



Justice & Public Safety Committee
(Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee)

Tuesday, June 16, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Room 100 – Otsego County Building
Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Roll call – Present: Doug Johnson, Paul Liss, Mike Hyde, John Burt, Erma Backenstose

Others present: Sheriff McBride, Angel Oppermann, Vicki Courterier, Kyle Legel, Rachel Frisch, Brian Webber, Matt Nowicki

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Hyde to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2009 Justice & Public Safety Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Animal Control Facility

Ms. Oppermann informed the Committee that she had contacted surrounding counties for information on their animal shelters. On average, approximately \$100 per square foot was spent to construct the facilities, including plans, site management, etc. She recommends a 10,000 square foot building.

Mr. Burt added that the infrastructure committee had approved to move forward with the process. He also recommended forming a sub-committee to move forward and report back to this Committee with a recommendation on building size and how to proceed. Mr. Burt reported that the sub-committee will consist of Mr. Burt, Ms. Oppermann, Ms. Frisch, Mr. Hyde, and a member of Friends for Life. Ms. Oppermann will contact them to select a representative.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Department Updates

Animal Control

Ms. Oppermann reported an increase in abandoned animals, and also many people bringing in animals that they cannot afford to care for anymore. They are very busy at this time.

Courts

Ms. Courterier informed the Committee that we will most likely not be able to proceed with the Mental Health Grant at this time. After much discussion with Community Mental Health (CMH), it has been determined that CMH is looking for the more severe cases, whereas Otsego doesn't have enough severe cases. We don't have the population to pull from that the larger counties have.

She also reported that Ms. Oppermann had noted problems with the community service workers who were assigned to Animal Control. Ms. Courterier encouraged others to give her feedback if they have similar problems.

Prosecuting Attorney

Mr. Legel stated that his office has nothing to report at this time.

Sheriff

Mr. Webber reported that the jail population is 31 today, and the work camp is 13. The new work camp supervisor is doing an excellent job. He requested Ms. Courterier to remind the judges that the work camp needs more participants in the summertime if possible.

Mr. Nowicki stated that the road patrol is going well. They are waiting to hear back on the grant. He has also applied for a grant for new body armor.

Sheriff McBride mentioned that over \$1.8 million in old bills was turned over to a collection agency. He also authorized the agency to take the matter to court if necessary. There is also a new program in their computer that will forward all uncollected charges over 60 days old to the collection agency.

B. Prescription Drug Collection

Mr. Johnson reported that at the Health Board meeting, it was discussed that many people do not properly dispose of old prescription drugs. Many times they are thrown away or flushed down the drain. To address this, some area Sheriff Departments have started a drug collection day where people can drop off old prescription drugs, to be disposed of properly. Mr. Nowicki will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson set the next meeting for Tuesday August 18, 2009 at 10:30 am in Room 100.

Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.