

Manitowoc County Public Safety Committee
Manitowoc County Communications and Technology Building

March 8, 2023 5:00 p.m.

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

Excused: Supervisor Mark Linsmeier

Others in attendance: Patricia Koppa, Coroner Curt Green, Chief Deputy Brian Nack and Lieutenant Dave Remiker.

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 February 8, 2023. 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. This month there was also the Sheriff's Annual Report. 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 Resolution Accepting 2023 COPS Anti-heroin Grant and COPS Anti-methamphetamine Grant. All had reviewed and no discussion. Motion made by Supervisor Nick Muench, seconded by Supervisor Vogt and all approved. Chair thanked Chief Deputy Brian Nack for attending in the event there had been any questions.

Next the Chair brought forth the Resolution Alerting the Public of the Dangers of Fentanyl. The changes discussed in February have been made. Supervisor Vogt moved to approve the resolution. Supervisor Naidl seconded the motion. Upon vote, motion passed.

Department Reports:

Curt Green reported regarding the Coroner's office. Began with summary of death investigations when the office is involved. Noted that the depth required is reflected in the budget, where even after corrections of an error from 2022, there is a \$17,000 overage. That figure is directly tied to the complicated testing needed to identify the cause of death in some cases. It is not always evident what drug causes an overdose and special testing is required. Currently at least eight (8) different synthetic drugs are in the community and these are not part of the standard testing regimen. There are multiple instances of mixed drug toxicity.

The Coroner reviewed the history of opioid addiction in Manitowoc County and its tie to the prior pain clinics. The prosecution of those involved, while not resulting in convictions, did close the clinics. But many were already addicted and this is still seen among those using today as seen in the deaths directly and indirectly related to drug use. One of the difficulties is the delay between a death and a final result from the testing. But by working closely with the Drug Task force, there can be prosecutions in some cases.

Committee then generally discussed the equipment used in autopsies and how the new full body CT Scans will have an impact long term. Currently only limited availability as there isn't one closer than Milwaukee.

Chair Falkowski asked for a motion to recess to tour the morgue. Supervisor Muench so moved and Supervisor Vogt seconded. Meeting was recessed at 5:30.

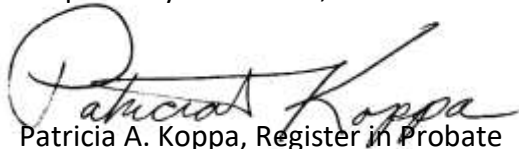
Tour was informative. All thanked the coroner for the opportunity.

Returned to session at 6:20. Discussed some of the possibilities for future cooperation with other counties. Noted that when hiring a new deputy, they must go on a ride along before being hired. Most cases are straight forward, but there is much to understand regarding how to treat the scene and interact with the family of the deceased. Coroner also noted that this term (which is 4 years and has just begun) will be his last. There will be decisions to make as to continuing with a Coroner or moving on to having a Medical Examiner and what that entails. Chair again thanked Mr. Green for his time.

Next meeting will be April 12 and will have District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre show her office to the Committee.

Supervisor Naidl moved to adjourn; Supervisor Vogt seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:31 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, looped initial "P".

Patricia A. Koppa, Register in Probate

For Supervisor Norb Vogt, Committee Secretary