

Manitowoc County Public Safety Committee
Manitowoc County Communications and Technology Building

February 8, 2023 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: Present: Chairperson James Falkowski, Supervisor Leo Naidl, and Supervisor Norb Vogt along with County Board Chair Tyler Martell.

Excused: Supervisor Nick Muench and Supervisor Mark Linsmeier

Others in attendance: Patricia Koppa, Supervisor Paul Hacker, Lieutenant Dave Remiker, Emergency Management Director Kayla Beckerdite and Betsy Olson.

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 December 14, 2022. None were offered. Chair asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Supervisor Norb Vogt, seconded by Supervisor Leo Naidl and unanimously approved.

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

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

Chair Falkowski presented a Resolution Alerting the Public of the Dangers of Fentanyl. He was prompted to learn more following the recent death of a drug court graduate from a Fentanyl overdose. Talking with involved individuals including the Sheriff, the Coroner and Director of the Health Department, he was struck by the prevalence and danger of the drug. This prompted further research and a desire to be sure citizens and others were aware.

Supervisor Falkowski noted that he has heard Lieutenant Remiker on the radio shows discussing the concerns. Chair Falkowski noted that there must be repeated emphasis. More discussion followed including participation by County Board Chair Martell. The Resolution, if passed, should be sent to the other counties as well as to legislative officials and others at the State level. Discussed possible issue of a Proclamation.

Supervisor Naidl moved to amend the resolution to add that it be sent to other counties.

Supervisor Vogt seconded the motion to amend. Motion passed. Chair will have the Resolution revised for consideration at the next meeting.

Department Reports:

Lieutenant Dave Remiker was asked to report and add any commentary regarding the resolution. He thanked the committee for trying to raise awareness. Gave some background regarding the Drug Task Force and his time with the unit. Drugs are an ever changing and constant threat. This Fentanyl epidemic is extremely dangerous. The extensive addiction levels have a history in pain clinics prescribing massive quantities of drugs and individuals needing an alternative. The Task Force is focusing on mid to upper level distribution networks and has an excellent relationship with federal and state agencies. Successfully halted some trafficking in the area coming from Milwaukee and Chicago. Lieutenant Remiker noted that we cannot arrest our way out of this. We have to continue providing treatment and supporting recovery. The community is key.

Chair Falkowski asked about dangers to the officers in this situation. Lieutenant Remiker noted that equipment has been obtained with grant funds to help protect officers in multiple ways. Also discussed the mixing of Fentanyl into other substances. Officers have found test strips among the property of users. Many addicts only sell in order to support their habits and are stuck in the addiction cycle.

Committee thanked Lieutenant Remiker and moved to a report from Kayla Beckerdite. Director Beckerdite began by introducing her recently hired deputy, Betsy Olson. 2023 will be a busy year with multiple drills regarding the nuclear plant. The operational center technology updates have been completed. Explained how the update allows display of information from multiple sources. The new Mobile Command Unit should arrive in March and training will begin immediately. Bill Manis will assist in this process. Anticipate Committee will be able to inspect the vehicle in September.

Discussed Joint Dispatch staffing. Have been very short staffed for a period and will remain light for a few more months. Both Ms. Beckerdite and Ms. Olson assist in dispatch as well as the supervisors.

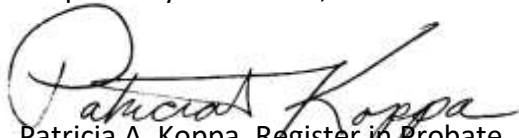
Chair Falkowski asked for a motion to recess to tour the Joint Dispatch Center. Supervisor Naidl so moved and Supervisor Vogt seconded. Meeting was recessed at 5:53.

Tour was informative and included demonstration of the 911 text messaging capabilities.

Returned to session at 6:49. There were no questions. Noted that the next meeting would be March 8 with a visit with the Coroner to the morgue.

Supervisor Naidl moved to adjourn; Supervisor Vogt seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia A. Koppa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "K".

Patricia A. Koppa, Register in Probate

For Supervisor Norb Vogt, Committee Secretary