



Justice and Public Safety Committee

Friday, October 7, 2011 – 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, Sheriff McBride, Judge Morse, Mike Thompson, Melissa FitzGerald, Brian Webber

Others Present: Rachel Frisch

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sheriff McBride to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2011 Justice and Public Safety Committee minutes. Second by Judge Morse. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Hemp Support Request

Mr. Burt distributed information that had been provided to him by Diane Rekowski from NEMCOG. The Committee directed Mr. Burt to investigate other sources of information from other agencies such as MSU Extension, the Health Department, etc. The issue stands tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Department Updates

Sheriff – asked the Committee's input on potentially moving deputies into the old City PD space, which is currently vacant.

Administration – Mr. Burt asked the Committee's input as to whether it was ok to proceed with discussions to turn the old DNR property into a park or if the Committee would still like to consider this as a future jail location? The Committee indicated that it would not pursue the old DNR property as a future jail location, and it would be fine to proceed with plans for a park.

Jail Administrator – Mr. Webber stated that the jail is overcrowded today. Many felons in the jail at this time. He is working with the drug court and the work camp to reduce the number of jail inmates as much as possible.

Courts – Judge Morse indicated that the drug court was awarded a \$90,000 grant from the state. They have applied for a federal grant also, but that is a long shot.

Commissioner – Ms. Backenstose stated that she feels the Committee needs to continue to push for a new jail. She suggested looking into the option of buying property along First Street.

Animal Control – Ms. FitzGerald reported that the new animal shelter is coming along well. The original date of completion, estimated for February 2012, has been moved up to December 23, 2011.

Finance – Ms. Frisch reported that the first draft of the 2012 budget is finished and being distributed to the Budget and Finance Committee this afternoon.

911/Emergency Management – Mr. Thompson reported that 911 receives roughly 25,000 – 26,000 calls annually, and that the Homeland Security grant is being cut significantly and the counties are meeting to discuss the impact.

Mr. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.