

Manitowoc County Public Safety Committee
Manitowoc County Communications and Technology Building

July 13, 2022 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: Present: Chairperson James Falkowski, Supervisor Mark Linsmeier, Supervisor Nick Muench, Supervisor Leo Naidl, and Supervisor Norb Vogt.

Others in attendance: Patricia Koppa, Sheriff Dan Hartwig, Judge Mark Rohrer, Judge Jerilyn Dietz and Judge Robert Dewane

Chair James Falkowski called meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call circulated.

Minutes of prior meeting: Chair Falkowski asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the prior meeting on June 8, 2022. None were offered. Chair asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Supervisor Norb Vogt, seconded by Supervisor Mark Linsmeier and unanimously approved.

There was no one wishing to speak for public comment which was closed at 5:02.

Chair Falkowski Introduced the Manitowoc County Circuit Court Judges to the Committee and had the Committee members introduce themselves. Asked judges for a bit of background and then to speak on anything pertinent. Judge Dietz indicated the suggested list of topics was appropriate and had been divided up between the judges for discussion.

The new Circuit Court Br. 4 is on schedule. Judge Dewane reviewed the County Board's involvement in the early process and thanked the committee. Explained the cooperation and support of County Executive Ziegelbauer once there was common ground for a location. Construction involves a chain of office remodels and moves which are underway. Probate will move to basement location of the former law library. Child support will move up to the suite currently occupied by Probate as well as the Treasurer's former vault area which has been vacant. The entire south end of the basement will then become space dedicated to the new courtroom and related offices, including Judge's chambers, judicial assistance space, court reporter office and a new bailiff office. The County Executive will have space on third floor.

All of this results a great deal of time and preparation for the moves. More is being done to scan documents and reduce the physical space needed for all offices moving. While this is labor intensive, the result will be worth it and has been supported by the County Executive and other County Board committees. There has been full cooperation from all departments. The architect has done wonders and it is believed the final results will be a courtroom Manitowoc County residents can be proud of for decades to come. Going forward there will be increased staff needs in the Clerk of Courts' office as well as for the Sheriff's office. There will be new public

safety concerns with increased activity in the basement level. All involved are planning for what can be foreseen in efforts to make things as smooth as possible. The new court will begin August 2023.

Judge Dietz addresses security. There is a fabulous surveillance system in place but we continue to operate with two bailiffs for courtrooms and court related offices throughout all floors of the building. If monitoring the cameras, a bailiff is not present in a courtroom. A balance has been achieved but it is precarious. Additional staff, as Sheriff Hartwig is requesting, will make a significant difference. Security is both to deter bad acts as well as respond to any that take place.

Videoconference use for court proceedings had greatly improved security by simply reducing the number of times a defendant or other potentially hostile litigants are in the courtroom. There have been additional benefits such as increasing the pool of lawyers available to take cases.

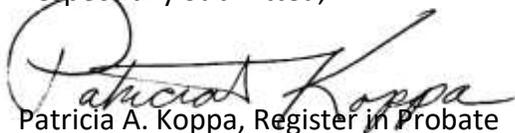
Drug Court began with great County Board support upon request of Judge Rohrer. Judge Dewane has taken over primary duty. This treatment court is intense and functions very differently than criminal court. There have been successes; a light of hope in what are desperate situations. An additional treatment court of some type is simply not possible until after the fourth judge is ready to take part. Additionally local resources are in short supply and we should not get ahead of the available support system or greater harm could result.

The judges' comments were followed by discussion and questions from the committee members. Each thanked the judges for taking the time to come to the meeting and expressed appreciation for the difficult work each does.

Meeting Announcements: Chair Falkowski announced the next meeting for August 10, 2022. District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre is scheduled to report.

Adjournment: Supervisor Muench moved to adjourn, Supervisor Naidl seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia A. Koppa, Register in Probate

For Supervisor Norb Vogt, Committee Secretary