

Manitowoc County Public Safety Committee
Manitowoc County Communications and Technology Building

September 14, 2022 5:00 p.m.

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

Others in attendance: Patricia Koppa, Curt Green.

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 August 10, 2022. None were offered. Chair asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Supervisor Mark Linsmeier, seconded by Supervisor Norb Vogt and unanimously approved.

Chair Falkowski noted that the Sheriff's monthly report as well as the monthly financials plus summary had been shared. No questions on reports and no other communications were received.

Called for public comment three times, no one asked to speak. Closed public comment at 5:01.

Department Report: Coroner Curt Green. Mr. Green began with a detailed description of the coroner's position and explained some of the different ways Wisconsin counties handle the position. Some forego the elected position, instead having medical examiners with medical credentials or lay medical examiners who may not have such credentials. Mr. Green went on to explain his staff and their credential. Manitowoc County averages approximately 800 deaths annually. Of those, the coroner signs the death certificates for approximate 40% or 320 each year. He went on to explain the circumstance that require the coroner's involvement and other services provided by the office. Those include certification prior to cremation, investigation of "found bones", disinterments and tissue donations.

Coroner Green then reviewed the 2021 death statistics with the committee. It was noted that the cause of death statistics did not follow the statewide trends. This was good news however as the incidence of suicide was lower than it was in the years prior to the pandemic. However, the number of drug deaths remains very high. These are expensive investigations and become even more so if the substance ingested is unusual. This has been the case in several recent deaths. Another factor leading to higher expense can be cold cases. The coroner's office works with law enforcement to resolve cases of missing persons and some incidents of "body-less" homicides.

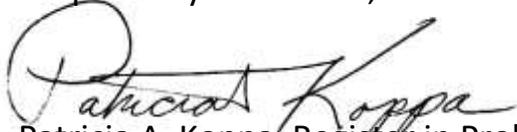
All in all the work of the office benefits the community but has become costly due to the nature of tests and autopsies and the limited availability of qualified individuals to do this work. These costs exceed the amounts budgeted again this year as was the case in 2021. There is also a error in the payroll tax calculations provided which results in a significant shortage on that line item. The Coroner responded to supervisors' questions.

Committee thanked Mr. Green and suggested he provide quarterly statistics to the committee so they could be aware of any needs as they arise.

Meeting Announcements: Chair Falkowski announced the next meeting for October 12, 2022. Clerk of Court Lynn Zigmunt and Travis Waack, Emergency Management Director will both be reporting to the committee.

Adjournment: Supervisor Vogt moved to adjourn, Supervisor Muench seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia A. Koppa, Register in Probate
For Supervisor Norb Vogt, Committee Secretary