

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
MINUTES
4:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Logan at 4:31 PM.

2. Roll Call

Barry Logan (ch), Blake Parsons, Albert Durst, Justin Faulk all present. Donald Tolan is excused.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of August 9, 2021 minutes

Motion to approve August 9, 2021 minutes made by Parsons, seconded by Durst. *Motion passed.*

b. Release or keep confidential the August 9, 2021 Executive Session Minutes

Motion to approve and release the executive session minutes from August 9, 2021 made by Parsons, seconded by Durst. *Motion passed.*

4. Public Input

There was no public input.

5. Approval of Claims

Motion to approve September claims made by Parsons, seconded by Faulk. It was asked what a walking pod pro-care track for EMA was. The tracking devices cannot get wet. This is a capsule that goes around the device keeping it from getting damaged. It was also asked about the excessive Heart technology bills for this month. A lot of the invoices were for updates for the warranty on the server, phone contract, support for the Mitel software, etc. These are annual charges and they just happen to fall within the same month. The finance charge on an EMA account has been removed. *Motion passed.*

6. Coroner

7. Sheriff

8. Animal Control

a. Discussion on framework of Animal Control

The animal control administrator, Heather Leman, has sent in her resignation effective November 30th. We have published an ad in the Woodford County Journal for a new independent contractor and have also sent the ad to all the vet clinics and kennels within the County. We have two options – 1) hire an independent contractor, and 2) hire an in-house person to do animal control. Animal control seem to be at a peak right now and the committee and its members have been contacted about expanding our animal control. Mr. Logan has contacted the Department of Agriculture about giving us some assistance with animals that are being hoarded. We have taken on a problem that doesn't seem to be ours. We are holding animals for extend periods of time when we do not want to be in the situation where we are operating a kennel or selling dogs. A committee member received a

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phone call from a citizen who leaves their garage door open and allows stray cats to come into the garage and get food. One cat who came into the garage was sickly looking and ended up dying in the garage. This citizen wanted the county to test the animal for diseases. The county cannot be responsible for stray animals that a citizen wishes to feed and allows to breed. They are enabling the problem. This situation was compared to feeding squirrels in your yard. People do not expect the county to take medical measures for the squirrel should it die in their yard. Feeding of stray cats is the same. It was asked what we do if we don't get any viable responses to the ad. We can hire an in-house person and possibly hire out the housing of animals. Discussion on how it was handled in the past when animal control was in-house. Dr. Steffen housed our animals for us. It may be possible to have a small area where we house animals. Discussion on how to pay – salary, pay by call out, etc. It was felt that salary would be the best. There has been some talk with the Sheriff regarding having a deputy do animal control part-time. We currently do not have a head count of how many dogs Ms. Leman currently is holding for the county. Discussion on what the county's liability will be with the regard to the animals Ms. Leman is holding at the end of her contract. We hope at that time the liability and number of dogs will be low.

The Sheriff has been getting a lot of dog bite calls. We currently have no way to handle them. Ms. Leman stated in her resignation that she will no longer handle bite calls because she has not been properly trained for that situation. If an animal has current vaccination records, and bites someone, it is the owner's responsibility to quarantine the animal. In one instance the dog was vicious, and the owner did not want the dog. Ms. Leman took possession of that animal.

If no response is received from the ad within in the next few weeks, then the committee will need to consider what options we have.

9. Health Department

The county is 47% vaccinated. There have been 167 cases reported since the first of September. The total for the county to date is 5,528 reported positive cases, 5,323 have recovered, 95 are in home quarantine, 5 are hospitalized, and there have been 105 deaths. They are going to hire with-in for an epidemiologist. This will be part-time and they will continue with their other duties part-time. They currently have 2 full time nurses and will be hiring a PRN nurse and will be presenting those numbers to the finance tomorrow for a budget adjustment. It was asked if the 47% vaccinated is fully vaccinated, or has at least one shot. That number represented fully vaccinated people. There are two types of boosters – one for people that are immune compromised and the other for the general public. At this time, only Pfizer has a booster, and it is recommended to be given 8 months after the second dose. There is a possibility that Moderna may also come out with a booster. It was asked about the charges for Shingrix. It is \$150 a shot and the Health Department does charge for the shot.

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10. New Business

- a. Discussion and Action on carpeting and painting 1833 S. Main Street – early voting center

The County Clerk would like to get 1833 ready to be able to house the early voting. Early voting would take place at 1833 and not in the Courthouse. The numbers given to the committee are just estimates. The same flooring would be used as what is throughout the Courthouse and Boardroom. The estimated cost would be \$19,928.04. It is possible that the Covid ARPA funds may be able to be used. The Sheriff is to put \$20,000 into their budget to cover these cost for next year.

11. Unfinished Business

12. Other

13. Executive Session – Roll Call Vote

- a. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) – Purchase or Lease of Real Property

Motion to go into executive session made by Parsons, seconded by Durst. Roll call vote – Logan-yes; Parsons-yes; Durst-yes; Faulk-yes. *Motion passed.*

14. Any action coming out of Executive Session

- a. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) – Purchase or Lease of Real Property

Motion to come out of executive session made by Durst, seconded by Parsons. *Motion passed.*


There was no action to be taken.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Parsons, seconded by Durst. *Motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Submitted by: Deb Breyman



Barry Logan, Chairman
Public Safety Committee