



Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee

Friday, August 24, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.
Room 100– Otsego County Building
225 West Main Gaylord, MI 49735

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Liss called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Members Present: John Burt, Paul Liss, Rich Sumerix, Undersheriff Nowicki, Brian Webber, Judge Morse, Vicki Courterier, Melissa FitzGerald, Brendan Curran

Others Present: Rachel Frisch

Absent (Excused): Doug Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Sumerix to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2012 Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Department Updates

Animal Control – Ms. FitzGerald reported that there continues to be an issue with people dropping off animals in the middle of the night. Cameras have been installed on the outside of the shelter, and the staff has been able to identify some of the individuals so the issue can be addressed with them. There is no charge for dropping off animals to the shelter. Ms. FitzGerald is working on signage to hang on the fences that indicate that animals are to be dropped off during business hours only.

Ms. FitzGerald has also had instances occasionally where individuals from other counties have tried to drop off a dog. We do not take animals from other counties. They need to take them to their own county's animal shelter.

The Animal Shelter is receiving an award in September for their commitment to being a no-kill shelter.

Ms. FitzGerald reported that the dog park project is still progressing. The Fair Board has agreed to let the Shelter use a portion of the parking lot for the dog park. She needs to meet with the Fair Board to work out more details, but she is hopeful to open the park in the spring of 2013. She is also looking into funding options. The Animal Control staff will mow and maintain the park.

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

Courts – Judge Morse informed the Committee that the deadline for submitting applications for the circuit judge position was on Wednesday. A new judge is expected to be selected by October.

She also reported that the judges have received a letter from the ACLU which states that a lawyer needs to be present during arraignment or else it is a violation of that person's rights. ACLU members are visiting courtrooms downstate to voice their concerns. She will keep the Committee informed if this issue goes further.

Courts – Ms. Courterier reported that Judge Allen is back to work after taking some time off.

Undersheriff – Mr. Nowicki reported that the road patrol has been very busy. We are 680 complaints above last year at this time. He attributes much of the increase to the reduced number of state police in our area. The marine patrol has reported one drowning in Otsego Lake this summer.

Mr. Nowicki notified the Committee that a man was arrested for selling methamphetamines in Otsego County. He also smuggled the drugs into the jail. The event prompted an in-depth search for drugs in the jail.

Administration – Mr. Burt reported that he is waiting to receive the specs for laptops for the patrol cars from Motorola.

He also reported meeting with Mr. Pudvan of the Medical Examiner's office, regarding the location of the county morgue. A second funeral home has recently opened in Otsego County. The owner is working with the Medical Examiner's Office to find a fair way to handle the M.E. location for holding the deceased.

Mr. Burt indicated that his biggest goal with respect to the 2013 budget is to add one more patrol officer position, depending on how the figures are looking.

Jail – Captain Webber reported that the jail continues to be overcrowded, with inmates totaling in the high 30s to low 40s. He stated that it is still important to move people into the work camp when possible.

Prosecutor – Mr. Curran stated that he has made outreach efforts to both the Animal Control and Building Department and is keeping in touch with the various law enforcement agencies. His staff has attended training recently. He arranged for Lt. Mills from SANE to do a presentation to educate various agencies on the drugs in our area.

Mr. Liss adjourned the meeting at 10:37 AM.