

**Manitowoc County Public Safety Committee
Manitowoc County Communications and Technology Building**

October 12, 2022 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: Present: Chairperson James Falkowski, Supervisor Nick Muench, Supervisor Leo Naidl, Supervisor Norb Vogt, Supervisor Mark Linsmeier and County Board Chair Tyler Martell.

Others in attendance: Patricia Koppa, Lt. of Detectives Jason Jost, Travis Waack.

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 September 14, 2022. None were offered. Chair asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Supervisor Norb Vogt, seconded by Supervisor Nick Muench 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 5:02.

Resolution: Resolution Accepting Donation from Georgianna Kohlbeck. Lt. Jason Jost reported on behalf of Sheriff Dan Hartwig provided some background regarding the donation. The donation was in appreciation for assistance from the Sheriff office and will be used to provide training and equipment to enhance the investigation unit when working on cyber-crime and other related scams. Responding to supervisor questions, also discussed some related pending cases and efforts to create greater awareness of the scams currently in circulation. Supervisors extended appreciation for all of the efforts. Supervisor Mark Linsmeier moved to approve the resolution accepting the donation and send on to the County Board. Second made by Supervisor Muench. Unanimously approved.

Department Reports:

Clerk of Court Lynn Zigmunt was scheduled to report, but needed to be rescheduled for another date.

Director of Emergency Services Travis Waack reported for his department. Noted the recent announcement of his departure. Subject to County Board approval, County Executive Ziegelbauer has appointed Kayla Beckerdite to fill the position. That vote will take place on October 31.

Starting with Jt. Dispatch, there continues to be difficulty retaining staff. Currently 3 or 4 openings and two additional persons in training. Those in training do not yet fill a dispatch spot.

There is currently disparity between wages in Manitowoc County and surrounding counties for these positions. Low starting wages may be a factor in recruitment. It is very hard to find the right people to fill the positions. These are incredibly stressful jobs. Trainers have been training continuously for well over a year. They too are burnt out. Supervisors discussed what they understand about the wage system, difficulty in making changes, lack of the same flexibility and quick response found in private business. Due to participation in coverage by the supervisors, have been able to staff shifts. But there is a real risk going forward. Further discussion about options to make the position more attractive and the root causes for dissatisfaction. Much cannot be changed. It is a 24/7/365 operation with serious life and death decisions and high levels of stress.

Good news: Dr. Schroeder is the doctor working with dispatch to certify the procedures provided by dispatcher. He is also one of the deputy coroners.

As for Emergency Management, the new mobile command center vehicle has been delayed but is expected late December/early January. Anticipate storing in the City shop near Fire Station 4. Additionally, there will always be a county employee involved when the unit is in operation. The upgrades to Rm. 111/112 are still scheduled, but have been delayed. It was necessary to cancel the proposed generator for the Expo center due to cost increases. It is something that may be considered again in the future if circumstances present themselves.

The August 2022 exercise having additional departments participate in emergency planning was educational for all and successful. Looking forward there will be preparedness exercises in 2023 related to nuclear emergencies including a hostile takeover of a plant.

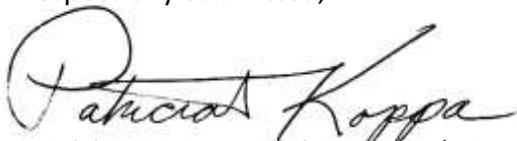
Committee thanked Mr. Waack for his service and improvements to the department.

Chair Falkowski encouraged the supervisors to contact Ms. Zigmunt if they had any questions as she was always open to discussing the court system.

Meeting Announcements: Chair Falkowski announced the next meeting for November 9, 2022. Register in Probate/Circuit Court Commissioner Pat Koppa and Sheriff Dan Hartwig will report. Also asked Ms. Koppa to discuss her duties beyond the probate office and to provide information regarding the bail process.

Adjournment: Supervisor Vogt moved to adjourn, Supervisor Muench seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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