



Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Friday, February 22, 2013 – 9:00 a.m.
Room 100– Otsego County Building
225 West Main Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM

Members Present: Doug Johnson, Erma Backenstose, John Burt, Paul Liss, Rich Sumerix, Undersheriff Muladore, Sheriff Nowicki, Captain Webber, Judge Morse, Melissa FitzGerald, Mike Rola, Regina Theriault, Holly Miner, Mike Turnbull

Others Present: Rachel Frisch, Robert Mammel

Absent (Excused): None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Sumerix to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2012 Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee minutes. Second by Mr. Liss. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Jail

Mr. Burt expressed to the Committee the need to start discussing options/solutions for jail overcrowding again. The Committee has discussed the jail briefly at recent meetings but not in-depth, because the Committee wanted to take some time to assess how the work camp was doing. He also stated that the Criminal Justice Master Plan needs to be updated, and he will send that around to Committee members via email for updates and input. The Committee decided to meet bi-monthly instead of quarterly, to thoroughly discuss options including additional alternative programs and the possibility of a new or remodeled jail facility, as well as the funding for such options.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Department Updates

MDOC – Mr. Turnbull had nothing further to report.

NEMCOG – Ms. Theriault reported that she now works for NEMCOG part-time, after retiring from the court system. She works with jail inmates at several counties, through life skills programs, exit interviews, and working with pre-sentenced inmates.

NWMCMH – Ms. Miner reported that she is in the middle of annual jail training. Her department has seen an increase in defendants being deemed not fit to stand trial for reasons of mental illness.

Commissioner – Ms. Backenstose reported that at the DHS meeting, she was notified that the State has changed the rules with respect to meetings with families. Now the families must coordinate the meeting dates and cites, instead of DHS.

Citizen – Mr. Mammel stated that he appreciates the opportunity to be involved in the Committee meetings and express his opinions and concerns.

Prosecutor – Mr. Rola stated that his office has responded to Title IVD concerns, which include updating the locks on the doors for safety. He and some staff members will be attending conferences on synthetic marijuana and other drugs and how they impact our communities.

Finance – Ms. Frisch reported that 2012 is almost wrapped up and the audit is scheduled for early April.

Animal Control – Ms. FitzGerald reported that the shelter is packed with dogs. She took in ten dogs from a local breeder. The dogs are in good shape. She intends to become more proactive in doing more kennel inspections.

Commissioner – Mr. Liss mentioned that he likes Mr. Webber's idea of looking into making the work camp a 24-hour facility.

Administration – Mr. Burt had nothing further to report.

Courts – Judge Morse informed the Committee that the drug court numbers are down. She emphasized the importance of having a law enforcement officer on board with the program.

Commissioner – Mr. Sumerix discussed the importance of looking into various funding ideas.

Jail – Captain Webber reported that the work camp has been operational for 5 years and has been a very successful program.

Sheriff – Sheriff Nowicki reported that the road patrol has been exceptionally busy due to the weather. We are 680 complaints above last year at this time. The mirrored glass has been installed in the jail control room. The work camp is working on a contract with Gaylord Little League to provide mowing and maintenance services from May – September.

Undersheriff – Undersheriff Muladore had nothing further to report.

Mr. Liss motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Sumerix.

Mr. Johnson adjourned at 10:14 AM.