

Manitowoc County Public Safety Committee
Manitowoc County Communications and Technology Building

February 9, 2022 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: Present: Chairperson Dave Nickels, Supervisor James Falkowski, and Supervisor Nick Muench. Excused: Supervisor Rick Henrickson and Supervisor Charles Hagen.

Others in attendance: Patricia Koppa, Sheriff Dan Hartwig

Chairperson Dave Nickels called meeting to order at 05:00 p.m. Roll call circulated.

Minutes: Chairperson Dave Nickels if there were any corrections to the minutes of the January 12, 2022 committee meeting, and none being offered, asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Supervisor Nick Muench, seconded by Supervisor James Falkowski and unanimously approved.

There was no one wishing to speak for public comment.

Chair Nickels turned meeting over to Sheriff Dan Hartwig who provided an extensive report regarding his office including the jail operations.

The 2021 budget, which exceeded \$12 million was over 0.75 %. A significant factor was higher than budgeted amounts for health insurance, general insurance and extraditions. There were also a variety of contract mandated benefits payouts.

There were 3 new positions approved in the 2022 budget. These are being gradually on boarded, particularly the new detective as that could create a shortage in the patrol numbers and there already is a shortage in officers. The new support position is filled and has already proved helpful.

The office will be able to use ARPA funds for a number of projects including RZero UVC cleaners for the facility to reduce airborne containments and illnesses, RFID System for the Jail, TruNarc drug testing machines, Electronic door access for the sheriff's office, RMS access for patrol cars, and new radio equipment.

Two lieutenants have been promoted from within the ranks. The deputies who were on military deployment have returned as has the deputy previously on medical leave. There will be two or three retirements over the summer.

Jail continues to be short staffed. There are regular departures and it has not been possible to hire the needed people. Concerns that the current pay structure is having an impact. Sheriff discussed that Manitowoc County jailers are the lowest paid in northeast Wisconsin. It was pointed out that corrections starting pay in 2010 was \$20.28 per hour and in 2022 it is now \$20.40. In the past 6 years, the Sheriff's Office has had 30 people leave the jail with only 10 retirements. The Sheriff anticipates up to an additional 7 leaving this year. Individuals are applying and then do not even come in for interviews and several are not passing background investigations. The written test has been removed from the hiring process and interviews are conducted soon after an application is submitted. Has begun proactively gathering information from other agencies to offer suggestions regarding how to proceed. Discussed alternative of having to reduce staff and moving inmates out of county. The situation has not reached this point, but wanted to give warning to allow time for solutions to be found and attempted.

Recently began a drone program. High interest in obtaining the required training. Must test successfully to move to next level and begin using the equipment. Anticipate search and rescue service. Expect this to benefit other departments and agencies and will build relationships.

Several law enforcement events have made the news and are keeping the officers busy including deaths, shootings, and sex crimes against children. Drugs continue to be the nexus to many other crimes. The new detective will be important in these situations.

New partnership formed with ADRC and the jail kitchen to prepare the meals for Meals on Wheels.

Several miscellaneous projects – scanners donated from Point Beach, improvements to phone/internet services for inmates/ completion of the new visitation area.

Funding for the K-9 Service is being funded through a new charitable organization Paws4laws, which in turn is being managed through Lakeshore Community Foundations. This became necessary after depletion of a significant donation originally received in the 1980s.

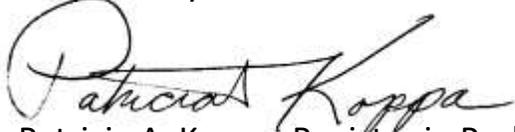
Fuel increase are going to impact this year's budget.

Final item is the Resolution Accepting Donation from the Badger State Sheriff's Association. Motion by Supervisor Falkowski to approve and pass to the Board. Second by Supervisor Muench. Unanimously approved.

Meeting Announcements: In light of the April election and change of committee members, there should be a meeting in March. Plan on March 9 @ 5 pm., same location. Asked Ms. Koppa to arrange the room and let department directors know to bring any items needing attention before March.

Adjournment: Supervisor Hagen moved to adjourn, Supervisor Muench seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 05:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Koppa". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Patricia A. Koppa, Register in Probate

For Supervisor Nicholas Muench, Committee Secretary