

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Law Enforcement & Courts
CHAIRPERSON: Bill Bingham, Chairman
DATE/TIME: April 19, 2021 @ 4:38 p.m.
LOCATION: Jo Daviess County – 3rd floor County Board Room

PRESENT – Law Enforcement & Courts:

☒ Bill Bingham	☐ Vacant	☒ LaDon Trost
☒ Darcy Wild	☒ John Korth	☐ Vacant
☒ Don Zillig		

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: Diane Gallagher and Don Hill

Others: Bill Groh, Chuck Pedersen, Kathy Phillips, Jennifer Radloff, Dan Reimer, Scott Toot, Kevin Turner and Jamie Watson

1. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes from March 22, 2021 Joint Law Enforcement & Courts Committee and Ad-Hoc Menominee-Dunleith Fire Protection District Communication Tower Committee meeting – Don Zillig made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2021 Joint Law Enforcement & Courts Committee and Ad-Hoc Menominee-Dunleith Fire Protection District Communication Tower Committee meeting. Seconded by Darcy Wild and motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.
- b) Minutes from March 22, 2021 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting – Don Zillig made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2021 Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting. Seconded by Darcy Wild and motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY2019/FY2020 Strategic Goals & Plans – Review Committee Assignments from 2019 County Board Retreat – Update Status/Progress – The Committee strategic goals and plans were included in the meeting packet. The committee had reviewed and updated their assignments from the 2019 County Board Retreat at their February meeting. We will be having the next County Board Retreat coming up in the next couple of months. Chairman Bingham briefly reviewed the status of their committee assignments.
- b) Progress report - Jo Daviess County All Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Chuck Pedersen reported that the update of the Jo Daviess County All Hazard Mitigation Plan has been completed, approved and been signed off on. We will update the plan again in five years.
- c) Update on the MDFPD Communication Tower Project – Sheriff Turner gave an update on the MDFPD Communication Tower Project. They worked with ComElec to complete the site application. AT&T wanted to know where we are going to put the tower and all of the equipment that will be placed on it. We will go ahead and get the application submitted to AT&T tomorrow. The project is still moving forward. Instead of putting up a tower just for Menominee-Dunleith Fire Protection District, AT&T put up a new tower on Route 5 just west of Menominee. According to ComElec that tower will be high enough that we wouldn't have to put up our own tower. It will save the cost of putting up a new tower. Bill Bingham added that the committee report is available if anyone would like to read it.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action on professional services agreement with ShiveHattery regarding Courthouse Exterior Repairs– Sheriff Turner reported that he and Dan Reimer reached out to ShiveHattery to get the project going. The work that we were going to do last year on the courthouse was delayed and we didn't want the project to get too far behind. Bill Groh and Jennifer Radloff, from ShiveHattery, called in via Zoom to the meeting. The committee reviewed the proposal that they put together. Sheriff Turner recommends that we get approval on this. This contract will need to go to the State's Attorney for review and we will have it ready for the County Board meeting on May 11th. **Don Zillig made a motion to approve a professional services agreement with ShiveHattery regarding Courthouse Exterior Repairs at a total cost of \$30,500.00. Seconded by LaDon Trost and motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**
- b) Discussion and possible action regarding week day (Monday – Friday) inmate food service - Sheriff Turner reported that our jail cook retired. He asked the committee and the board about moving some funds from the wages to pay for inmate food. We had two bids for inmate food for the year. One was Monday – Friday only and the other one was open. What Sheriff is looking to do since we do not have a jail cook is look to see if we could open up the bid for the Monday – Friday and then keep the one that we have for Saturday, Sunday and any other time that we would need inmate food. Sheriff asked to honor the bid with the Workshop for Monday – Friday inmate meals. **John Korth made a motion to award a bid to the Workshop for inmate food service for weekday (Monday – Friday) at \$5.00 per meal. Seconded by Don Zillig and motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**

5. Staff Reports

- a) **Sheriff's Report** - Sheriff Turner reported that we are still having issues with the Department of Corrections taking our inmates that have been sentenced there. We have four that are currently sentenced that are accruing some medical bills and hopefully the state will reimburse. They did come out to the Sheriff's Avocation and state they would be willing to pay up to \$35 a day for housing inmates. The agreement that other Sheriffs have throughout the state is \$55 a day. We are still negotiating with the Department of Corrections on this. It does not sound like they will reimburse the medical expenses. We have been pretty busy. We have had a couple of investigations. One was for a murder in Hanover that we assisted with and the other was a person that we had in custody that took a plea deal for 17 years for a murder in East Dubuque.
- b) **Circuit Clerk's Office** – Kathy Phillips, Clerk of the Circuit Court, reported that on Friday we should know if we are going to have our first jury trial in May. Right now we have pre-trial scheduled. We have seven cases right now for the status of that to determine if they are going to go forward. One did plea out on second degree murder and there are two cases still pending for murder but they are not set for trial yet. We are going to start in person for criminal cases on May 3rd. All civil cases will still be heard by Zoom.
- c) **Probation** – Jamie Watson, Chief County Probation Officer, reported that we are finally going to be back to full-time hours with everyone in the office. Everyone is vaccinated and the two week period is going to be up. We are going to begin that in line with the court system going back to in person hearings on May 3rd. We are also going to be doing home visits again which haven't been done in about a year. There are some precautions that we will take in to consideration with that.

d) Public Defender – None.

- 6. Citizens' Comments** – Chuck Pedersen reported on the call center. On February 22nd we opened a call center at the emergency operations center manned by volunteers who helped people who had trouble making a COVID vaccine appointment. On April 16th we shut the call center down. During that time Pedersen had 23 volunteers who logged 755 hours and handled almost 1,100 calls. They were a very big benefit and a lot of people commented how impressed they were with the volunteers and how helpful they were to people getting their appointment for vaccines. Bingham commented that we were all aware of that and are very proud of what everyone did there. It was a really good thing. Pedersen also reported that the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that he put together and submitted to Springfield has been approved. Scott Toot commented that he will officially be retired from law enforcement on April 30th. Toot thanked the Sheriff and Sheriff's office for always supporting and helping him over the years.
- 7. Board Member Concerns** – Don Zillig thanked Chuck Pedersen for getting approval on the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Zillig asked if we skipped over the Public Defender reports. He expressed his frustration with not getting these reports each month. LaDon Trost commended the Sheriff's Department for the excellent job they did on the murder investigation in Hanover. Sheriff Turner followed up that he is very lucky to have such a good team.

The next Law Enforcement & Courts Committee meeting will be Monday, May 17, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. at the Jo Daviess County Courthouse, County Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m. following a motion by John Korth and a second by Don Zillig. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes.