

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022
MINUTES
4:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Chairman Burditt.

2. Roll Call –Ansel Burditt (ch), Blake Parsons, Donald Tolan present. Albert Durst and Justin Faulk was absent. Also present was committee alternate Jerry Smith.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of December 13, 2021 minutes

Motion to approve December 2021 minute made by Parsons, seconded by Smith. *Motion passed.*

4. Approval of Executive Session Minutes

5. Public Input

There was no public input.

6. Approval of Claims

a. Approval of January 2022 Claims

Motion to approve January claims made by Smith, seconded by Tolan. *Motion passed.*

7. Coroner

8. Sheriff

a. Sheriff Vehicle Bids

The Sheriff put out an RFP for 4 Sheriff vehicles and one (1) EMA vehicle. Bids were received and opened January 5th at 2PM. This allowed the Sheriff to review the bids and make sure that those bids met the spec requirements. Mangold Ford was the low bid at \$170,490.00. Delivery of these vehicles is to be late summer. It was asked if the price would still be honored if the late summer date was pushed out. We have 120 days delivery date written into the bids specs, but there is an exclusion if they can't get parts due to COVID or the shipping delays, we don't hold them to it. EMA wants a hitch put on their vehicle, and the price of that hitch is not in the quote. Discussion on how to pay for the hitch. Motion made by Parsons to approve the Mangold bid, not to exceed \$171,490, seconded by Smith. *Motion passed.*

b. Cures Funding

The request for reimbursement has been submitted to the CURES portal. \$65,513.64 was transferred from the Health Dept. to Woodford County. Justification was sent on how we could use the money. Once it is received, the money will go into the general fund. This money is will be used for payroll for corrections due to COVID.

c. IDOC Support Funding

Due to COVID, the Illinois Department of Corrections is not taking inmates that were sentenced to IDOC. These inmates have been staying in the county jails. Several of the Sheriff's departments got together and were going to sue the IDOC to get the inmates

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moved out as it was causing over population and costing a lot of money to house them. The state has 25 million dollars of Federal funds to help offset the cost to the county jails. They have offered \$35 dollars a day per inmate for inmates that are setting in the county jails, but were sentenced to IDOC. We asked to get Federal rates (\$66 a day), but were only offered the \$35. 74 Illinois counties have entered into this agreement with the state. It was felt that taking \$35, even though that is not enough, was better than to not receive anything. We have submitted all the required paperwork to the state. The time frame covered was from March 20, 2020 through August 21, 2021. We have had 3894 days of inmates, at \$35 a day, we should be receiving a check for \$136,290 from the state. It was asked what happens when the 25 million is expended, but not all counties have been paid and IDOC did not have an answer. Break even for housing inmates depends on if medical is paid or not. Breakeven is roughly \$50-55 a day. The Federal formula says it is \$66 a day. IDOC is not paying medical, so the cost is higher.

d. Safety Act. Mental Health Evaluation

The new regulations require that all sworn officers have to undergo a mental health evaluation annually. This mental health evaluation is a public safety oriented, trauma, PTSD based evaluation. This is a specialized evaluation, and is much more than our employee assistant plan offers. Any new recruit, has to have a mental health evaluation when offered the job, when they come out of the academy, and then also their annual evaluation. Sheriff Smith is talking to two different groups who do this kind of evaluation and meet the Illinois requirement. The Sheriff will do so many a month as these evaluations are 90 minutes in length. The cost of this will be between \$12,000 and \$14,000 a year. This is to start this year and it has not been budgeted for. They want to defund the police, and yet they keep coming up with requirements that cost extra. We don't have an option as this a mandatory. If an evaluation shows that a person is not fit for duty, then they can be pulled from duty, causing an additional expense and burden on the department. The Treasurer will create a new line item for this expense. We will draw the line item over and fix it at the end of the year.

e. ARES funding for Harmony Tower Site.

The amateur hand radio group has the opportunity to receive a grant. With that grant they want to replace the old generator and a few other items at the Harmony Tower. This is a good thing for the county.

f. Body Camera project and Data storage.

The Sheriff is moving forward with the body camera project. Getting it all set up has been through grant money from Motorola. There will be a yearly cost of \$20,000 that will be added to the budget for storage of the recordings.

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g. EMA
Nothing to report on EMA

9. Animal Control

a. Approval and action of changes to the Animal Control Ordinance

Mr. Abney presented the committee with a call log generated through dispatch. There were 32 calls in the month of December that came through dispatch, and 8 additional calls that came directly to animal control. 60 dogs have been picked up, he has seized 16, currently has no dogs (they have either been euthanized or adopted out), and between 17 and 20 cases have been sent to the State's Attorney for prosecution. Mr. Abney gave the committee a current citation, which are not being used at the direction of Assistant State's Attorney Gibson. These citations need to be changed in order for animal control to issue them. It was asked where the citations were printed and the Sheriff felt that they were left over from when the Sheriff's Dept. did animal control and would have come from PF Pettybone. Time frame for paying citation is set by statute. Mr. Abney feels that the fines charged for offenses are too low. The amounts are set in our ordinance, and are not dictated by statute. The committee needs to look at the ordinance and determine the amount that would be appropriate for offenses. This past month, 66 offenses have incurred from running at large, unvaccinated, to not having the dog registered. Mr. Abney has submitted his report to the State's Attorney but has not had any feedback. Mr. Abney keeps a file on each animal and would like to know what is happening with the cases. This would be especially helpful when he is getting multiple calls for the same animal. Mr. Abney also received a call from Mr. Gibson asking him to contact Eryn Pearson for help rounding up 30 some cats. Mr. Abney reached out to Erin, but she never called him back. He would like clarification on how to handle cats. Last month ASA Gibson stated that the statute does not compel us to take on cats. Until we get some clarification from the State's Attorney's Office, we cannot move forward. It was stated that Mr. Abney was hired to do dogs. If we mandate that he also does cats, then the contract will need to be reevaluated and modified – more money, facility, extra personnel, etc.

Several years ago the County chose not to register cats We chose not to amend our ordinance to include cats. The only time our animal control should get involved with cats is for a hoarding case or a bite case.

The ordinance specifically states impounding of dogs only. While the statute includes all animals, where do you stop? Do we pick up squirrels, moles, etc.? If we take on cats we immediately need to reevaluate the contract.

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Mr. Burditt has done some research and Peoria and Tazewell both have shelters. Tazewell is self-funded, with no revenue from the county. They have a facility with 8 or 9 employees. Mr. Abney is on board with whatever the committee decides. He has a special use permit going before ZBA in January for his facility. We need to figure out to collect and report data so we have it to back up our decision on how to move forward.

Section 8 of the animal control ordinance specifically spells out that a citation can be written. Mr. Gibson wants to revise it. It is felt that Mr. Abney should be able to write citations for minor infractions. The conflict with our ordinance and the statute is that the statute states that a sworn officer must write the citation if it goes through the Circuit Clerk's office. However, we have addressed that in that the citations that Mr. Abney would write will be going through the Treasurer's office and not the Circuit Clerk's office. People will have 30 days to pay. If not paid in that 30 days, then the ticket will be given to the State's Attorney's office for them to handle.

10. Health Department

As of today there have been 8393 total positive cases, 7269 have recovered, 994 home isolations, 12 hospitalizations, and 114 deceased. December 2021 is the highest case total for a month since the beginning of the pandemic with a total of 1201 positive COVID cases. There are already 650 total cases for the month of January. The biggest age groups that are affect in the last 30 days are 20-29 year olds with about 15% of total cases, 10-20 years old with about 15% of total cases, 30-39 year olds with about 15 % of total cases, and 40-49 year olds with about 14% of total cases. The zip code 61548 (Metamora/GTH) accounts for 40% of cases in last 30 days. The most cases that populated in 1 day is on January 7, 2022 at 148 cases. 52.4% of Woodford County is vaccinated. Hospitalization have gone up creating a delay in treatment of any kind. The CDC has shortened the isolation period to 5 days, then 5 days wearing a mask. However, any individual that does test positive for COVID, there is a 20-30% chance they are still contagious at the end of 5 days. The antigen test does not pick up the omicron strain in the early stages. The committee asked Hillary to have a hand out to give to the board with these numbers. As of January 13th traditional services are on hold with the Health Dept. If you need to reach the Health Dept. you need to call (312) 777-1999 which is the IDPS State contact tracing line.

11. New Business

12. Unfinished Business

13. Other

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14. Executive Session – Roll Call Vote


15. Any action coming out of Executive Session

16. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Submitted by: Deb Breyman



Ansel Burditt, Chairman
Public Safety Committee