



Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Friday, February 24, 2012 – 10:00 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 10:00 AM

Members Present: Doug Johnson, Rich Sumerix, Paul Liss, Erma Backenstose, Mike Thompson, Judge Patricia Morse, Vicki Courterier, John Burt, Missy FitzGerald.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Liss, seconded by Mr. Sumerix, to approve the June 2, 2011 Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Sheriff Patrol Vehicle Laptops

Burt reported that he, Commissioner Sumerix, and Mike Thompson met with Empiric Solutions to find out more about placing laptops in patrol vehicles to be used to enter their information remotely and pull up LEIN information. There are many options for this with the most likely either including simply using an air card on the lower end to use cell towers which can result in dropped coverage versus trying to work out a way to tap into CCE's (Cheboygan, Charlevoix and Emmet Counties) system. More information will be reported as they progress in the project. Judge Morse and Courterier informed the Committee that JMS, the Court's case management system, is being updated to enable officers to electronically submit tickets. They would like to see that ability incorporated with the Sheriff's laptops.

B. Animal Control Ordinance Discussion

FitzGerald discussed the idea of updating the ordinance as it relates to the number of cats and dogs allowed in a household. The City has an ordinance restricting residents from having more than 2 dogs and 3 cats. Animal Control has found that they are finding many people who have a lot of animals, but can't qualify for a kennel license. She would like to set a yet to be determined limit on dogs and cats. If you had more than the allowed number of cats and dogs you would have to get a special permit which would allow Animal Control to check the safety of the home for the animals. She will come back with more information in the future and potentially present the information at a Township Officers Association meeting to gather local municipal input into the idea.

C. Department Updates

DHS Grief Counseling – Backenstose informed the group that a DHS employee recently died in a house fire. In the past DHS had a grief counselor come in to speak with the employees. New rules require employees to travel to Lansing for counseling. Backenstose wondered whether the Courts had someone they use for that type of counseling. Judge Morse responded that they haven't needed it yet, but could probably call on one of the local counselors that they work with.

Sheriff's Department 4-wheel drive vehicle – Burt updated the group on the County receiving a USDA grant of \$5,500 to use towards the purchase of a new 4-wheel drive vehicle for the Sheriff's office.

Grant/Study Information – Judge Morse reported that she has had difficulty locating relevant quantitative information to use for grant applications. She knows of several local studies/surveys being done, but has had trouble accessing the information and wondered whether different agencies are working with one another on these studies. The Committee discussed the possibility of using the Crawford County Title V Grant application and results for Otsego applications. Crawford County used Otsego County as a comparable in their grant.

Prosecuting Attorney – Judge Morse reported that Judge Allen would be announcing who would be named as the Interim County Prosecutor to fill the position soon to be vacated by Kyle Legel.

911/Emergency Management – Thompson reported that he will be participating in various emergency management exercises with various neighboring communities and hopes to put on a tabletop exercise here in Otsego County. Thompson also reported that Georgia Pacific donated a lot of good gear to the local fire department prior to letting bids to demolish their buildings.

Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:38 AM