Johnson to approve Ordinance 176-O-008. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Update on the Circuit Court Response to COVID-19**

Paz and Snow were present to discuss this item. Snow discussed video conferencing which has been effective during the pandemic and will continue to some extent. The new Court Tower will have full video conferencing capabilities. Paz said backlog, especially in Criminal/Traffic, has increased since the start of the pandemic. Several options are being considered and a decision should be made in May on how to best handle this. Snow discussed anticipated revenue and

expenditure changes related to the backlog and will keep the committee updated. Jury surveys have been positive with regards to social distancing, etc. Paz distributed copies of a brochure titled "Supporting the Well-being of Jurors During and After Jury Service." Paz discussed the impact of the pandemic on Courts staff and efforts to improve the current work environment.

### **Legislative Update**

Ignatowski said the state budget process is ongoing. The Joint Finance Committee has completed agency briefings, are now doing public hearings, and executive sessions will begin thereafter. He said we have held meetings with JFC co-chairs to discuss COVID-19 funding among other County issues/concerns. Also, Annette Ziegler has been named Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

### **Tour of the Circuit Courts Tower Project**

Waeghe led the committee on a tour of the Courts Tower.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Review Use of Force Policy in the Sheriff's Department
- Discuss Video Conferencing in the Jail

MOTION: Nelson moved, second by Howard to adjourn at 10:04 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael A. Crowley*

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Secretary