



Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Thursday, January 23, 2014– 10:00 a.m.
Room 100– Otsego County Building
225 West Main Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Members Present: Doug Johnson, Paul Liss, Erma Backenstose, Rich Sumerix, John Burt, Undersheriff Muladore, Sheriff Nowicki, Captain Webber, Regina Theriault, Robert Mammel, Vicki Courterier, Dave Duffield, Mike Rola, Judge George Mertz, Judge Janet Allen, Chief Brett McVannel, Melissa Fitzgerald, Mike Turnbull, Kevin Tate

Others Present: Stephanie Godard

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Liss, second by Duffield to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2013 Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Department Updates

Melissa Fitzgerald (Animal Control): a new animal control truck will be on the road tomorrow. Christi Pratt has been promoted from Clerk to an Animal Control Officer which will add an additional person on the road.

Mike Rola (Prosecutor): They are conducting interviews for the Assistant Prosecutor position. He hopes to have a decision by the end of February. He also reported that they upgraded two of the computers in the office.

Regina Theriault (Community Corrections): She has five males and four females in cognitive behavior and life skills class. She is working with Jack Thompson on the updated GED program which has been privatized, and will cost more money. She also passed around an updated Bench Guide.

Judge Mertz (Courts): The Courts have been working on security including increased use of the Polycom system and the metal detectors.

Vicki Courterier (Courts): A men's group has been reestablished for domestic violence offenders. They will be enrolled in the Work Camp if they do not follow the rules of the program.

Sheriff Nowicki (Sheriff): Busy with accidents on icy/snowy roads. They just received a new Ford Interceptor patrol vehicle. They have gone to ten hour shifts, from twelve, to get an extra deputy on during their late shift, and added an hour of coverage to 4 a.m.

There will be two opiate addiction clinics coming to the area. One at the old Breitburn building in the barn behind it, and one at the old Cellular One building.

Chief McVannel (City Police): Informed the Committee that the current State Police night patrol is starting from Petoskey and is covering five counties. He has also promoted two officers to sergeant positions with Frank Claeys on the day shift, and Doug Hempenstall on the night shift.

Dave Duffield (Otsego County Fire Department): The fire department and EMS have had to change their practices to allow for increased time for officers to arrive at scenes. Fire Departments are working on backing each other up on calls.

Brian Webber (Jail): Reported that there are 31 inmates currently in the jail, and 13 in the Work Camp in-lieu of jail. He is filling a part time position at the Work Camp. His corrections officers just took a defense tactics class at the City.

Mammel asked how the eligibility for Work Camp is determined. Courterier responded that for District Court everyone is made eligible that does not have an assaultive history, and the Sheriff determines when they go to Work Camp. They would have to abide by the rules and be clean of drugs and alcohol. Judge Mertz also indicated that he attempts to allow as many as possible from the Circuit Court into the program.

Mammel asked whether there was enough funding for the Drug Court program. Courterier responded that the State has provided enough funding for the basic program, but they continually search for extra funding for additional services such as counseling and life skills.

Erma Backenstose (Commissioner): Discussed the need for a new jail.

Kevin Tate (North Country Community Mental Health): Holly Miner took a position at the V.A. in Gaylord. NCCMH is becoming part of a larger 21 county region dealing with affliction. It has not been determined what changes, if any, will take place in services currently provided by some of the affected agencies. NCCMH will continue with status quo with having two staff on call at night to cover the six NCCMH counties.

Mammel asked whether drugs or mental health are the root of people's issues. Tate responded that it can be both ways. People can have mental issues using drugs to self-medicate, and some can use drugs as an excuse.

Mammel asked about the timeline for updating the Criminal Justice Master Plan. Burt responded that he hopes to begin it in the next couple of months.

John Burt (County Administrator): Red Cross is consolidating their Petoskey and Cadillac offices to Gaylord. They are going to rent space from the County downtown at the former Tourism Bureau Information Center.

Commissioner Johnson adjourned at 11:05 AM.