

**Minutes of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee  
February 13, 2015**

Chair Peter Wolff called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**Committee Members Present:** County Board Supervisors Peter Wolff, Jim Batzko, Carl Pettis, Kathleen Cummings, Michael Crowley and Robert Kolb. **Absent:** Janel Brandtjen.

**Also Present:** Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Administrative Specialist Karen Phillips, Budget Manager Linda Witkowski, Sheriff Eric Severson, Inspector Jim Gumm, Deputy Inspector Torin Misko, Financial Analyst Joshua Joost, Business Manager Lyndsay Johnson and Attorney Ron Sonderhouse.

**Approve Minutes of December 5, 2014**

MOTION: Crowley moved, second by Cummings to approve the minutes of December 5, 2014. Motion carried 6-0.

**Public Comment**

Wolff introduced Sonderhouse who is running for Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 8.

**Executive Committee Report of December 16, 2014**

Wolff reviewed the items discussed at the December 16<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee, which included the approval of an ordinance relative to the implements of husbandry code changes and several appointments.

**Future Meeting Date**

- March 13, 2015

**Update on Federal Seized Fund Law Changes**

Severson stated he plans to present concise educational programs to the Committee in the future in an effort to educate the Committee on various aspects of the Sheriff's Department.

Severson reported that Attorney General Eric Holder recently announced changes to the federal civil asset forfeiture program that local law enforcement agencies have been able to use to seize property. This will result in a significant loss of revenue, as local agencies will no longer be allowed to participate in federal forfeitures. Severson noted that opportunities would be available through the State program; however, the amounts agencies would be eligible to receive are significantly diminished.

**Ordinance 169-O-096: Amend The 2015 Sheriff's Department Budget For The Expenditure Of Seized Funds To Participating Agencies In February 2015**

Severson, Gumm, Misko and Johnson were present to discuss this ordinance, which amends the 2015 departmental budget of the Sheriff to appropriate \$12,821 of general fund balance generated through seized funds for metro drug unit participant distributions.

Severson reviewed the distribution amounts as outlined in the fiscal note. In response to Wolff's question, Johnson stated there is approximately \$151,000 remaining in seized fund balance following this distribution. In response to Crowley's question, Johnson further explained the complicated distribution formula.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Batzko to approve Ordinance 169-O-096. Motion carried 6-0.

**Future Agenda Item**

- Presentation on Sheriff's Department specialized vehicles (e.g. Bearcat) and funding lifecycle, etc. (Wolff and Cummings)

**Legislative Update**

Spaeth reported that the governor recently introduced his proposed 2015-2017 biennial budget. She noted that the Legislative Fiscal Bureau analysis of the budget is expected to be issued by the end of this month. Some possible changes include:

- Consolidation of grants affecting the courts
- Counties taking over property assessments from municipalities

Spaeth advised that the County plans to invite State legislators here for a presentation and socializing event in March.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Crowley to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 a.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Batzko  
Secretary