

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
COUNTY BOARDROOM  
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018  
MINUTES  
4:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

- 2. Roll Call** – Jason Jording (ch) , Randy Roethler, Barry Logan, Donald Tolan all present.  
Russell Cotton is excused.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Approval of February 14, 2018 minutes

Motion to approve the February 14, 2018 minutes made by Logan, seconded by Roethler.

*Motion passed.*

**4. Public Input**

Doug Huser, 352 Wildridge, Metamora addressed the committee. Mr. Huser questioned if there was a policy regarding use of the Board Room. The FOP had a “Meet the Candidate” night where they endorsed the candidates they wanted. Mr. Huser felt this was a bad representation for Woodford County as employees were endorsing their employer. He did not receive their endorsement, but knew ahead of time that he would not. He himself has had 30 of his election signs stolen. He made a police report, and then discovered that a few more signs had been stolen. When he spoke to a particular police officer, the officer was quoted as saying, “I don’t care that your signs were stolen.” This particular officer told Mr. Huser that the Board puts him on the road with 300 miles of tread left on the tires and expect him to drive 100 miles an hour to a scene. The officer stated that if he gets killed, he has instructed his wife to sue the county. Mr. Huser wants to know if the tires on the cars are bad, and where is this officer getting his information? At the last Board meeting one member stated that we shouldn’t reduce the number of Board members on the Health Insurance Committee because that one member could get in tight with the department heads. So what is going to happen when employees endorse employers?

**5. Approval of Claims**

Motion to approve March claims made by Roethler, seconded by Logan. Mr. Logan asked about the claim for the K-9 training, if it was for the dog or the officer. Sheriff Smith responded that it was for both and the training lasted about 8 weeks. *Motion passed.*

**6. Coroner**

**7. ESDA**

**8. Sheriff**

- a. Approval of \$10,000 to be put aside for possible window repair damage.

Mr. Jording stated that the Sheriff was requesting \$10,000 to be set aside for unknown repairs when the windows were replaced in case there was wood rot or something that needed to be repaired.

Motion to put \$10,000 aside for window repair made by Logan, seconded by Tolan. *Motion passed.*

- b. PSB Cooling Tower Project Update.

The cooling tower has been installed and is ready to go. They will start it up in April.

- c. CH Window Project Update

The vendor has removed two windows, and discovered that there is no insulation around them. If there is insulation missing around the windows, they will install insulation.

- d. CH Grounds Lawn Car Bid

It is time to do the bidding for the lawn care. There have been two bids received. One bid from Legacy and one bid from an employee. Legacy is our current provider. We currently pay \$135 per mow. The average is 29 mows, and two clean ups – one in the spring and one in the fall. The Sheriff is happy with the job Legacy has been doing. There was discussion if an employee could

hold a contract with the County. Motion to accept the bid by Legacy made by Tolan, seconded by Roethler. *Motion passed.*

e. CH Window Treatment project cost

It was brought up at last month's meeting about replacing the window treatments. The Sheriff did some checking and it would be around \$7,500 to replace the window treatments. What was budgeted exceeds what the window will cost, so there is money to purchase new window treatments. Not all the windows need new treatments. It was decided that the Sheriff should go ahead and get quotes for installation of new window treatments and bring the information back to the committee next month.

f. Star-com 21 Sheriff's Radio Project Update

They have everything worked out with Supreme. The equipment is here and will be installed at the end of the month. Then for the month of April they will be testing it.

## 9. Animal Control

a) Discuss changes to Animal Control Ordinance

Ms. Andrews questioned why she could not have Ordinance before tonight. She wanted to put 'Animal Control' in front of Administrator in section 2.03. Mr. Logan questioned if in Section 11 the fines were per dog or per offense. It was discussed that it is per dog per offense. The word 'fine' would be added behind \$200 and '(per dog)' would also be added. Mr. Logan also asked if in Section 24 the 24 hour notice was by state statute. Mr. Jording stated it was by state statute. Motion to send the Ordinance to the Board with the changes made by Roethler, seconded by Logan. *Motion passed.* Ms. Andrews again asked why she was told that she could not have the Ordinance changes before today. Mr. Jording stated that Ms. Breyman does not work for Ms. Andrews. Ms. Breyman is competent in doing her work and Mr. Jording does not want to get into the power struggle. He has confidence that everyone in the Courthouse is doing their job. Mr. Jording suggested that in the future the packet for the committee be posted to the web.

## 10. New Business

## 11. Unfinished Business

a. Public Safety Tax Discussion

- Upper limit put on bigger ticket items
- Anything that is done should be fully understood, such as referendum
- Incremental reduction
- What plan would be if there was a reduction
- Quarter percent reduction and affect it would have
- Would property tax be increased based on \$500,000 reduction
- Should amount collected through the tax be segregated as public safety money

This is a list of issues that were brought up at the last Board meeting to discuss.

Motion to table Public Safety Tax till next month made by Logan, seconded by Tolan. *Motion failed.* Mr. Jording stated that he will discuss with the State's Attorney as to where to draw the line, or set the limit on the big ticket items. Mr. Jording would like divide the list up, and then discuss them next month. Mr. Jording will take the lead on the ballot. Mr. Logan will look at the effect a reduction would have and if property taxes would have to be raised. Mr. Tolan will research incremental reduction and issue of segregating the money into a specific account. Mr. Roethler will tackle the language for a ballot. Mr. Logan believes they are going about this backwards. He thinks they should work on the budget, and then discuss this and cut funding. Mr. Jording believes that this would drive the budget, but they are just doing what the Board asked. Sheriff Smith requested that the rules be suspended so Mr.

Huser could talk. Mr. Logan made a motion to suspend the rule, seconded by Tolan. *Motion passed.* Mr. Huser stated that after the Meet the Candidate Night he had the opportunity to talk with Marshal Smith about the Public Safety Tax. Chief Deputy Tipsword shared documentation with the Committee from the 1990's. These documents include a mailer that was sent to all residents of Woodford County, the resolution, articles published in the newspaper, and a flyer of frequently asked questions. Deputy Tipsword referenced an article that stated this tax should not be reduced. He is disappointed that no one on the Board took the time to look up any of this information. He stated that the tax doesn't begin to cover the cost of running the jail, and reducing it would be a farce. Mr. Jording states that nothing is forever. He believes that the people voted it in, they should be able to vote to keep it or get rid of it. He also stated that the article says 'jail' so the money should not be placed in General Funds. He has a problem when people say we can't do something. We need to try. Mr. Tipsword \$500,000 was taken off of property tax as was promised to the voters. He stated that Mr. Jording wants to do what is right by the voters. This was presented to the voters, and Mr. Jording now wants to change that. If you want to discuss a reduction in tax, then discuss a reduction in property tax. He stated that other members of the Board are now paraphrasing Mr. Jording's 'sunset clause' phrase. He stated that the Board needs to understand what it takes to run the jail. Twenty years ago they walked across the street with a staff of 5 deputies, and now have a staff of 15 now. According to the Department of Corrections they are understaffed for the size of jail we have. He doesn't want any more taxes, but also understands what it takes to run this jail. He stated this the Board is trying to run the jail today on what they did 20 years ago, and that idea is ludicrous. Mr. Jording stated that he never said there was a sunset clause. He stated that it is not true this tax was never meant to raise property tax, as they have raised property tax. However, he is happy to have an open discussion about this. Deputy Tipsword stated that the discussion has been had. The Board said enough 2 months ago. Mr. Kingdon and Mr. Kempt were the only two members that made a comment about educating the voters if it went to a vote. No one else was in favor of sending this back to Public Safety. Now here we are again and it is back on the committee's agenda again. He applauds Mr. Jording attempt to reduce taxes, but stop with the public safety tax and talk about reducing property tax. Mr. Jording stated that it was brought up if the Board wanted them to discuss this or not, and 15 Board members spoke up. If the thing to do is keep it in place, then they will do that, but they can't make that decision without a discussion. The discussion will not end this month, but the committee can work on their assignments, and next month they will discuss it.

b. **Liability**

c. **Workers' Compensation**

Ms. Andrews reported that the audit has been done and it was incorrect on Sheriff's overtime. So instead of us owing money, we should be getting a refund. The County audit will be presented next month at the Finance Committee. Mr. Jording asked Ms. Andrews if there was a problem with paying deductibles out of Tort Liability. Ms. Andrews stated that we presently don't have a line item in the budget for that. Mr. Jording asked if we could create one mid-year. Ms. Andrews stated that it would be better to keep it the way it is for this year, and then budget for it next year.

**12. Other**

Mr. Jording questioned if we are putting deputies out in unsafe cars. Sheriff Smith stated not unsafe tires, but some of the cars have high mileage on them, some with 150,000 miles.

These cars can all of sudden have a problem with no warning sign. The cars with the high miles are not safe to use in high pursuit situations. Mr. Jording stated that in addition to Mr. Huser comments, there are deputies out there that are saying we cut their pay. He asked Sheriff Smith if the pay had been cut and where the officer's get their information. Sheriff Smith thinks there are things out there. He stated the deputies read the minutes, or listen to the audio, and hear that we are discussing the public safety sales tax. When we talk about cutting the Public Safety Tax it will affect the Sheriff's budget. If you cut a million dollars from his budget, the guys look at as their jobs will be gone. If you talk about taking someone's livelihood, don't be surprised if they get mad and voice their anger. They don't have to get the information from anywhere other than listening to the tapes, reading the minutes. That is why they are calling the Union saying the Board is discussing getting rid of the public safety tax. Mr. Jording stated that officers are making very specific comments, like there are only 300 miles of tread left on the tires, their pay has been cut, where is this coming from? Sheriff Smith stated that no one's pay has been cut. Mr. Jording also asked about Mr. Huser's complaint and if it is being investigated. Sheriff Smith stated that it is being investigated. Mr. Logan stated that he too has had signs stolen. Sheriff Smith stated that a lot of it is the way the department perceives it, the deputies are upset that people are tugging at their livelihood. He is not running with an excess budget. A lot of times he doesn't have the financial means to do what he has to do. He doesn't have squad cars out there with nothing to do. The guys are looking at it from a safety point. You pull officers because of budget, then when does the safety of their lives come into play. Mr. Jording said that he understands that. You can be unhappy with your employer, but you don't make stuff up. He has a problem when mistruths are being stated. That reflects poorly not only on us, but also on you. Sheriff Smith stated that some of the comments in the past made by Mr. DeBolt were true and had to come from within his department. Those issues are being taken care of, and they were in the process of taking care of it when Mr. DeBolt spoke of it. Mr. Huser stated that he doesn't want to get any one in trouble. He wants an open door with anyone for a good working relation. The FOP is pitting board members against each other. We all need to try and work together. Deputies should be able to come up to Board members and get cooperation.

**13. Executive Session – Roll Call Vote**

Motion to go into executive session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employment under 5 ILCS 122 (c)(1) made by Logan, seconded by Tolan. Roll call vote Jording- yes; Tolan – yes; Roethler – yes; Logan- yes. *Motion passed.*

**14. Any action coming out of Executive Session**

Motion to come out of executive session made by Logan, seconded by Roethler. *Motion passed.*

Mr. Jording asked Sheriff Smith what happened with the investigation of the prior animal control warden. Sheriff Smith stated that is was forwarded to the State's Attorney, but there was nothing to come out of it. Deputy Gillson talked to Dr. McKenna and she had authorization to have the supplies she had. Mr. Jording asked if there was an investigation of the prior animal control administrator and Sheriff Smith stated not that he recalled. Mr. Jording then asked Sheriff Smith if his office was involved with the investigation of the prior Circuit Clerk, and Sheriff Smith stated not at all, that was handled by the State's Attorney.

**15. Adjournment**

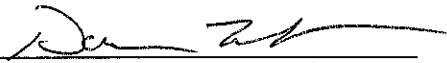
Mr. Huser requests the Public Safety Committee to look into making a policy for the use of the Board Room for liability issues. Sheriff Smith stated that there is a variety of non-governmental use for the building. Mr. Tolan stated we need at the least a list of our

expectations when people use the building. Mr. Roethler stated that some sort of guidelines need to be in place so we don't have alcohol or drugs being brought into the building. Mr. Jording stated that it is a public building, however, just because the police car is public property doesn't mean you can use it. Mr. Jording asked Ms. Breyman to check with other counties and see what they do.

Motion to adjourn made by Logon, seconded by Tolan. *Motion passed.*

Adjourn at 5:56 PM.

Submitted by: Deb Breyman

  
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Jason Jording, Chairman      *Don TOLAN*  
Public Safety Committee    *VICE CHAIR*

*4-9-2016*  
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Date