



## Justice and Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, July 28, 2010 – 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 9:00 AM

Members Present: Doug Johnson, Paul Liss, Mike Hyde, Erma Backenstose, John Burt, Sheriff Jim McBride, Undersheriff Matt Nowicki, Brian Webber, Rachel Frisch, Vicki Courterier, Judge Morse, Mike Thompson, Missy Fitzgerald

#### MINUTES

Motion by Hyde, seconded by Liss to approve the minutes of April 28, 2010. Motion Carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### A. Friend of the Court Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Johnson updated the Committee on his conversations with Amy Neubecker, and with counties that have an FOC Citizens Advisory Committee. His recommendation was to not pursue an Advisory Committee. The Committee members voiced their concurrence with the recommendation.

##### B. Animal Control Facility

Commissioner Hyde, and Mr. Burt, updated the Committee concerning a potential location for an Animal Control Facility. Motion by Sheriff McBride, seconded by Commissioner Hyde to “proceed with the purchase of the proposed property”. Motion Carried. Once a purchase agreement is negotiated it will be brought to the Otsego County Planning Commission and the County Board of Commissioners for approval.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Medical Marijuana

Mr. Burt updated the Committee on a request to the Otsego County Planning Commission by the Board of Commissioners to review any needed ordinance language related to the new Medical Marijuana Law. The Planning Commission referred it back to the Board with a recommendation to form an ad hoc committee to investigate the issue. Motion by Sheriff McBride, seconded by Commissioner Liss to “form an ad hoc committee to review and make recommendations concerning the Medical Marijuana Law with the Committee composed of the following members: Health Department Representative, Sheriff, County Administrator, Commissioner Backenstose, Land Use Services Director, County Planning Commission Chairman, County Prosecutor, Judge Morse, and the County Attorney”. Motion Carried.

## **B. Department Updates**

Mr. Thompson informed the Committee that he performed a successful test of the Reverse 9-1-1 System on Tuesday. He also informed the Committee that he cannot call cell phones using the Reverse 9-1-1 System unless he has permission from the cell phone owner. He is working on collecting permission for cell phone owners.

Ms. Fitzgerald discussed the overcrowded conditions of the Animal Shelter due in large part to the downturn in the economy as people are forced to move and leave their pet behind.

Ms. Frisch expects to offer the Accounting Clerk position to an applicant by the end of the week.

Judge Morse discussed the Drug Court program. They are trying to quantify the positive effects that Drug Court has on drug users and their families, but it is a difficult task. Ms. Courterier mentioned that the Drug Court is funded through two grants with the largest grant scheduled to end at the conclusion of 2011.

Judge Morse also informed the Committee about a hallucinogen called Spice and K-2 that is being sold as incense at some gas stations. There is a law pending to make it illegal. Several people have become very sick from the substance.

Mr. Webber reported that the jail currently has 46 inmates. There are also 23 Drug Court participants that would be in jail without the program, as well as 11 inmates assigned to the Sheriff's Work Camp. Without the Work Camp and the Drug Court the Jail would have 80 inmates.

Undersheriff Nowicki reported that the road patrol has been very busy. He also informed the group that they have applied for a federal grant for an additional officer, and have received a grant for body armor. He also stated that the ORV and Marine patrols have been going very good.

The next meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:38 AM.