



Justice and Public Safety Committee

Friday, October 26, 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, John Burt, Erma Backenstose, Paul Liss, Bruce Brown, Sheriff McBride, Judge Morse, Brendan Curran

Others Present: Tom Pudvan, Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, Joe Messenger, Gaylord Funeral and Cremation Services, Rachel Frisch

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sheriff McBride to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2012 Justice and Public Safety Committee minutes. Second by Mr. Liss. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Medical Examiner Office/Morgue Location

Mr. Burt distributed a copy of a letter sent to the full Board by Mr. Messenger, which expressed two concerns that he would like to discuss further with the Committee, as follows:

Morgue Location – now that a second funeral home has been established in Otsego County, Mr. Messenger would like the County morgue location to be either in a neutral location or alternating between the two local funeral homes (Gaylord Funeral and Cremation Services, and Nelson's Funeral Home).

The Committee discussed the neutral location options – Otsego Memorial Hospital and the EMS building. Mr. Pudvan relayed that the Medical Examiner Dr. McNamara has concerns with the hospital option, as there is no way to move decedents in and out without going through the ER, in front of patients, families, and staff. The EMS option would require an addition to the building. EMS is looking into adding onto their current building, and Otsego County would plan to fund a room for the County morgue. Mr. Johnson stated that the County will prioritize moving into the EMS building as soon as feasible. Mr. Burt indicated that he will work with Mr. Deming on timelines and costs for the building.

Mr. Johnson stated that until the morgue is constructed at the EMS building, rotating the County morgue location between the two local funeral homes. The scheduling and further details will be worked out between the business owners and the Medical Examiner. Mr. Pudvan and Mr. Messenger agreed to this arrangement. Mr. Messenger indicated that his facility will be ready to function as a County morgue location by January 1, 2013.

County Medical Examiner Office Functions – Mr. Messenger’s second concern was to make sure that the County is governing the office as required under PA181. Mr. Curran stated that he will analyze the Public Act and report the information to Mr. Burt and Mr. Messenger.

B. County Building Access

Mr. Burt discussed the recommendation from the Safety Committee, that the County consider locking the East and West entrances of the County building, and having only the North entrance open as the main public entrance. The East and West entrances would be for employees only; employees would enter via a swipe card/scanned entry system.

The estimated cost of the system is \$3,500. Mr. Burt will apply for a RAP grant through MMRMA to cover half of the cost. Signage will have to be added also.

Motion by Sheriff McBride to recommend to the full board to pursue the costs on adding a swipe card/scanned entry system to the East and West entrances of the County building. Second by Ms. Backenstose. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Department Updates

Prosecutor – Mr. Curran reported that he recently went to a training that included a video on how employees should behave during a workplace shooting incident. The video is on you-tube and may be worth watching at a management team meeting. He also reported that he is working on zoning enforcement with Mr. Ferrigan, Land Use Services Director, and the court system.

Commissioner – Ms. Backenstose stated that she remembers discussing the EMS building at a Budget and Finance Committee meeting, and she discussed the option of a 1-year millage in 2014.

Courts – Judge Morse reported that the circuit court judge position is still vacant but is expected to be filled by the end of the year.

Administration – Mr. Burt reported that, as required, the County’s 6-year capital improvement plan was approved by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission discussed the need to make a new jail facility a priority, and included that in their review comments. Mr. Burt distributed the review comments to the Committee.

Sheriff – Sheriff McBride reported that it has been an enjoyable 19 years, and this will be his last Committee meeting before retiring.

Finance – Ms. Frisch reported that the 2013 budget process is underway.

Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 11:13 AM.