



Justice & Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Room 212 – Otsego County Building
Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

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

Roll call – Present: Doug Johnson, Mike Hyde, Erma Backenstose, Paul Liss, John Burt Sheriff McBride, Angel Oppermann, Brian Webber, Matt Nowicki, Judge Patricia Morse, Mike Thompson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee accepted the minutes from the October 29, 2008 Justice & Public Safety Committee meeting as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Department Updates

Animal Control

Future Planning Ad Hoc Committee

The Committee discussed the formation of a planning committee to make recommendations on future uses at the various County properties. The initial impetus of this Committee was to decide the location for a new Animal Control facility. Motion by Liss, seconded by Hyde to “recommend to the full Board of Commissioners to establish a Future Planning Ad Hoc Committee with potential membership including John Burt, Angel Oppermann, Don Tober, Sheriff Jim McBride, Erma Backenstose, Doug Johnson, Rudi Edel, Jaimie Shelters, and Jack Thompson”. Motion Carried.

Horse Adoption Fee

Oppermann informed the Committee that Animal Control took in their first horse. She had to Board the horse out for the last two months. Since the horse had an injured leg, she also had to acquire veterinarian services. Oppermann explained that she is seeing many people trying to get rid of their horses right now. She recommends charging the amount of the veterinarian fees as the price of adopting the horse, which is \$115 in this case. Motion by Backenstose to “set the fee for horse adoptions at the cost of any veterinarian fees incurred due to care of the horse”. Motion Carried.

Sheriff

Sheriff McBride informed the Committee that approximately three weeks ago 9-1-1 Dispatch was called concerning a dog being shot. 9-1-1 did not send a patrol car, and Animal Control found out about the incident on Monday. Sheriff McBride explained that since shooting a dog is a Misdemeanor crime, a patrol car should have been dispatched. Mike Thompson agreed and indicated that he would follow up on this incidence.

Courts

Judge Morse updated the Committee on the new Recovery Court which works with people with substance abuse problems as well as mental health issues. She indicated that there have been some challenges getting the program working, due to differences in approach between the Courts and Community Mental Health. She further indicated that she expected any issues to be worked out shortly.

9-1-1/Emergency Management

Thompson informed the Committee that he has purchased over \$170,000 worth of 800 MHz replacement radios for EMS and first responders. There are still funds left in the region, and he believes they can purchase radios for law enforcement.

Thompson will be attending a regional meeting to discuss what to purchase with a LETPP Grant. Funds are available for law enforcement region-wide. Thompson indicated that there is a need for several small mobile command posts.

Undersheriff

The weapons transition is almost completed. The Sheriff's Office has received almost \$6,000 by selling their old weapons.

Jail Administrator

The Jail Administrator reported that the current jail population is 29, with 8 people in the work camp in-lieu-of jail. The 2008 average population was 32.8 which is below the jail's capacity of 34. The low average for 2008 is due in part to the success of the Work Camp.

The Jail Administrator requested that new signs be established for the Sheriff's Office and the Otsego County Jail. Burt indicated that he will work on purchasing the signs.

County Administrator

Burt reported that he is working with Wade-Trim to estimate a cost to improve ventilation and air conditioning at the Jail.

Next Meeting Date

The Committee will next meet on Tuesday, February 17 at 10:00 am in Room 212.

Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:40 AM.