

JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 11, 2011
Administrative Center – Room 3220
2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Burke, Joe Bilskemper, Ray Ebert, Tammy Gamroth, Maureen Freedland, Karin Johnson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Bridget Flood

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Steve Helgeson, Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Jay Loeffler, Bev Heebisch, Jan Contreras, Mary Powell, Jeff Wolf, Michael Horstman, Mary Geske

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vicki Burke called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

MOTION by Freedland/Gamroth to approve the Committee Minutes of September 6, 2011.

Motion carried unanimously. Flood excused.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bilskemper/Freedland to receive and file the following consent agenda item: Criminal Justice Management Executive Committee Minutes of July 13, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Flood excused. Supervisor Freedland asked for clarification regarding meeting notices of the Criminal Justice Work Group (f/k/a Criminal Justice Management Executive Committee) and whether members of the public could attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

Chair Burke noted that supervisors who attended the WCA conference reported on that to the County Board. She also attended an AMOS event at Viterbo at which Sheriff Helgeson spoke.

ORDINANCE #99, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND S. 13.03 OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN ENTITLED "REGULATIONS AND LICENSING OF LARGE ASSEMBLIES"

The Ordinance applies to unincorporated areas or those towns that have not adopted a similar regulation or have no police department. Mike Horstman explained that the changes are to remove requirements for which there is no longer a need to mandate, such as a requirement for fencing around the assembly area, and to have three pay phones on the grounds. It changes the requirements for three ambulances on site to one ambulance. It establishes a requirement for licensed bartenders at each station when there are multiple sites for alcohol service. Horstman explained that the threshold for a large assembly is 1,000 people at a for-profit event; political gatherings would therefore be exempt.

MOTION by Bilskemper/Johnson to approve Ordinance #99, An Ordinance to Amend S. 13.03 of Chapter 13 of the General Code of La Crosse County, Wisconsin Entitled "Regulations and Licensing of Large Assemblies". **Motion carried unanimously.** Flood excused.

APPROVE STAFFING AGREEMENT WITH LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD AND COUNTY JAIL

Steve Helgeson provided copies of the staffing agreement. He reported that the State Department of Corrections requires such an agreement. The document itemizes the jail

staff and accommodations, e.g. 44 single cells, 16 double cells, three holding cells. The agreement states that there will be a minimum of 10 jailers on first and second shifts, and nine jailers on third shift. **MOTION** by Bilskemper/Gamroth to approve the staffing agreement with La Crosse County Board and County Jail. No vote was taken on the motion. Steve O'Malley pointed out that the agreement might require a resolution to go through the Judiciary and Law Committee and to the County Board. Helgeson will follow up with Corporation Counsel. **MOTION** by Ebert/Bilskemper to refer 30 days to put the agreement in resolution format. **Motion carried unanimously.** Flood excused.

APPROVE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

Jeff Wolf reported that the Homeland Security Office of Justice Assistance has awarded \$31,496 to support the Law Enforcement Specialty Team Equipment initiative. As determined by the OJA statewide committee, the equipment to be purchased is a thermal energy camera, a remote control camera system, a throw phone delivery system, and six radio headsets. These items will be kept in the Bear Cat, and will be available for use by tactical teams in the six-county regional area. **MOTION** by Freedland/Bilskemper to approve the Homeland Security Grant. **Motion carried unanimously.** Flood excused.

APPROVE TRANSFER OF RADIO TOWER LEASE

Jay Loeffler provided a letter from Joe Ready, conferring assignment of the lease with La Crosse County to KTD Facilities, LLC, owned by Tom Ready. Jay Loeffler reported that there are six tower sites altogether, two of which are leased. The lease transfer applies to one of those tower sites. There will be no change in cost. **MOTION** by Bilskemper/Johnson to approve the transfer of the radio tower lease. **Motion carried unanimously.** Flood excused.

2012 BUDGET REVIEW FOR DEPARTMENTS REPORTING TO JUDICIARY & LAW COMMITTEE

Steve O'Malley reported on department budgets as follows:

- Consolidated Courts: This is primarily funded by levy. There was a decrease in state aids. There was a legal cost decrease with the shift in public defender eligibility standards. Discussion was held regarding costs associated with ordinance offenses vs. state crimes.
- Family Court Commissioner: As with all other budgets, there were savings with the Wisconsin Retirement System shift to employee payments. The office is funded by tax levy. There is a charge back to Child Support under federal legal standards.
- Mediation and Family Court Services: The only significant change was in WRS and the 2% raise.
- Victim/Witness: There was a decrease in state aid which exceeds the savings from WRS. There will be an increase in levy.
- District Attorney: There was no change in state aid. Health insurance increased with an employee change from single to family coverage. There was a decrease in the training budget.
- Medical Examiner: Revenues were increased with higher fees for death certificates and cremation permits. The new morgue fee was also included. They are hoping to see savings in autopsy costs. The capital expense of morgue remodeling is coming in at half of what was approved. Discussion was held regarding indigent burial costs, which the County funds only for cremation.
- Emergency Services: The biggest item is capital expense for upgrading the communication system. It is a one-time expense using the fund balance. There will be significant savings in WRS with the elimination of a fulltime position.
- Emergency Management: The main savings was in WRS contribution. There was otherwise not much change.
- HAZMAT: This is a state mandate with state-provided revenues.

- Sheriff Department (law enforcement, patrol, investigations): The budget holds the line. Gas and oil expenses are running higher. The department will operate with one less car. O'Malley reported he will go to the bargaining table with a request that deputies, who were excluded from the state union rights law, contribute the same amount to retirement as other employees. There is a .5 reduction in a patrol deputy position, which will be revisited in 2012.
- Sheriff Department (jail): There was a decrease in revenue from concessions and commissions, but an increase in calling card revenue. The largest item relates to savings from WRS contributions. Discussion was held regarding revenue from townships for inmates who are held on municipal warrants. Further discussion was held regarding the accommodations in the women's jail.

O'Malley reminded the committee of a full budget review at a special Executive Committee meeting on Monday, October 24, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. The public hearing on the budget will be November 14, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. Budget deliberations for final approval will be November 15, 2011, at 9:00 a.m.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None requested.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: NOVEMBER 8, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bilskemper/Johnson to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Approved, November 8, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder