

**Minutes of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee**  
**June 17, 2016**

Vice Chair Cummings called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Kathleen Cummings	Jennifer Grant	Jim Batzko	Steve Whittow
Mike Crowley	Timothy Dondlinger		

**Committee Members Absent:**

Peter Wolff

**Others Present:**

Sheriff Eric Severson	Financial Analyst Josh Joost
Inspector James Gumm	Business Manager Lyndsay Johnson
Emergency Preparedness Director Gary Bell	Senior Financial Analyst Mark Yatchak
County Board Chairman Chairman Paul Decker	Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth
Administrative Specialist Alison Reis	Recorded by Beth Schwartz, County Board Office

**Approve Minutes of May 13, 2016**

MOTION: Whittow moved, second by Batzko to approve the minutes of May 13, 2016. Motion carried 6-0.

**Executive Committee Report of May 16, 2016**

Spaeth reported that the following items were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting:

- Approved 2 ordinances and 5 appointments
- Heard and discussed a report on the Department of Administration (DOA) Collections Division Audit
- Heard reports from committee chairs

**Future Agenda Items**

- Asset forfeiture bill

**Legislative Update**

Spaeth reported the legislature is in recess until 2017, however joint finance met regarding the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) programs.

**Future Meeting Date(s)**

- July 15, 2016
- August 12, 2016

**Overview of the Sheriff's Department Budget**

Severson discussed the cost to continue number, which will fluctuate while going through the budget process. The goal is to find a long term strategy to close the gap and solve the problems of cost saving and increased revenue for 2017. Currently in place to reduce department costs are several ineffective strategies, such as the choice to un-fund positions throughout the department. This lost service results in not having enough staff to deal with an emergency situation, in turn putting the safety of the Courthouse at risk. Severson went on to

explain the budget trends from 2011-Present, and highlighted the choices to un-fund positions throughout the past six years. This plan does not maximize public safety, and he is unsure how to solve the arising problems in a long term way, which is why it is essential this dialogue must be continued.

Other yearly cost efficiency problems were noted, including new patrol vehicle's capacity to transition equipment, computer updates and maintenance, and the higher cost of federal inmates here than in surrounding counties. Severson discussed some ways the department needs to cut costs and increase revenue for the 2017 budget year, such as eliminating clerical positions, resetting wages and benefits, and asking the Federal Marshall for more inmates. He also stated that public safety is at risk of being an area where costs will be cut. The amount of increase each year is not adequate to provide the necessary services for public safety.

Severson updated the committee on Federal Task Force participation, which allows for beneficial relationships that increase the ability to solve problems, in particular the opiate/heroin dilemma in Waukesha County.

He reported that opiates are the number one threat to citizens in Waukesha County, and he will commit every resource he can to putting away drug dealers. Waukesha County currently leads the state in Len Bias prosecution because the county puts in the resources and does not tolerate the culpability of drug dealers in the role of drug overdoses. He stated that as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the department will be doubling its commitment by assigning two people to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program.

In response to Batzko and Cummings' questions of how the budget is affected by the new component of the asset forfeiture program, Severson commented that it's a huge hit to the department. He will be meeting with Assembly members to talk about how the forfeiture program is not about funding law enforcement, but instead about removing assets from criminals and taking away their ability to continue criminal activity. The federal government decided law enforcement should benefit from those dollars, in turn benefiting the local taxpayer. Severson said the use of that money so far has paid for body armor and tasers, which wouldn't have happened without this program.

**Ordinance 171-O-016: Approve Fourth Amendment to Nashotah Substation Cellular Tower Lease**

Bell explained this ordinance approves a fourth amendment to the February 14, 1997 lease with T-Mobile for the lease of a radio tower and surrounding land at the Nashotah Sheriff Substation to allow for the installation of upgraded towers.

Cummings commented on the law change that companies may erect the cellular towers anywhere, resulting in more options. Bell explained in reply that as long as the standards are followed, municipalities cannot prevent the cell tower from being erected.

Whittow asked for clarification that this is not a physical space change. Bell said that this is an upgrade of technology and a site assessment for the tower in its ability to handle new capabilities, which will be a process of removing one piece of equipment and replacing it with another.

MOTION: Crowley moved, second by Batzko to approve Ordinance 171-O-016. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: Dondlinger moved, second by Crowley to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 a.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Grant  
Secretary

DRAFT