

Minutes of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee – May 2, 2008

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

Committee Members Present: County Board Supervisors Bonnie Morris (Chair), Kathleen Cummings, Dave Falstad, James Behrend, John Pledl, Jean Tortomasi and Peter Wolff.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn, Legislative Associate Karen Phillips, Chief Judge Mac Davis Senior Financial Analyst Lyndsay Johnson, Emergency Preparedness Director Richard Tuma, Sheriff Dan Trawicki, Inspector Steve Marks, Deputy Inspector Eric Severson, Business Manager Tom Koth, Emergency Management Coordinator William Stolte, District Court Administrator Mike Neimon, Training and Operations Manager Sherry Stigler, and Radio Services Administrator Chris Petterson.

Report by Committee Member Liaisons

Tortomasi stated she is a member of the Dispatch Operations Center (DOC) Committee and explained some of the recent issues taken up by the committee.

Cummings stated she is a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and gave a summary of the committee's duties and accomplishments.

Future Agenda Items

- Cummings suggested scheduling a meeting at the dispatch center, and anyone interested could tour the facility after the meeting.

Meeting Approvals

Morris explained committee members must obtain approval to attend meetings/conferences in order to receive reimbursement for their expenditures.

Future Meeting Dates

Morris stated she hopes to have Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee meetings held once a month. There will be times when an ordinance could be scheduled for approval before a meeting of the County Board. There will be a meeting on May 16, 2008. Most likely, the meeting on May 30, 2008, will be cancelled.

Wolff stated he would be out of town and not present at the May 16 meeting.

Committee Welcome and Opening Remarks by Committee Chair

Morris welcomed the committee members and asked members to introduce themselves and give a brief synopsis of their backgrounds. In an effort to keep on schedule, this agenda item was postponed.

Introductory Review of Judicial Branch and Relationship to County

Judge Davis reviewed the information in the handout, summarizing the duties of the Waukesha County Courts - Judiciary Branch and outlined information in each of the following categories.

- Personnel
- Facilities
- Organizational Lines
- Inter-relationship/Sharing
- Purpose & Activities
- Biggest County issues for Courts

Davis also spoke as the Chair of the Criminal Justice Collaboration Council (CJCC) and explained the concept and purpose of the Committee and its subcommittees.

Falstad asked if mediation is used within the court system and if it is effective. Davis stated mediation is used, and it is very effective in family cases, (divorces, custody and placement) and civil cases, such as small claims.

Pledl asked Davis whether he feels prisoner transport is a most pressing need at this time. Davis stated that security is a very important issue. There are security risks every day, not only for the public and staff, but also for the defendants.

Cummings asked that the handout be included as part of the record.

Introduction of Sheriff and Departmental Staff and Overview of Department

Trawicki introduced himself and staff members Marks, Severson, and Koth. Trawicki presented an overview of his department including staffing, budget and jurisdictional duties. Trawicki reviewed the statistics within and the duties performed within each of the department's divisions.

Trawicki also discussed the prisoner movement study and the plan being considered by the CJCC subcommittee.

Trawicki stated the jail is full. He would like a study done to explore options to include a new building, renovation of the original jail or building up one floor on the existing building.

Wolff left at 9:38 a.m.

Introduction of Department of Emergency Management Staff and Overview of Department

Tuma introduced himself and staff members Stigler and Petterson. Tuma handed out an informational packet including contact numbers for staff and an organizational chart of the Department of Emergency Preparedness.

Stigler explained she works as a liaison between the Communications Center staff and the departments they serve, as well as being in charge of training within the department for the Dispatch Center. She stated they have instructors on staff to provide the training programs. She stated other communities within the County have come to them for training. Tuma added that the turnaround rate has dropped dramatically since this training program was implemented.

Petterson explained the function of Radio Services in administering and maintaining the County's trunk radio system. He addressed the importance of interoperability in a countywide radio system that provides a common platform for communication. An upcoming grant will provide for a VHF overlay system that will enable users from outside the county to utilize the system.

Wolff returned at 10:13 a.m.

Stolte presented an overview of Emergency Management including Disaster Management and Hazardous Materials. Stolte stated that in 2009, select Waukesha County staff members will travel to Emmetsburg, MD, to take part in extensive training at the National Emergency Training Center. This training will be paid for by the federal government.

Tuma reviewed the information in the handout in the following areas:

- Phone system records showing 9-1-1 call answering times.

- Phone activity for the WCC for the last 4 years
- Chart of annual average of dispatch time by year
- Chart and data of dispatch times for specific time periods

Tuma stated the statistics show that Waukesha County is performing exceptionally well according to national standards. Tuma also explained the need to replace the current CAD system. An RFP will be written in the near future as the first step in this process. He said they are working very hard to include their partners in the process, as well as communities that are not a part of the 9-1-1 system now but may be in the future.

Cummings would like the informational packet from Emergency Management made a part of the record.

Discuss Committee Duties and Responsibilities as Contained in the Code of Ordinances

Krahn reviewed the handout of the County Board Operating Procedures and Rules, highlighting the duties of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee. He added that the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC) is also under the purview of this Committee, although it is a part of the Health & Human Services budget.

Morris emphasized the importance of the Committee's oversight responsibilities of budget and policy.

Legislative Update

Krahn gave a brief update on the State budget and the status of pertinent legislative items. Krahn said the Budget Repair Bill discussion continues behind closed doors. He provided details on the following bills that come under the purview of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee:

SB 321 (AB 576): He explained that the indigency standards have not been updated since 1980. This will come back in the next legislature in January.

SB 401 (AB 746): There will be a legislative council study committee formed to examine the 17-year-old juvenile court jurisdiction issue, as well as other aspects of juvenile justice.

SB 497: Wisconsin is facing a crisis with regard to an adequate number of prosecutors and what they are paid. This will be an important issue in the next biennial budget.

AB 579: The increase of the jurisdictional limit for small claims is an issue that comes back every legislature, and would have substantial fiscal impact on the court system.

AB 678: This bill pertains to the funding of the court system and by allowing counties to retain a larger percentage of fines and forfeitures.

Krahn briefly explained the following items:

- The Wisconsin Way, a grassroots initiative developed to engage the public in discussions about how Wisconsin can change its tax structure to meet present and future needs.
- Divided We Fail, regarding healthcare issues
- The Second Chance Act, a way of getting programming to people coming out of jail /prison to prevent recidivism.

Nomination and Election of Vice Chair and Committee Secretary

MOTION: Behrend moved, second by Wolff, to nominate Jean Tortomasi for Vice Chair of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee. Motion carried: 7-0.

MOTION: Tortomasi moved, second by Behrend, to nominate Kathleen Cummings for Secretary of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee. Motion carried 7-0.

Morris stated the Committee member introductions will continue at the next meeting. She also encouraged committee members to tour county facilities to familiarize themselves with upcoming issues with the jail, communications center and medical examiner.

MOTION: Wolff moved, second by Behrend to adjourn at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Cummings
Secretary