

## **JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, January 10, 2012  
Administrative Center – Room 3220  
2:30 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Ray Ebert, Karin Johnson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Steve Helgeson, Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Jay Loeffler, Bev Heebisch, Keith Butler, John Steers, Sharon Hampson, Doris Daggett, Jan Contreras, Mike Kiefer, Pam Radtke, Scott Horne

### **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2011**

**MOTION** by Flood/Freedland to approve the Committee Minutes of December 6, 2011.

**Motion carried unanimously.** Ebert, Johnson excused.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Flood/Bilskemper to receive and file the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. Criminal Justice Commission meeting minutes of October 19, 2011, and November 16, 2011
- b. Downsizing Committee minutes of December 13, 2011

**Motion carried unanimously.** Ebert, Johnson excused.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested.

### **CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT**

None reported.

### **APPROVE FEMA/WEM HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT**

Keith Butler explained that the FEMA/WEM Mitigation Grant is awarded for disaster planning and is pass-through funding. All expenses are in-kind; the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission does the actual update. **MOTION** by Bilskemper/Gamroth to approve the FEMA/WEM Mitigation Grant. **Motion carried unanimously.** Ebert, Johnson excused.

### **APPROVE PAYMENT AMOUNT TO COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, INC.**

Jay Loeffler presented the invoice for La Crosse County 9-1-1 Dispatch radio service from Communications Service, Inc., totaling \$73,578.37. He reported there has been no increase in the amount since 2008. CSI has provided service on both hardware and software since 2006. **MOTION** by Bilskemper/Flood to approve payment of Communications Service, Inc., for \$73,578.57. **Motion carried unanimously.** Ebert, Johnson excused.

### **RESOLUTION RE: DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER COMPENSATION**

The Resolution states that deputy medical examiners are needed to assist with duties. It calls for the current on-call pay of \$1.50 per hour to be increased to \$2.00 per hour. Steve O'Malley recommended approval and stated that the Medical Examiner's office maximizes the revenue they generate. He stated that the on-call coverage is necessary to provide full service. John Steers reported that there has been no pay increase since 1994. The four deputies rotate coverage so each is on-call one weekend per month. **MOTION** by

Bilskemper/Freedland to approve the Resolution Re: Deputy Medical Examiner Compensation. **Motion carried unanimously.** Ebert, Johnson excused.

### **REPORT ON 2011 JAIL INSPECTION**

Doris Daggett provided the Wisconsin Department of Corrections report on its 2011 jail inspection. The new jail inspector reviewed the following areas: Inmate Classification and Housing; Health Care; High Risk Supervision; Records and Reporting; Maintenance of Jail, Sanitation, and Care of Prisoners; Inmate Services, and Food Service. Daggett addressed the inspector's recommendations and took questions from the committee. She stated that recommendations were all related to forms and documentation. Any suggestions for the health care provider will be discussed at their next meeting with jail staff. Chair Burke noted that the inspector was highly complimentary of the facility and staff, and called the jail a model for the state and nation.

### **DISCUSSION OF COURTROOM VIDEO CONFERENCING**

Supervisor Ebert requested a discussion on videoconferencing in the courtroom, but was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Burke noted that it was an initial discussion, and asked Judge Horne to comment. Horne explained that there were certain situations where it would be advantageous and provide cost savings to have remote court appearances, such as State crime lab testimony and post-conviction motions where an inmate is in prison. Steve O'Malley recommended having the IT Department do an inventory of County technology and equipment that is already available and to make recommendations for any purchases. Discussion was held about grant possibilities and other funding.

### **UPDATE ON TRANSITION FROM JAIL TO COMMUNITY GRANT**

Doris Daggett and Mike Kiefer presented a summary of the recent conference regarding the Transition from Jail to Community project. This has been a two and a half year initiative with site visits from the Urban Institute and National Institute on Corrections. The goals of the core committee were to increase collaboration and communication with community partners, enhance the process for risk/needs assessment and individualized case plans, reduce recidivism, improve data collection, and enhance information sharing. They reported on accomplishments, including increased evidence based practices, such as the "Thinking for a Change", SMART Recovery, and Active Parenting programs; workforce development, housing, transportation, and ID programs; case conferencing; regular meetings with community partners and greater awareness of partner programming; and improved data collection. They cited future steps as follows: Implement a shared data warehouse with assistance from the IT Department; enhance data systems for better case management; implement the COMPAS program; and sustain the initiative. Supervisor Freedland asked to compare outcomes from other grant-recipient communities, and Chair Burke directed any questions to the Urban Institute website.

### **DISCUSS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, MEMBERSHIP, AND MEETING TIMES FOR INPUT TO DOWNSIZING COMMITTEE**

Chair Burke explained that the Downsizing Committee has met to review committee membership size, structure, numbers of committees, and other issues, in anticipation of the County Board reducing its membership from 35 to 29 members after the April, 2012, elections. She reviewed their recommendations regarding committee size and meeting time. Consensus of the committee was that it was agreeable to reduce Judiciary and Law Committee size to five members, and that their meeting time could be adjusted according to the needs of the committee since they did not seem to generate a great deal of public interest and had had no complaints from the public about inconvenient meeting times.

### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Jail health care provider report

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: FEBRUARY 7, 2012**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Bilskemper/Gamroth to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

**Approved,** February 7, 2012, Margaret Norden, Recorder