

JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 12, 2011
Administrative Center – Room 3220
2:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Burke, Joe Bilskemper, Ray Ebert, Bridget Flood, Maureen Freedland, Tammy Gamroth

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Karin Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Gary Ingvalson, Margaret Norden, Mike Horstman, Steve Helgeson, Bryan Jostad, Tom Skemp, Bev Heebesch

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vicki Burke called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2011

MOTION by Freedland/Bilskemper to approve the Committee Minutes of June 2, 2011.

Motion carried unanimously. Johnson excused.

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bilskemper/Freedland to receive and file the following consent agenda items:

- a. Criminal Justice Executive Committee Minutes of May 11, 2011

Motion carried unanimously. Johnson excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORTS

None reported.

REPORT ON JAIL CHAPLAINS PROGRAM

Chaplain Tom Skemp reported on the Jail Chaplains program. He reported that is board certified as a chaplain, which is a national certification. He outlined the chaplaincy duties, including the following:

- He supervises inmate time in the library every week. He reported getting the most inmate referrals to other inmates during this time;
- He provides supplies to indigent inmates, such as writing paper, playing cards, puzzles, and pencils;
- He conducts individual sessions concerning both spiritual and secular issues. Secular issues usually deal with drug and alcohol dependency;
- He handles any death notifications;
- He handles referrals from family, staff and pastors;
- He is a liaison with families, local pastors, and Alcoholics Anonymous sponsors;
- He conducts worship services and Bible studies, and coordinates 120 volunteers;
- He takes care of other miscellaneous responsibilities, such as providing tax forms, picking up paychecks, arranging for bail money to be wired to post bond, coordinating housing and transportation when an inmate is released.
- He works with local Muslim, Jewish, and pagan ministries.

He reported that a sister from the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration works with the female inmates. He summarized his job as anything to promote the health of inmates and orderly operation of the jail.

APPROVE JAG GRANT

Captain Mike Horstman reported that the Justice Assistance Grant is for equipment, and is shared with the City of La Crosse Police Department. The Sheriff's Department's half of the \$25,280.00 total will be allocated as follows:

Mobile Computer Docking Stations	\$8,721.00
ERT/Swat Tactical Vests	\$4,560.00
Portable Radio Battery	\$130.00
Portable Radio Antenna	\$16.50
Mobile Computer Count	\$210.00

MOTION by Ebert/Flood to approve the JAG grant. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson excused.

APPROVE SECURUS INMATE PHONE CONTRACT

Bryan Jostad reported on the Securus Technologies inmate phone services, which contracts with 40 Wisconsin counties. It has the ability to block specific phone numbers, block 95% of three-way phone calls, provide real time access to inmate conversations, and to store and archive inmate conversations. Securus provides quarterly technological upgrades via the internet at no cost, and will provide a \$50,000 signing bonus. The County can purchase calling cards at \$6, which can then be sold to inmates for \$10 for 15 minutes of call time. The minutes are refundable or transferable to other systems if the inmate is released before using all the time. Sheriff Helgeson explained the profit from the sale of calling cards goes to jail programming. If the sale price is reduced, the decreased revenue would need to be made up either by increasing tax levy or decreasing jail programs. Gary Ingvalson explained that the 15-minute call time can be analyzed further at budget time. The evaluation team recommended extending the Securus contract for three years beginning on August 1, 2011.

MOTION by Ebert/Freedland to keep the time limit at 18 minutes on the calling card, rather than reduce to 15 minutes. **Motion failed 0-6.** Johnson excused.

MOTION by Bilskemper/Gamroth to approve extending the Securus inmate phone contract for three years, beginning August 1, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson excused.

APPROVE ORDINANCE TO CREATE S.1.557(5) ENTITLED "CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

The Ordinance was requested by Chair Burke to codify the Criminal Justice Management Council Executive Committee. The proposed ordinance outlines the membership of the committee, and their duties and powers. Burke stated it reflects the current membership with the exception of adding a County Board Chair designee if the Board Chair does not attend. Discussion was held regarding the membership and whether it should add the chair of the Judiciary and Law Committee as an 11th member. Burke also explained that the purpose of the Criminal Justice Executive Committee is to be a work group.

MOTION by Ebert/Bilskemper to amend the Ordinance to delete "County Board Chair or his/her designee" and replace with "Chair of the Judiciary and Law Committee." **Motion carried 5-1.** Freedland opposed; Johnson excused.

MOTION by Freedland to amend the Ordinance to add back the County Board Chair without a designee and to add the Chair of the Judiciary and Law Committee as an 11th member failed for lack of a second.

MOTION by Bilskemper/Flood to approve the Ordinance to Create S.1.557(5) Entitled "Criminal Justice Management Council Executive Committee" of the General Code of La Crosse County, Wisconsin, as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson excused.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None suggested.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: AUGUST 9, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bilskemper/Flood to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Approved, August 18, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder