

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 11, 2011

Sheriff's Office Training Room

**Call Meeting To Order:** Chair Werner called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Members Present:** Werner, Lewis, Lemke, Parent, Hansen

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Sheriff Bruce Daniels; Karyn Eckert of the Star News; and Betty Danen. Chief Deputy Larry Woebeking and Marie Koerner joined the meeting at approximately 9:25 a.m.

**Approve Minutes of the October 14, 2011 meeting:** Parent made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Hansen made a motion to accept the agenda of eleven items; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be at the discretion of the sheriff.

**Citizen Input:** None

**Ambulance Business:** None

**Medical Examiner:** Werner mentioned that he had spoken with Medical Examiner Perrin and requested that Perrin provide periodic reports to the committee detailing the work he has done as medical examiner. Perrin will be providing those in the near future.

**Law Enforcement Business: A) Discuss/Act on Agreement with Taylor County Humane Society -** There was no one at the meeting representing the Humane Society. Lewis said that the agreement was what the county and the Humane Society had previously agreed upon. Werner agreed.

Lewis made a motion to approve the Agreement with the Taylor County Humane Society; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**B) Discuss/Act on Bids for Squad Car Replacement –** Daniels informed the committee that he had budgeted for replacement of four squads but he is only asking that three be replaced at this time, due to high mileage.

Parent asked if the cars would be leased; Daniels said yes.

Parent made a motion to approve the requisition of three new squad cars; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Lewis requested that the Sheriff's Report and the Invoices be completed prior to the interviews.

**Sheriff's Report:** The sheriff has spoken with Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Jeff Ludwig, who has approved proceeding with the new tower outside of the jail entrance. The installation will begin soon.

Daniels informed the committee that the Gilman water tower will be dismantled by the end of November so we must have our transmitters installed elsewhere prior to that time. He is hoping they can be installed on the Bellinger tower now so as to avoid the cost of moving them twice.

Daniels mentioned that there was a lot of equipment on the NTC tower that is no longer being used. He said the weight load has been reached and it cannot support more equipment. Lemke asked who owned the equipment as it could have a scrap value for copper and other metals. Daniels said that the Sheriff's Office does. Werner questioned whether the cost of removing the equipment from the tower would be less than what we would receive for the metals. Lemke thought the removal cost would be less.

The software demonstrations are done but no decision has been made on which one to purchase. Daniels is still discussing price with the companies.

Parent asked the sheriff if he has contacted Price County recently about boarding inmates in our jail as he heard that Price County has inmates sleeping on the floor. The sheriff replied that he has not.

Daniels informed the committee that he is going to ask the men they are interviewing for the deputy sheriff position today if they would also be interested in a part time job as he is thinking about possibly hiring a part time person to cut down on the overtime that is accruing. He is still exploring this possibility.

**Review and Approve Invoices:** After review, Parent made a motion to approve the invoices from October, 2011; Lewis seconded the Motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Closed Session -** Motion by Lewis and second by Lemke at 9:27 a.m. to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) for approximately 1.75 hours for the purpose of conducting oral interviews of applicants for the deputy sheriff position. All ayes; motion carried.

Motion by Parent at 10:55 a.m. to return to open session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.83 to take any necessary action on issues discussed in closed session; Hansen seconded. Roll call vote taken: Parent, aye; Hansen, aye; Lewis, aye; Lemke, aye; Werner, aye.

Motion made by Lewis to certify the list of applicants; seconded by Parent. All ayes; motion carried.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Lemke made a motion to adjourn; Lewis seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Danen

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

October 14, 2011

Sheriff's Office Training Room

**Call Meeting To Order:** Chair Werner called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Members Present:** Werner, Lewis, Lemke, Parent, Hansen

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Sheriff Bruce Daniels; Karyn Eckert of the Star News; Medical Examiner Scott Perrin; and Betty Danen.

**Approve Minutes of the September 2, 2011 meeting:** Parent made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Hansen made a motion to accept the agenda of eleven items; Lewis seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be Friday, November 11, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

**Citizen Input:** None

**Ambulance Business:** None

**Medical Examiner: A) Discuss/Act on Resolution Appointing Medical Examiner for Taylor County** – Lemke asked why the committee does not receive a monthly or quarterly report from the medical examiner so they know what he is doing. Lewis said that this committee is supposed to be supervising the medical examiner yet the committee doesn't see any reports. The sheriff said that we could put this on the next month's agenda.

At this point, Perrin arrived at the meeting. He explained the functions of the medical examiner and updated the committee on the work that he has done. Perrin has four deputy medical examiners – Chris Nelson, Caroline Neumueller, Karen Chaplinski, and Charlie Miller – that he oversees. Perrin does file monthly reports; however, as no one has asked him for them in recent years, he has not provided them to the committee. He will do so in the future.

Lewis made a motion to approve the Resolution Appointing Medical Examiner for Taylor County; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Perrin left the meeting.

**Law Enforcement Business: A) Discuss/Act on Filling Vacant Jailer/Dispatcher Position** – The jail has two new vacancies. The sheriff reminded the committee that when the last full time position vacancy was not filled he had informed the committee that the jail staff could not be reduced any lower. These two positions must be filled.

Lewis made a motion to fill the two jailer/dispatcher vacant positions; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Sheriff's Report:** Saturday, October 15, 2011 and Monday, October 17, 2011, the department will be testing applicants for the vacant deputy sheriff position. Twelve people are scheduled to take the exam. Parent asked if any of the applicants being tested were local. Daniels said there are two from Athens, two from Marshfield, and one from Medford. Werner asked what the qualifications were. Daniels said that they must have 60 college credits and must be certifiable with the State.

The cost of clean-up for the methamphetamine lab in the township of Taft was approximately \$2,500.00. The department did send an application to the EPA for reimbursement but Daniels is not expecting to be reimbursed.

Three people were arrested in the marijuana manufacturing incident earlier this week. Daniels said that our narcotics officer, Detective Aemus Balsis, has been doing an outstanding job.

The communications upgrade is moving ahead quickly. A new telephone system will be part of the update as the system we currently have is no longer supported and broken equipment cannot be replaced. A new system under consideration would be able to broadcast a warning throughout the entire courthouse if there was an emergency. Lewis questioned if the telephone system replacement would be a job for IT or maintenance. He said if maintenance is asked to install the new system, they would need to let other work slide. He thought perhaps a contractor should be hired with one maintenance person to assist them for entry into the buildings/rooms.

Daniels said that a new 140' tower will need to be built at the site of the one currently outside the door by dispatch. There was some discussion over which committee would approve this improvement as maintenance would probably assist but this committee has no authority over maintenance. It was decided to put an item on the agenda for next month regarding approval of working with the Buildings and Grounds Committee on this project.

Daniels informed the committee that some of the buildings holding the electrical components for the existing towers were in bad shape. New self-contained units will be purchased to replace them.

As for the 9-1-1 upgrade, Daniels is still waiting for estimates.

The department has viewed software demonstrations from four different vendors. No decision has been made at this time.

The VINE system, which is a victim notification system in the jail, is ready to go. VINE lets a victim know when a suspect has been released from custody or has other activity within the case.

Werner mentioned that the Gad cheese factory is now sitting empty; it has been considered as a possible site for evidence storage. Daniels said that we could take a look at it; however, he has concerns because it is located in another county. Lewis indicated that there was a building in Gilman that he thought may work but the Gilman Cheese Factory has now rented it through 2013. Daniels advised the committee he has been considering suggesting a new storage facility be constructed within the confines of the current upgrades dealing with communications.

Daniels told the committee that Emergency Management Director Craig Amundson has been doing an excellent job, even with his very large work load. Amundson is very knowledgeable regarding software. Lewis said that when he speaks with people about the job Amundson is doing, everything he hears is complimentary.

**Review and Approve Invoices:** After review, Parent made a motion to approve the invoices from September, 2011; Lewis seconded the Motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Parent made a motion to adjourn; Lewis seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Danen

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 2, 2011

Sheriff's Office Training Room

**Call Meeting To Order:** Chair Werner called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Werner, Lewis, Lemke, Parent, Hansen

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Sheriff Bruce Daniels; Karyn Eckert of the Star News; Chris Gengler of Taylor County Ambulance Stationed at Memorial Health Center; Melissa Thums, Director of Finance at Memorial Health Center; Kaaron Keene, Director of Nursing at Memorial Health Center; County Clerk Bruce Strama; Larry Brandl; Nick Synol; and Betty Danen.

**Approve Minutes of the August 12, 2011 meeting:** Hansen made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Hansen made a motion to accept the agenda of eleven items; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be at the discretion of the sheriff.

**Citizen Input:** None

**Ambulance Business: Discuss/Act on Purchase of Used Defibrillator** – The hospital has the opportunity to purchase a used, three month old Zoll defibrillator for \$13,250.00. The cost new is \$20,700.00. There would be a six month warranty and a one year maintenance agreement.

Lewis asked where the money would come from. Brandl explained that the county would purchase the defibrillator up front and then the money would come back to the county through depreciation.

Bruce Strama asked if it would have any effect on the budget; Brandl said no.

Keene said that the defibrillator would be depreciated over seven to ten years so the actual yearly cost would be quite low.

Parent said if the defibrillator saved one life it would be worth the cost. He then made a motion to approve the purchase of the used defibrillator. Lewis seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Discuss/Act on Ambulance Budget** – Melissa Thums, Director of Finance for Memorial Health Center, presented the Ambulance Budget for the calendar year of 2012.

Melissa pointed out the expected increase in revenue for service calls and mileage, which she attributed to an expected increase in 9-1-1 ambulance calls. Having IV techs on the ambulances has increased revenue more than anticipated. Melissa said that the patient must actually require the higher level of care or they cannot bill at the higher advanced level, even if an IV tech is on board.

The revenue from Medevac intercepts will be down. Our IV techs are now able to perform many of the procedures that the Medevac paramedics were performing so we are not requiring their services as often.

Parent questioned why the expense for supplies is expected to increase. Gengler indicated that the expense increase is due to medications, IV lines, and other items that the IV techs use. Thums said that they are using a higher volume of supplies with the IV techs.

Overall, the budgeted revenue will increase by \$73,527 from 2011. The expenses are anticipated to decrease by \$8,949.00.

Parent made a motion to approve the ambulance budget for 2012; Lewis seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Thums, Keene, Gengler, and Brandl left the meeting.

**Medical Examiner:** None

**Law Enforcement Business: A) Discuss/Act on Ordinance to Amend Section 54.11(3), Dog License Required, Animal Control Regulations** – Lewis told the committee that there was a change in the wording of the ordinance and also a change in the fees that will be charged to license dogs. Strama said that the increase in fees will mean a \$5,700.00 increase in revenue for the county.

Lewis made a motion to approve the ordinance and to send it on to the County Board; Hansen seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**B) Discuss/Act on Filling Vacant Deputy Sheriff Position** – Daniels informed the committee that a deputy has resigned. He said that the department cannot absorb another vacancy without filling the position.

Lewis asked how many road officers there are now; Synol said there are 9, 10 if they fill the vacancy.

Lemke made a motion to approve filling the deputy sheriff position; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Oral interviews will be set for the next LEES meeting.

Synol and Strama left the meeting.

**Sheriff's Report:** Daniels informed the committee that due to a change in the State Statutes the department can now recoup the money for OWI blood draws as restitution.

Daniels informed the committee that Judy Dehne will be coming back to work in the jail part-time. He said that \$2,900.00 was paid out in overtime last week alone. Dehne is already trained, will be at the starting rate, and will receive no benefits. The current labor agreement still needs to be followed in respect to time allocations.

The department has access to a sworn, certified officer who is available to work part-time as needed. Daniels is hoping to make use of his services to do transports or to assist other deputies as needed. He cannot be used in a squad by himself as he does not have the necessary training.

Daniels mentioned the methamphetamine lab that was discovered in the township of Taft. This information was obtained through the hard work of one of our detectives. A hazardous waste team out of Minneapolis had to be called in to clean up the site. No bill has been received yet but Daniels expects it to be around \$3,000.00.

Parent asked if the methamphetamine lab that was in the mobile home in the City of Medford has been destroyed. Daniels said he knows that it is gone but believes they were able to clean up the home and it was sold.

Daniels told the committee that Deputy Liza Barth was given the Sunshine Award, which is offered through WEAU-TV in Eau Claire. Barth received the award as a result of her work on a case with lost rafters on the Jump River.

Parent asked if Nestle has their own Hazmat team. Daniels believes that they do.

Daniels mentioned how bottles from the one bottle meth lab method have been found along highways. When people pick them up, they explode and cause burns. Lemke said that information like that should be made known to the public, especially those who help with highway clean-ups so they know not to pick up anything suspicious. Daniels said that he has brochures on the way and he will get them to Lemke when they arrive.

Werner said that at a highway meeting he attended people from DEA were there to talk about these hazardous wastes in the ditches. Highway personnel were instructed not to touch anything that is in the ditches.

**Review and Approve Invoices:** After review, Lewis made a motion to approve the invoices from July and August, 2011; Parent seconded the Motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Parent made a motion to adjourn; Lewis seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Danen

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

August 12, 2011

Third Floor Meeting Room

**Call Meeting To Order:** Chair Werner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Werner, Lewis, Lemke, Parent

**Members Absent:** Hansen

**Other Attendees:** Sheriff Bruce Daniels; Karyn Eckert of the Star News; Paula Liske of K99 radio; Jane Darnell, President, and Melinda Brahmer, Treasurer, Taylor County Humane Society; County Clerk Bruce Strama; Judy Dehne; and Betty Danen.

**Approve Minutes of the July 15, 2011 meeting:** Lewis made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Lemke made a motion to accept the agenda of eleven items; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be September 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

**Citizen Input:** None

**Ambulance Business:** None

**Medical Examiner:** None

**Law Enforcement Business: A) Discuss/Act on Commendation to Judy Dehne for Years of Service to Taylor County** – Werner presented a plaque to Dehne and wished her well in her future endeavors.

**B) Discuss/Act on Taylor County Contract with Taylor County Humane Society Related to Funding Services Related to Cats and C) Discuss/Act on Taylor County Humane Society Annual Report** – Bruce Strama questioned if the county is willing to pay for cats beyond the first seven days. Lewis said that the Finance Committee is questioning why the county is paying for the care of cats when it is not required by statute. Daniels confirmed that the county is not required to pick up stray cats, only dogs. Brahmer said that the Humane Society was asked to pick up stray cats by the county.

Strama said the cost of picking up and housing the dogs is being paid for by the dog license fees, which is not being collected for cats. Strama suggested a lower monthly payment to the Humane Society; Darnell said it was okay to discuss this.

Darnell presented the Taylor County Humane Society Annual Report. The Humane Society understands the need for county budget cuts and they expect that to carry over into their organization. They ask that the county consider monetary and non-monetary consequences when making a decision on contract modifications. They also ask that the county consider all the laws pertaining to animal welfare and their focus on human health, safety, and welfare. Basic overhead for the first half of this year exceeded the contract reimbursement. There were sufficient donations to cover the costs.

Brahmer presented the treasurer's report for January through June, 2011. Total revenue (including \$18,000 from the county) was \$37,688.63. Total expenses were \$27,586.34. A portion of the excess money goes into their building fund.

Lewis proposed raising the dog license fees from \$3.00 (spayed or neutered animal) and \$8.00 (not spayed or neutered) to \$5.00 and \$10.00 respectively. The increase would be

kept by the county as a way to cover costs. The revenue from dog licenses in 2010 was \$13,853.55. Lemke said he had a problem with raising the license fees on dogs.

Darnell said it is in the State Statutes that counties over a certain population can license cats. Otherwise, cities can do the licensing, including the City of Medford.

Werner suggested cutting the amount paid to the Humane Society for cats but cut gradually instead of all at once. Brandl said that the county can't tell the Society not to take care of cats but we don't need to pay for it. Finance is going to be looking for places to cut.

Darnell said that the county ordinance says they are to take care of stray dogs and cats. Daniels said that applies to nuisance animals only. Lewis said he would like to eliminate the wording that the county must take care of stray cats.

Strama said the current dog license fees do not cover expenses. He said 2012 is going to be a tough year and if the county can save money, it should do it. Taylor County's dog license fees are low compared to other counties in the state.

Brahmer mentioned that the county may need to find somewhere else to house cats that are under quarantine if funding is cut. Darnell said that the veterinary clinics will not take quarantines.

Parent asked how long the Humane Society keeps cats and asked if they were euthanized if they are not adopted. Darnell said that euthanizing the animals is against the Humane Society bylaws and they will not participate with the county if they are required to do so.

Werner said that the county pays for seven days of care and then the responsibility falls on the Humane Society.

Darnell mentioned that there could be a human health hazard if the number of strays is allowed to build up.

Lewis would like the wording in the county ordinance changed from "domestic animals" to "dogs."

Strama said he needs to know what is in the contract with the Humane Society so he can do the budget. Daniels said that the contract must contain language in reference to quarantines.

Strama suggested cutting funding to the Humane Society by the minimum amount that all other departments are being required to make. Lewis suggested raising the dog license fees and not making cuts. Werner suggested a 2% cut. Strama said that would be \$100.00 per month and asked Darnell if they could deal with that. Darnell said they could take a 5% cut and the county wouldn't need to raise dog license fees.

Strama said there would need to be an ordinance change to change the dog license fees. He suggested raising the dog license fees and also cutting the amount given to the Humane Society to \$2,900 per month.

Lewis made a motion to raise the dog license fees \$2.00 per dog to \$5.00 for spayed and neutered and \$10.00 for non-spayed/non-neutered and to lower the monthly payment to the Taylor County Humane Society to \$2,900.00; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Strama will work on the contract.

Darnell and Brahmer left the meeting.

**D) Discuss/Act on Updating Taylor County Ordinance Related to Truancy** – Sheriff Daniels had received a letter from the Medford School District Administrator indicating that the county and city truancy ordinances were not consistent with the school district's policy. Daniels distributed a copy of the Taylor County Code regarding truancy. Language changes suggested are to eliminate Section 1(b)(1) which states "Part or all of 5 or more days out of 10 consecutive days on which school is held during a school semester." And to change Section 1(b)(2) to read "Part or all of 5 or more days . . ." instead of 10 or more days.

Lewis made a motion to approve the ordinance changes; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**E) Discuss/Act on Sale of Department Handguns** – Daniels distributed a "Memorandum of Understanding" regarding personal duty firearms. The memo states that newly hired deputies will be required to purchase their own personal duty firearms, which shall comply with the Department established policy and standards. Any county owned duty firearm could be sold, with the deputies having first right to purchase the firearm for the price of \$175.00.

If a weapon is damaged in the line of duty, the department would replace it. Lewis questioned the amount that would be spent to replace the firearm, as the cost of weapons varies greatly. Daniels said the current agreement states which calibers the officer may purchase.

Lemke mentioned that some guns may cost more than others, for instance if the officer is left handed his firearm will cost more. Lemke said the officers' firearms are their "insurance policy" and their lives depend upon the weapons. Lewis said a reasonable price should be set as there should be some control over the cost.

Daniels indicated that he must approve each firearm purchase. The officers are restricted to three calibers and the sheriff must approve whatever handgun can be carried before it is carried for duty.

Lewis said he is okay with the \$175.00 purchase price for the old firearms. He would like wording put into the Memo of Understanding that the sheriff must approve the firearm purchases.

Lemke made a motion to approve the Memo of Understanding with the addendum that the sheriff approve each purchase; Lewis seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Bruce Strama left the meeting.

**F) Discuss/Act on Taylor County Sheriff's Office 2012 Proposed Budget** – Daniels presented the proposed budget to the committee. He said that he was very aggressive with cuts, going beyond what the county is asking.

Significant cuts were made, particularly in regard to service agreements. Daniels advised the committee they needed to be aware that those expenses were not necessary in 2012 due to the communications upgrade project and warranties involved but that some of those expenses will need to be budgeted for in 2013.

Daniels also advised that allocations for jail salaries are projected to be less in 2012 than they were in 2010. He indicated that due to economic conditions a recent vacancy has not been filled. He cautioned that should any further vacancies occur in the jail, they will either need to be filled or significant overtime expenses will occur. He reported the jail sergeants

have been doing everything possible to fill shifts at this time but that the end line has been reached.

Lewis asked how copy expenses in departments can go up while the county wide expense for copies went down. Brandl said that they redid the contract with E.O. Johnson and the cost went down, so county wide we did save money. Office supplies and maintenance costs went down while actual printing costs went up. Brandl said the county will come out better over a five year period.

Lemke made a motion to approve the 2012 budget proposal; Lewis seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

**G) Discuss/Act on "Resolution Establishing the Taylor County Communications Upgrade Budget"** – Daniels said that he must have a budget to work under so he can proceed with the communications upgrade. He is requesting \$1.5 million. Lewis asked if this was over and above the grant money; Daniels said yes.

Werner said that the hospital foundation may contribute funds for the upgrade.

Parent questioned the amount for training for AS400 system. Brandl said that the AS400 system is obsolete and costly to run. The county needs to move to a server system and off of the main frame. All current records will need to be converted, which should be started now.

Daniels said nothing would happen without the board's approval. Lewis asked Brandl how the county would manage the \$1.5 million. Brandl said that the resolution sets the budget not to exceed \$1.5 million. The county would borrow as the upgrade moves along. Brandl said the county can afford it and it would not affect the levy. The bond rate is favorable at this time.

Parent made a motion to approve the resolution; Lewis seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Brandl left the meeting.

**Sheriff's Report:** Daniels informed the committee that he had received a compliment from Ron Bohn of Medevac in regard to how well law enforcement and emergency services personnel cooperatively work together.

There is currently a firearms training system set up in the Law Enforcement Training Room. The county's insurance company's Risk Management Section provided the equipment. Sergeant Bender of our department is the instructor. Daniels said it is more of a "learn the thought process" rather than a shooting practice. He invited the committee members to stop by and check it out.

**Review and Approve Invoices:** None

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Lewis made a motion to adjourn; Lemke seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Danen

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

July 15, 2011

Third Floor County Boardroom

**Call Meeting To Order:** Chair Werner called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Werner, Lewis, Lemke, Parent, Hansen

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Sheriff Bruce Daniels; Karyn Eckert of the Star News; Paula Liske of K99 radio; Craig Amundson, Emergency Management Director; representatives of EF Johnson (Jim Cleveland the VP of Systems, Lisa Beyer, Brad Pointon, and Don Prince); representatives of Motorola and Northway Communications (Scott Pagenkopf (Northway Communications in charge of system design), Bill Bergs (Northway Communications), Ruth Williams (Motorola Conventional Owner in charge of system requirements), Joe Spair (Motorola Account Manager), Bob Schnese (Motorola Area Sales Manager), and Tom Hynes(Northway Communications); Todd Ewan and Chris Gengler from Taylor County Ambulance stationed at Memorial Health Center; Mike Filas from the Medford Fire Department and Taylor County Ambulance stationed at Memorial Health Center; and Betty Danen.

**Approve Minutes of the June 10, 2011 meeting:** Parent made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Hansen made a motion to accept the agenda of eleven items; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting date will be at the discretion of the sheriff.

**Citizen Input:** None

**Ambulance Business:** None

**Medical Examiner:** None

**Law Enforcement Business: A) Discuss/Act on Vendor Selection for Radio Communications Upgrade** – Two vendors were invited to the meeting to present their proposals – EF Johnson Technologies and Motorola working with Northway Communications. Motorola and Northway personnel left the meeting temporarily.

EF Johnson Technologies, who is working with the State of Wisconsin and the WISCOM system, presented their information first. Jim Cleveland, Vice President of Systems Group, began the presentation.

Cleveland said there are currently 80 existing sites throughout the state. Their system is a five channel trunked system. They would utilize two existing WISCOM sites (Perkinstown and Spirit) and add on two P25 five channel trunked sites at Gilman and Northcentral Technical Institute in Medford. There would be 95% guaranteed coverage in the county; however, they strive for 100% but no one can guarantee that. There is microwave connectivity. With the trunking system, a person calling out would know that the system is busy, would receive a busy signal, and also a signal when the system is available.

The fire/EMS part of the system is an analog simulcast system. Pages would be simulcast and so would go to all the sites and would only need to be sent one time. You would know when the other units have received your call. Fire and emergency services' current narrowband-capable analog radios would work with the system.

All necessary equipment would be provided. Two dispatch sites would be included.

The cost of the system is \$1,147,453.80. The Office of Justice Assistance has a grant available for \$800,000.00 for radio infrastructure, which is guaranteed to be granted, leaving Taylor County to pay \$347,453.80. It is possible to shrink the system down to save money but they do not recommend doing that but, instead, to futurist it.

Amundson said that the county is eligible for another WISCOM \$200,000.00 grant for the subscriber units. More OJA grant money is also available.

There may be user fees with this system after the year 2015. It is anticipated that the fee will be \$50.00 per radio unit per month. There would be no charge for fire or EMS unless they are connected to WISCOM, which they do not need to be to use the system.

EF Johnson personnel left the meeting. Northway and Motorola personnel rejoined the meeting to give their presentation.

Joe Spair from Motorola explained that their radio system is linear simulcast, which allows all stations to transmit at the same time. A call from dispatch would go out of all the towers at one time. There is no overlapping or echoing. Linear creates much greater coverage. The radios would provide 95% portable coverage, analog and digital. All agencies would be supported – fire, highway, and sheriff.

Their system does allow connectivity to the WISCOM trunked system that the State of Wisconsin is offering. Officers would not need to carry two radios. Reprogramming and conditioning with the control station would be needed to convert it to WISCOM accessibility at the cost of around \$10,000.00. This is a standard feature which is available.

The system would work off of the seven existing towers, with an upgrade being done to the Jump River tower. Two tone paging for the fire department would remain. An upgrade to the current consoles in dispatch would need to be done.

The cost of their system is not to exceed \$1.4 million. This price covers the civil engineering on existing sites only and would not cover the Northland tower site. There is a one year warranty on all infrastructure.

Motorola and Northway personnel left the meeting.

Werner commented on the fact that if the county decides to go with the EF Johnson Technologies proposal, the State of Wisconsin would pay a large portion of the cost with grant money. However, the county would be locked in for ten years and may be paying user fees.

Daniels said there is an oversight board made up of users, personnel from sheriff's departments, and state agencies who would determine the actual amount of the users fee.

Werner expressed concern over how to pay the bill if they went with Motorola.

Hansen said that he liked the fact that the officers could utilize the radio system anywhere in the state with the EF Johnson system due to it being a state wide system.

Lewis said that the grant money is a big thing but he doesn't want an inferior product because it is less expensive. The State wants everyone on the same system and Lewis believes it is important to be on the same one. EF Johnson said that if they couldn't provide 95% coverage, they would fix it at their cost.

Amundson reminded the committee that there would only be user fees if the department is connected to WISCOM. Ambulance would not pay user fees as they are analog and not on the system.

Lemke said at \$50.00 per radio, that's a lot of user fees.

Lewis asked if EMS would need new radios. Gengler said that only seven are not narrowband. The other 66 can be reprogrammed.

Mike Filas asked about the discrepancy between the number of sites, i.e. EF Johnson guarantees 95% coverage with four towers and Motorola guarantees the same but has seven sites. Filas said that they currently have issues with the existing sites. He also expressed concern over the need to purchase new field radios.

Chris Gengler asked if there was a cost to add the fire department. Craig Amundson said that they do not need to be on WISCOM. They may continue to use the current system and switch to narrow banding. It would cost \$20.00 per radio to reprogram to narrow band (if the radio has that capability).

Parent asked if the Sheriff's Office is happy with the experience we have had with Northway as they are our current contractor for radio service. The sheriff said that overall, yes.

Sheriff Daniels commented that any decision made by the committee would be subject to legal review and financing considerations. He would like the Finance Committee to establish a budget for the radio upgrade so he knows what he has to work with.

Lemke made a motion to accept the EF Johnson Technologies proposal pending financing and legal considerations. Lewis seconded. Roll call vote: Parent: Aye, Lemke: Aye, Lewis: Aye, Hansen: Aye, Werner: Aye. All ayes; motion carried.

**Sheriff's Report:** Daniels informed the committee that Craig Amundson has secured a \$10,000 Office of Justice Assistance grant to replace the video recording system in the squads.

Aramark, our food service contractor for the jail, has notified our office that there will be a 2.18% increase in costs for 2012.

Daniels indicated that the policy on truant students is different in the county versus the city. They are working on establishing a mutual policy.

**Review and Approve Invoices:** After review, Hansen made a motion to approve the invoices for June, 2011; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Hansen made a motion to adjourn; Parent seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Danen

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

June 10, 2011

Taylor County Sheriff's Department Training Room

**Call Meeting To Order:** Chair Werner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Werner, Lewis, Lemke, Parent, Hansen

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Sheriff Bruce Daniels; Karyn Eckert of the Star News; County Board Chair Jim Metz; Craig Amundson, Emergency Management Director; and Betty Danen.

**Approve Minutes of the April 22, 2011 meeting:** Lemke made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Parent made a motion to accept the agenda of eleven items; Lewis seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting date will be Friday, July 8, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

**Citizen Input:** None

**Ambulance Business:** None

**Medical Examiner:** None

**Law Enforcement Business: A) Discuss/Act on Proceeding with Communications Upgrade –** Sheriff Daniels introduced Craig Amundson, who presented an overview of two radio communication systems available for purchase - Motorola and EF Johnson/WISCOM.

Motorola is a VHF, P25 Conventional Simulcast program. All towers would broadcast on the same signal so, say for instance, if you were in Gilman you could talk to someone in Rib Lake. Law enforcement would have six tower sites, the fire departments would have seven tower sites, and the highway department would have three tower sites. Towers utilized would be the Gilman water tower, the Verizon tower near Rib Lake, the Perkinstown tower, the Dairyland tower on the south county line (for fire only), and the Excel tower near Medford. A new tower and the land to go with it would need to be purchased for the Northland site. New equipment would need to be installed on the existing towers. The Jump River site already exists but would need a new tower. The county would be responsible for tower maintenance. There would be an annual lease expense for the non-county owned towers (Excel, Dairyland, Perkinstown, and Verizon).

EF Johnson/WISCOM is a state wide VHS P25 trunked system already operated by the State of Wisconsin. EF Johnson guarantees 95% coverage for portable radios in Taylor County and would take necessary steps to increase coverage if it is lower. Taylor County would leverage three existing state sites – Perkinstown, Spirit, and Holcombe. There are five channels per site.

One additional site would be added for law enforcement at Northcentral Technical College in Medford. Gilman would be an optional site, if needed. New towers would have four channels per site. The system would have multiple talkgroups and DES encryption (toggle on/off).

Fire/EMS/Highway would have two options. They could join the trunked WISCOM system. This system would give them statewide radio coverage. They would also be eligible for state grants to help purchase trunking-enabled radios. The other option is the Hybrid WISCOM system which would use the current tower sites and use current radios (they would only need to be replaced if they did not have narrow band capabilities). They would

tie into a WISCOM talkgroup. They could switch to WISCOM trunked system at any time. No new towers would be necessary.

This WISCOM system would possibly charge user fees in the amount of no more than \$50.00 per radio per year after 2015. The department has 40 radios. The current state budget says there will be no user fees, even after 2015. The department would need to sign a ten year contract if it accepts the \$800,000.00 state grant. The state would maintain their towers. The county would only be responsible for add-on towers. Fire repeater maintenance in non-hybrid and non-WISCOM systems would need to be decided.

On June 9, 2011, the department tested the WISCOM coverage, using the department's Kenwood portables. An officer in Westboro was able to hear another officer in Lublin on his portable radio.

Back-Up Power – EF Johnson uses a gas powered generator. Motorola uses battery back-up, which would last around twelve hours if being used steadily.

EF Johnson would require new IP based consoles in dispatch. Motorola would upgrade the existing consoles.

WISCOM subscribers are eligible for a \$200,000.00 radio grant to replace old radios that can't be trunked.

Motorola has a mobile data system available that would work with the system in squads (officers would be able to access records maintained in the office from their vehicles)

The sheriff explained how dispatch needs to write down all contact information for the emergency responders with the current system (when dispatched, when arrived, etc.). With the new system, all emergency vehicles would have a computer in their vehicle and they would record all this information. There would be a significant expense to get up and running but he believes it would save money in the long run and reduce the need to increase the number of dispatchers. Squads are already equipped with these computers.

Estimated costs are as follows:

	Motorola	WISCOM
Base System	\$1,375,511.00	\$997,453.87
Shelters	218,396.00	~ 150,000.00
Towers	207,960.00	.00
State Grant		- 800,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,801,867.00</b>	<b>\$347,453.87</b>
Mobile Data System	1,221,993.00	N/A

Daniels indicated that more research still needs to be done. A data records management system needs to be purchased, also. He would like to bring the radio vendors to the next meeting to give a presentation. He would like to get all departments up and running at the same time and have agreements in place as to who is going to pay for what in the future.

Parent made a motion for Sheriff Daniels to continue doing research on all three areas – voice, data, and records management. Lewis seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Amundson left the meeting.

**B) Discuss/Act on Employees Reimbursing County for Use of Voice Cell Services –** Daniels explained that, as of now, if an employee uses a department cell phone for personal use they must log the call and reimburse the county. Daniels would like the officers to be allowed to use their department issued phone all of the time and pay a flat fee of \$10.00 per month to the county. Lewis expressed concern about the number of minutes that would be used. Daniels said that one of the detectives did a study and determined that the county would come out ahead financially. Lewis said he would be okay with it as long as the minutes were monitored.

Lewis made a motion to approve a \$10.00 reimbursement fee for full-time use of department cell phones; Hansen seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

**C) Discuss/Act on Adding Smoking Ordinance to County Code –** There is no ordinance adopting the State Statute regarding no smoking in public places. Daniels would like an ordinance in order to provide the district attorney with review capability and to give officers the ability to do their job when a smoking complaint is received. The district attorney has been contacted and agrees to the development of an ordinance.

Lewis made a motion to approve the smoking ordinance and to add it to the County Code; Lemke seconded. Four ayes; one opposed. Parent did not think that the county should be enforcing State law. Motion carried.

**Sheriff's Report:** Daniels informed the committee that the department has an intern, Erik Kozey. He is a third year criminal justice student. Erik will be here for 200 hours during the summer, basically as a ride-along. He is being exposed to all aspects of the job.

Records retention ordinance will be drafted by Attorney Schmiege and brought back to a future meeting.

In regard to the sale of department firearms, documentation is being written up for review.

The department received \$4,751.92 from HPL as a rebate for health care services.

Truth in sentencing is now back in effect, which should increase the number of inmates in prisons. The sheriff is checking with the state about housing inmates in our jail. The current jail inmate population is 43.

The new squads are now in service. One old squad was given to the airport. Werner expressed gratitude on behalf of the airport for the vehicle.

Daniels mentioned the search warrant that was executed and discovered the meth lab in the city. One of the department's detectives was instrumental to the investigation.

**Review and Approve Invoices:** After review, Parent made a motion to approve the invoices for April, 2011 and May, 2011; Lewis seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Parent made a motion to adjourn; Lewis seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty

Danen

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 22, 2011

Taylor County Sheriff's Department Training Room

**Call Meeting To Order:** Werner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Werner, Lewis, Lemke, Parent

**Members Absent:** Seidl

**Other Attendees:** Sheriff Bruce Daniels; Karyn Eckert of the Star News; County Board Chair Jim Metz; County Clerk Bruce Strama; Corporation Counsel Ken Schmiedege; and Betty Danen.

**Approve Minutes of the February 18, 2011 meeting:** Lemke made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Lewis seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Lewis made a motion to accept the agenda of eleven items; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting date will be at the discretion of the sheriff.

**Citizen Input:** None

**Ambulance Business:** None

**Medical Examiner:** None

**Law Enforcement Business: A) Discuss/Act on Destruction of In-Squad Videos –** The sheriff indicated this was for information only at this time. According to County Ordinance, the department is required to keep all records, which would include audio and video recordings, for seven years. This creates a storage problem. Most of the in-squad videos are on VHS tapes. The sheriff will be asking the committee in the future to clean up the current retention policy.

**B) Discuss/Act on Disposal of Side arms –** The current contract with the deputies' union is for the county to provide all equipment and uniforms. Currently, only two officers carry a county provided weapon, a 9mm Beretta, as deputies are allowed to purchase their own firearm. The sheriff would like to negotiate with the union so the contract states that the county will not supply firearms. The department currently has firearms in the armory that are not being used. The sheriff would like to offer the firearm to the officer to whom it is assigned. If they don't want to purchase it, he proposes selling it to any officer who would like to purchase the weapon or selling them outright.

Lemke asked if the caliber would be restricted if they purchase their own firearm. Sheriff Daniels indicated that they would only be allowed to purchase a 9 mm, a 40 caliber, or a 45 caliber so the department would only need to purchase ammunition for those three calibers.

Parent asked what happens to the guns the county purchased when the officer retires. Daniels indicated that, traditionally, the gun has been given to the retiree. Werner asked about keeping track of transfers of ownership if the firearms were sold. Daniels said that a record is kept of the serial numbers and the disposition of the weapons.

Lewis made a motion to direct the sheriff to proceed with disposal of the firearms; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**C) Discuss/Act on Licensing Cats –** Lewis said that he had requested that this item be placed on the agenda. He said this is mainly a financial issue as the biggest cost at the Humane Society shelter is for the cats. He didn't believe it was fair to raise the tax on dogs

to raise money for cats. Attorney Schmiege stated that the State Statutes refer to dogs only and, therefore, the county is not required to license cats. Werner asked how the county would ever enforce such an ordinance. Lewis said that he is neither pro nor con regarding licensing cats but cautioned that if nothing is done regarding the cats, the county's contribution to the Humane Society may need to increase. Daniels indicated that the county would like to keep the budget neutral.

Bruce Strama said that the current contract runs through this year. Lewis indicated that with the financial crunch and the cutbacks all the departments are experiencing that the Humane Society should be no different. Lemke said the county should follow with the State Statutes and license dogs only; otherwise, it could open a can of worms.

Strama then left the meeting.

**D) Discuss/Act on Tax Intercept Appeals Received – TASO** had received appeals from three individuals – Douglas Spangler, Glen Schwarz, and Wayne Staven. Staven appeared telephonically; Spangler and Schwarz did not appear.

Staven indicated that he had been granted work release; however, he was not allowed to go out and look for work so he had to work at home and at a seasonal job. Attorney Schmiege said that the charges do not include work release fees, only the per day cost of staying in the jail. If Staven had been working outside the jail on Huber, the fee would have been higher.

Staven questioned why he was charged for staying in the jail as it was not his choice to be there. Schmiege stated that it is a jail rule that the inmate will be required to pay for their daily upkeep. Schmiege reminded Staven that he did sign an agreement on November 23, 2006 indicating that he would pay the jail fees. Staven said that he signed the document so he could get out on work release. Schmiege said that was not so and he was treated the same as any other inmate. Staven said he didn't know that you could be charged to sit in jail and had nothing more to say. There were no other questions.

Lewis made a motion to deny the appeal of Wayne Staven; Parent seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Schmiege informed Staven that his appeal was unsuccessful. However, he does have rights and can appeal the committee's decision with the court. Schmiege believes Staven misunderstood that he can be charged whether he was on work release or not.

Lewis made a motion to deny the appeals of Schwarz and Spangler; Parent seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

**E) Discuss/Act on Service of Process Fees and Records Release Fees** – The County Code sets the fees for these services; however, they need updating. There are no changes proposed for the release of records. Lewis questioned whether the increases in Service of Process fees were justified. Daniels indicated that they are justified due to the increase in manpower costs.

Schmiege indicated that the county has the authority to set the fees and the committee may approve the changes; however, the matter would need to go to the full County Board.

Lewis made a motion to approve the changes on fees; Lemke seconded the motion, although he did question the ability to collect the charged fees. Schmiege indicated that the fees would be paid up front. All ayes; motion carried.

**Sheriff's Report:** Daniels informed the committee that Karie Seavers Thums will be re-joining the Sheriff's department as a part-time officer. This is a win/win situation for everyone as Thums' certification as a law enforcement officer will not lapse and the department will have more manpower for transports and law enforcement duties. There will be no expense to the department unless she actually works. Her wages will be based on deputy starting wages.

Two inmates are currently working at the Humane Society, for a total of approximately 45 hours per week. It is estimated that the county/Humane Society saved \$18,000.00 in wages last year by utilizing inmate workers.

The tax refund intercept program has been successful. Over \$7,500.00 has been intercepted so far this year.

The new squads are here. They will not be put into service until the radios from the Round 6 Grant come in and the equipment is installed. This will save Taylor County approximately \$2,000.00 as the radio installs will be covered under the grant. Werner asked if the airport would be able to get a replacement vehicle then; the sheriff said yes.

**Review and Approve Invoices:** After review, Lewis made a motion to approve the invoices for February, 2011 and March, 2011; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Schmiege left the meeting.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Parent made a motion to adjourn; Lewis seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Danen

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 18, 2011

Taylor County Sheriff's Department Training Room

**Call Meeting To Order:** Chair Seidl called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Members Present:** Seidl, Werner, Lewis, Lemke, Parent

**Members Absent:** None

**Other Attendees:** Sheriff Bruce Daniels; Karyn Eckert of the Star News; Christine Gengler of Taylor County Ambulance stationed at Memorial Health Center; Melissa Thums, Finance Director at Memorial Health Center; Kaaron Keene, Vice President of Patient Care Services at Memorial Health Center; Larry Brandl; Corporation Counsel Ken Schmiege; and Betty Danen.

**Approve Minutes of the December 17, 2010 meeting:** Parent made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Werner seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approve Agenda:** Parent made a motion to accept the agenda of eleven items; Werner seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting date will be at the discretion of the sheriff.

**Citizen Input:** None

**Ambulance Business: Discuss/Act on Finalizing Ambulance Subsidy Request for Payment** – Melissa Thums presented the "Memorial Health Center Ambulance Subsidy Request for Calendar Year 2010." Actual revenue for 2010 was \$354,987. The amount budgeted for 2010 was \$379,748. The lower actual income is partially due to less Medivac intercepts than anticipated. There was more revenue from ambulance calls than expected and less with the Medivac unit. Kaaron Keene pointed out that the greater number of Medicaid and Medicare clients than anticipated was also a reason for the lower income as a larger amount of the expense must be written off. Once the IV tech services are up and running, revenue should increase. This is expected to begin around August, 2011.

Actual expense for 2010 was \$499,462; budgeted was \$520,228.

Lewis made a motion to approve the subsidy request; Lemke seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Chris Gengler mentioned that the ambulance service did not purchase the six radios that the committee approved purchasing at the November, 2010 meeting as they have doubled in price.

**Medical Examiner:** None

**Law Enforcement Business: A) Discuss/Act on Resolution Expressing Appreciation to William Breneman for His Many Years of Service to Taylor County** – Seidl read the resolution to the committee. Parent made a motion to approve the resolution; Werner seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

**B) Discuss/Act on Law Enforcement Committee Serving as Appeal Committee for Tax Intercept Appeals** – Daniels explained that there are debts owed from past inmates for lodging, meals, and medical expenses. The county is allowed to charge the inmates per State Statute and County Code. TASO has begun submitting these debts to Wisconsin DOR to intercept tax refund money to pay these debts. Letters were sent to the former inmates to inform them that the debt had been turned over to WIDOR and that they had the right to appeal this decision. Daniels spoke with County Board Chairman Jim Metz regarding the

LEES Committee hearing any appeals from inmates who objected to their debts being turned over for tax refund intercept. Metz believed it would be appropriate. Corporation Counsel Schmiede recommended that the committee review the appeals.

Lewis made a motion that the LEES Committee serve as the appeal committee for tax refund intercept appeals; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

**C) Discuss/Act on Tax Intercept Appeals Received – TASO** had received appeals from two individuals – John Kapaska and Jesse Ewer. Kapaska appeared in person; Ewer did not appear.

Schmiede asked Kapaska if he had been an inmate at the Taylor County jail; Kapaska stated that was correct. Schmiede asked if Kapaska had signed a document dated 4-18-06 which states that he owes \$2,238.64 for jail room and board and medical care expenses while incarcerated and that he will pay \$10.00 per month toward this debt until paid in full; Kapaska said yes.

Schmiede asked if he knew that he owed the money. Kapaska replied that he thought it was part of the forfeiture. He believed that he would not be released from jail unless he signed the form, so it was sign or sit in jail. He said he does not want to pay.

Schmiede asked if that was his signature on the form. Kapaska said it was his signature but believes it was blackmail – you either sign or you don't get out of jail. Schmiede asked if the document said that; Kapaska replied that it did and read the line that says, "Before release, all inmates must sign a payment schedule indicating how this reimbursement will be paid." He said it wasn't fair.

Schmiede asked if that was his only objection – that it wasn't fair. Kapaska replied that the amount of \$2,498.00\* was ridiculous. He said he wasn't allowed out on Huber because he hadn't completed the Victim Panel or the OWI assessment but wasn't allowed out to do either. He said he attended the Victim Panel in another county, for which he had to pay \$50.00, so if we charged him for that, the county owes him \$50.00. (\*\$2,498.00 is the amount Kapaska owed for fines and forfeitures per Judgment of Conviction)

Schmiede asked Kapaska if he had read the Judgment of Conviction; Kapaska replied yes. Schmiede read the portion of the Judgment of Conviction that states that Kapaska shall "pay all sheriff and jail fees or costs allowed or imposed by law." He replied yes; however, he interpreted "fees incurred" to mean Huber fees and medical expenses incurred, not a daily fee for sitting in jail. He said if they would have let him out on Huber, he would have eaten down the street. He stated again that it was not fair and he believes it to be unlawful to charge \$30.00 for the first day and then \$10.00 for each day thereafter. He again said that it was blackmail and asked who made this up? Schmiede said that per Wisconsin Statute and Taylor County Code the Taylor County Sheriff's Office does have the authority to charge for meals and other services. This is not unusual.

Werner asked if this was common practice for all counties to charge these fees. Daniels said that it was and that any sentenced inmate is charged. Daniels said he is not looking to make money off of the inmates, only to offset some of the expense that the taxpayers are paying for housing and feeding the inmates. Kapaska said that he is a taxpayer also so he is being charged double.

Werner asked what percentage of former inmates are paying their bills. Daniels did not know the exact percentage. Lemke asked how long this procedure has been in place or if it was put into writing for the public to be aware of it. Daniels said when he first started as sheriff there was a lot of discussion with the boards regarding the debt incurred and that the

inmates are told when they enter the jail that they will be incurring a debt and what that debt would be for; plus, it is clearly listed in the jail rules that are given to each inmate upon their entry into the jail. Kapaska said he thought it meant that he would be charged for doctor or nurse visits, not for sitting in jail.

Schmiege said that the collection of these debts has not been followed up on in the past and that TASO is now initiating the procedure for collection of these debts. Schmiege believes this is an appropriate way to collect the debt. The jail has a document signed by Kapaska indicating that he knew he had the debt and that he would make payments of \$10.00 per month. Schmiege does not agree that Kapaska was "forced" to sign or else he would stay in jail and he does not agree with the reasoning for Kapaska making the claims he is making.

Lewis said that this has been a long term collection problem; that is why they approved use of the tax refund intercept program. Werner asked what would happen if they denied the appeal; Schmiege said that the tax refund intercept would stay in place and the person has 30 days to appeal to the court. Werner said he thinks it should go directly to the judge. Lewis said this is just the first step in the procedure. Seidl said the person has additional appeal possibilities.

Kapaska said that he had never received a bill in all of the years that he has owed this bill. He said that he will appeal to the court if the committee denies his appeal.

Lewis made a motion to deny John Kapaska's appeal; Parent seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Kapaska asked how he went about appealing this decision. Is there a form for him to fill out? Schmiege said that he could not give him legal advice. Kapaska said that the debt should be removed from the tax refund intercept and that he would be willing to make payments. Kapaska then left the meeting.

Next the committee took up the appeal filed by Jesse Ewer. Schmiege recommended that the committee deny the appeal. Lewis thought it should be discussed as Ewer is asking for a delay in starting payments and to set up a payment schedule. Parent said that Ewer should go to the Clerk of Court office and set up a payment plan. Werner said Ewer should get an attorney. Werner asked if we could attach someone's wages; Schmiege said we have no authorization from the state to do so.

Seidl asked to be excused for a few minutes and left the room.

Schmiege said if the committee denies the appeal and then the judge finds reasonable grounds to approve the appeal, we can always pay the money back.

Werner asked how many people owe money to the jail. Daniels said it was between 300 and 400. Prior to the tax refund intercept program, the only option for collecting a debt was through filing a Small Claims Court action, which costs around \$100.00. He did not think that was fiscally responsible and wants to protect the interests of the taxpayers.

Seidl returned to the meeting.

Schmiege said that the committee could hold open the Ewer appeal for final resolution. They could meet with Ewer and set up a payment plan. If they approve the appeal, nothing can be done if he doesn't pay. Lewis said Ewer was not asking to get out of paying. Schmiege said we could take him off of the intercept and put him back on if he doesn't pay. Parent said there would be no tax refund if he isn't working. Lewis said he worked in 2010 according to his letter. Ewer indicated in his letter that he had applied for unemployment

but hadn't heard anything. Schmiede asked if he was unemployed due to incarceration and said perhaps he didn't have enough quarters worked to collect UI. Werner said that he thinks it is wrong for this committee to review these appeals and that they have more important things to do. Schmiede said that he will be meeting with the Justice Committee and discussing what can be done to set up a procedure as he believes, also, that there should be a better way.

Parent made a motion to deny the appeal of Jesse Ewer; Lewis seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Lemke asked if this was going to create more of a record for these people, making them even more unemployable. Schmiede said it is not a criminal offense.

Schmiede left the meeting.

**D) Discuss/Act on Bids Received for Radio Replacement Through Round 6 Homeland Security Grant** – Daniels said that effective January 1, 2013 all radios used by the county must be narrow band. TASO radios will be programmable to handle whatever system is purchased after the purchase of the radios. There is no indication that there will be further changes to Federal guidelines. The goal is to have state and even nationwide communication abilities.

Seidl stated that he is confident that the ambulance service is on top of this. The fire department has most of their narrow band radios purchased.

Daniels said he does not see the cost of the radios remaining the same or going down so doesn't see any reason to put off the purchase. If the radios are purchased in the next year they would need to be re-programmed but that can be done.

Lemke asked if the county still needed new towers. Daniels said yes.

Daniels said there are options – partner with the State of Wisconsin (WisCom Study) or go on our own. Either way, we would still need to upgrade/update the radios.

Parent asked how the \$51,000.00 would affect the budget as nothing is budgeted now for the purchase. Larry Brandl said the county could up front the money until we get the final figure for the bond needed for the entire purchase. The county has 36 months to spend the bond money. Lewis asked where the up front money would come from; Brandl said the General Fund. Daniels mentioned that there is still a \$950,000 grant in the works (with a \$50,000 match). Money had been approved for a radio consultant to be hired to study the radio needs of the county but Daniels found that it is very expensive to get a consultant who is not representing a certain brand of radio. The money set aside for the consultant could be used towards the purchase of the radios. Parent said there is nothing to be gained by procrastination.

Three bids were received. The cost to the county after the grant money is received would be: 1) Motorola - \$80,448.00; 2) Kenwood - \$50,960.50; and 3) EF Johnson - \$59,163.00. EF Johnson radios did not meet the wattage needs.

Parent made a motion to accept the bid proposal from Kenwood; Lewis seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Werner – Aye; Parent – Aye; Lemke – Aye; Lewis – Aye; Seidl – Aye. All ayes; motion carried.

**E and F) Discuss/Act on Proposal for Sale of Outdated Mobile Data Computers/Radios and Discuss/Act on Proposal of Sale of Outdated Radio Equipment being Replaced by Round 6 Homeland Security Grant** - Daniels explained

that there are computers in all of the marked squads. These computers run on a radio. The radios were purchased with grant money but are now outdated and are sitting on a shelf. There is a vendor who agreed to purchase all 13 units for \$2,600.00. Bruce Strama has approved the sale of the radios.

Daniels explained that he has also had an offer of \$4,000.00 for the outdated radio equipment being replaced by Round 6 Homeland Security Grant.

Lemke made a motion to dispose of all of the units; Werner seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

**G) Discuss/Act on Applying Funds from Items E & F to Match Funds for Homeland Security Grant Round 6** – Daniels said that the \$6,600.00 obtained from the sale of the items in E & F would need to be retained for the purchase of new equipment.

Lemke made a motion to retain the funds in the TASO account; Parent seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Larry Brandl then left the meeting.

**Sheriff's Report:** Daniels commended the Interwald Wanderers Snowmobile Club for putting reflective trail markers on their snowmobile trails. The club collected donations to pay for the signs and then installed them. Daniels said it is very useful in emergencies to have markers along snowmobile trails to help find a location. He suggested a letter of commendation, if the committee believed it to be appropriate.

Daniels gave a forewarning to the committee that medical expenses in the jail will be very large in the near future as there is an inmate with significant medical problems. The jail is obligated to provide emergency medical services. Werner asked if there was insurance to cover this; Daniels said no. He said that the jail contracts with a medical provider; however, the needs of this inmate cannot be taken care of in the jail.

The impound lot is becoming financially and operationally unworkable. The lot is small with entrances on one side only. Frequently, a wrecker must be called to move vehicles around to get one out. The department is paying rent to store vehicles in other locations. Chief Deputy Woebeking is studying the situation to come up with options. Werner asked if there was room to expand; no, there is not.

Seidl asked about the inmate working at the shelter as there was a problem with that person. Daniels said that if there are any more problems, we may need to reconsider that program.

**Review and Approve Invoices:** After review, Lemke made a motion to approve the invoices for December, 2010 and January, 2011; Werner seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, Parent made a motion to adjourn; Lemke seconded. All Ayes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Danen