

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee

December 10, 2021

3rd Floor County Board Room

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Lester Lewis.

Members Present: Lester Lewis, Myron Brooks, Scott Mildbrand, Ray Soper, Catherine Lemke, and Jim Metz.

Members Absent: None.

Other Attendees: Larry Woebeking, Corey Dassow, Christina Schuld, Larry Brandl (Finance), John Deal (Ambulance), Jason Keffeler (Aspirus Medivac), Colleen Handrick (E.M.), and Brian Wilson (Star News).

Approve Minutes: Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2021 meeting; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Mildbrand moved to approve the agenda of 10 items; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Day: Call of the Chairman; tentatively set for January 14, 2022.

Review and Approve October and November Invoices: The purchase of scopes for the squad rifles was asked regarding the value compared to the price. Corey Dassow stated law enforcement received a discount for each unit. The quality of the scopes is very good. Lemke moved to approve the October and November invoices as presented; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried.

Ambulance Business: Jason Keffeler, Assistant Director for the Medivac, and John Deal, EMS Manager for Ambulance presented the Operational Plan for Taylor County and discussed staffing concerns.

a) Deal stated most of the EMS staff are volunteers and there are challenges in keeping these volunteers. Due to different reasons, the staff has dropped from 60 to 44 throughout the county. Deal stated with the current staff filling extra hours, the payroll expenses have been about the same as when fully staffed. The monetary incentive to pick up shifts has helped. Deal stated sometime in the future, he will be asking to hire 3.8 career positions to help offset the extra on-call hours with current staff. Deal stated through November 2021, EMS responded to 1221 calls for service with 867 transports; Medford had 945 calls, Gilman had 210 calls and Rib Lake had 248 calls. Currently, the county's coverage for ambulance services meets the 90% industry standard. Discussion was held regarding the reasons for the staff shortage and retention, particularly if COVID played a part. Deal stated out of the 16 that left, only four (4) were due to COVID mandates. Other reasons were "aging out", moving out of the area, and being on the roster but not working any hours. Deal also stated the health care profession itself is dealing with a shortage of people entering the field. Keffeler stated the vaccine mandates are not just a local hospital requirement. These mandates are also from the Federal level for funding purposes and OSHA. Discussion was held regarding the potential of hiring fulltime career EMS staff and the willingness of volunteers to stay. Keffeler stated it is harder to fill the

daytime hours due to employers not allowing EMS volunteers to leave work and those are hours the career employees would be filling.

b) Deal stated the 2009 ambulance unit needs to be replaced. It is past its life expectancy, which is about 14 years. Deal stated a new ambulance is approx. \$255,000 with an estimated delivery date of 12 months. LifeLine has been the company used in the past for purchasing the units. The new unit would have a truck chassis versus the van style. The truck option also has 4-wheel drive. The unit itself is the about the same size overall. A question about leasing a unit was asked and will be looked into by Deal. The purchase of a new unit does not affect the current county levy. Mildbrand moved to allow Deal to put bids out for a new ambulance unit; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. The bids will be reviewed at the next LEES meeting.

Medical Examiner: A report was emailed from Scott Perrin and handed out for review. A request for clarification on COVID-19 related deaths, mainly cause or contributing factor, was made. Also requested was the total number of COVID deaths for 2021. Schuld will contact Perrin for this information.

Emergency Management Services:

a) EMPG-S Grant was completed but Handrick was notified by WI Emergency Management some of the items submitted would not be reimbursed. Some of the items were wood, plexiglass and a webcam.

1) PPE distribution continues and more requests are being received from County Depts. for guest availability.

2) Handrick is waiting for a response from State of WI regarding coordination with the Nation Guard to continue with the vaccine/testing clinics.

3) Handrick will hold an emergency preparedness program, Prepare with Pedro, at Holy Rosary on Dec. 16. This is in conjunction with the American Red Cross.

4) Gilman will hold an emergency drill next week. It has been two (2) years since the last one. Soper asked how the school is preparing the students with special needs for the drill. Handrick stated the school is working those students and their teachers to help minimize any traumatic effects.

5) The next Blood Drive will be Friday, January 14, 2022 from 10am-3pm at the Community Center.

6) Lewis stated a report came out on Tuesday that there is some movement in the wording for a state Declaration of Emergency. Currently, the wording is evaluation of an emergency is immediate (upon/during the emergency). There is concern for citizen safety and proper evaluation after an emergency to be considered.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business: Woebbeking stated the new jail nurse started and is in training. There are currently 35 total inmates, 16 from Marathon, and 5 from State.

Adjourn: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee
October 15, 2021
Sheriff's Office Training Room

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Lester Lewis.

Members Present: Lester Lewis, Myron Brooks, Catherine Lemke, Ray Soper, Scott Mildbrand.

Members Absent: None.

Other Attendees: Christina Schuld, Colleen Handrick (Emergency Management), Larry Woebeking, Corey Dassow, Larry Brandl (Finance) and Emily Gojmerac (Star News).

Approve Minutes: Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2021 meeting; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Mildbrand moved to approve the agenda of 10 items; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date: Call of the Chairman; tentatively set for November 12, 2021.

Review and Approve August and September Invoices: Mildbrand moved to approve the August and September invoices as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Ambulance Business: Lewis requested at the last meeting for additional information specifically related to Medicaid. Greg Shaw emailed a breakdown showing Medicaid representing only 14.7% of Ambulance revenue. The rest of the revenue breakdown is Medicare - 61.7%, Commercial - 16.1%, Other Governmental - 3.9%, Self-Pay - 2.7% and Workers Comp - 0.9%. Schuld received an email from Michael Borgen stating he handed in his resignation as the Director of ER at Aspirus Memorial Hospital. His last day is November 1, 2021. Larry Brandl stated he received an email with the new EMS Manager starting on November 1, 2021. No other business.

Medical Examiner: No report given.

Emergency Management Services: Handrick gave an update.

- Plan of work grant requirement measures were due on Sept. 30 for the EMPG, EMPG-S and EPCRA grants. Handrick is working on the financial portion of all three (3) grants with those being due October 31.
- PPE distribution has picked up again and is specifically being delivered to some local care facilities.
- The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is set for November 12 at the Community Center. The location has been a great site.
- Handrick is working to coordinate with Jeff Paddock of the WI DNR to present information on Hazardous Materials at the Taylor County Fire Association and the Taylor County Unit of Wisconsin Towns Association. Paddock must get authorization as it is outside normal work hours. The goal is to have an in-person presentation but if not feasible, then a virtual presentation will be held. Handrick is working with Michelle

Grimm to see if technology is available for a zoom meeting in the Town of Maplehurst hall.

- The Health Dept. has hired a temporary position for site management of the vaccination and testing sites. Handrick assisted this past week in reviewing the site layouts and inventory storage areas.
- Testing and Vaccination Clinics continue to be worked with the National Guard. The Health Dept. has coordinated with Clark County to offer bi-weekly testing at the Medford Fire Dept. through December 2021. The Health Dept. also contract with Accelerated Labs to offer testing each Thursday from 2-6pm at the Medford Fire Dept. and on alternating Tuesdays for additional testing availability.
- It was asked if deadlines are being met with vaccinations and Handrick stated of those who received their first dose, the next dose will be available in November and boosters to follow.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business: Woebeking gave a brief update.

- Currently we are housing 47 inmates, with 26 being from Marathon County and one (1) from Wood County.
- Woebeking stated the jail staff is still down in positions and a new retirement notice was given which makes it about three (3) total open positions.
- Lewis asked if the new 12-hour shifts are working. According to Woebeking, the staff likes the new schedule. It is a 4 day on-4 day off rotation. The scheduling itself is going fine even with staff numbers down. It has reduced overtime. It is expected to keep this current schedule even when fully staffed. It appears to be a benefit in the recruitment process also, as potential applicants don't seem to mind the longer workday and a longer stretch of days off.
- The Jail Nurse position had five (5) applicants and interviews will hopefully start next week. The wage might be an issue with a few of the applicants.
- The Committee was provided the updated job description for the Jail Nurse for review prior to the meeting. No discussion was held. Soper moved to approve the updated job description for the Jail Nurse as presented; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.
- Soper stated he was approached by Marilyn Oryn regarding calling 911 for an incident and having issues with reception, the call going to Clark County initially, and then getting put on hold when received in Taylor County. Chief Deputy Dassow clarified the situation. At the same time this 911 call was transferred from Clark County, it was sent in on our administrative line, not the 911 line, and another 911 emergency call came in for an accident. The dispatcher put the administrative line on hold to respond to the 911 call first. Dassow said if the dispatcher had known Oryn's call was an emergency also, the response would have been different. Some training will be done with dispatchers to first ask everyone on the administrative line if it is an emergency or not, and then proceed with the call appropriately. Dassow apologized for the confusion but stated again, training will be held so this type of situation doesn't happen again.

Adjournment: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee
August 27, 2021
Sheriff's Office Training Room

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Lester Lewis.

Members Present: Lester Lewis, Myron Brooks, Catherine Lemke, Ray Soper, Scott Mildbrand.

Members Absent: None.

Other Attendees: Alyssa Branowitzer, Colleen Handrick – via phone, Larry Woebeking, Corey Dassow, and Michael Borgen and Greg Shaw – Medford Aspirus Hospital.

Approve Minutes: Lemke moved to approve the minutes of the July 2021 meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Brooks moved to approve the agenda of 10 items; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date: Call of the Chairman.

Review and Approve July Invoices: Mildbrand moved to approve the July invoices as presented; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

Ambulance Business: Review and approve tentative 2022 budget. 2022 budget presented by Greg Shaw. Anticipated 60% write off in 2022 compared to 66% in 2021. Lewis questioned the reason for the change in write offs next year. Shaw stated this is an overall decrease write off and not just for the ambulance and Medicare is doubling payments. Lewis requested more information be presented about this at the next meeting. Also, there are higher ALS2 runs over ALS1 in 2022. The main reason for the 4% increase in expenses is due to salaries. Aspirus is giving bonuses to employees working critical needs shifts.

There is a subsidy decrease of \$100,000 for 2022 overall.

Lewis asked if the number of COVID patients within the last month is known. Borgen is unsure of the exact number but stated it is picking up over the last three weeks.

Soper moved to approve the ambulance budget. Brooks seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Medical Examiner: Report was provided via email and presented to committee members.

Emergency Management Services: Handrick appeared via phone.

- Handrick requested an increase in hours from 35 to 40 hours per week. Mildbrand requested it to stay as it is since she is already getting extra at this time for COVID pay and stated there will be budget problems in the future if it were to change. Brooks believed Handrick is stretched thin with helping the Health Department with COVID issues.

Soper stated a possible better approach to this would be to extend the COVID pay after it runs out January 1, 2022. Lemke requested to wait on this wage recommendation and wants to see what revenue the looks like.

- Handrick stated \$53,172 will be refunded to the County for completion of grant items and this amount will not change whether she is at a 35- or 40-hour work week.
- Lewis requested a motion for a work week hourly budget. Mildbrand motioned for the 35-hour work week budget. Soper seconded. Roll call was taken: ayes - Mildbrand, Soper, and Lemke; nos - Brooks and Lewis. Motion carried.
- Mildbrand motioned to approve the overall Emergency Management 2022 Budget. Soper seconded. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business: Woebbeking gave a brief update.

- Currently there are 19 Marathon County inmates for a total of 41 inmates. Woebbeking was uncertain if the boarders are long or short term. Woebbeking stated inmates coming from Marathon County are being tested for COVID before being accepted into our jail to minimize exposure.
- Woebbeking stated the Sheriff's Office is currently doing shooting training with state equipment.
- Woebbeking presented the Sheriff's Office budget. Lower revenue for 2022 due to the boarder population decreasing and overall population decrease. Woebbeking stated there is an increase in hiring expenses due to fulfilling vacant positions on the road and the jail.
- Woebbeking stated due to budget constraints there is a decrease in rural patrol money paid to Gilman and Rib Lake for 2022 from \$3,000 to \$2,500.
- Woebbeking stated overall there is a 0% increase for the 2022 budget.
- Mildbrand wanted to know about resolutions for employees on administrative leave. Woebbeking stated at this time there are no official updates. Lewis suggested contacting corporation counsel so they can speak with the Attorney General's office for a resolution.
- Soper requested an increase in budget from the budget outline. Lewis explained inmate boarder revenue goes to the general fund therefore it is not put into the Sheriff's Office budget and is not an increase.
- Brooks motioned to approve the 2022 budget. Lemke seconded. All ayes; motion carried.

Adjournment: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 am.

Secretary: Alyssa Branowitz, Taylor County Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee

July 9, 2021

3rd Floor County Board Room

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Lester Lewis.

Members Present: Lester Lewis, Myron Brooks, Catherine Lemke, Ray Soper, Scott Mildbrand.

Members Absent: None.

Other Attendees: Christina Schuld, Colleen Handrick – E.M., Larry Brandl – Finance, Larry Woebeking, and Brian Wilson (Star News).

Approve Minutes: Soper moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2021 meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Lemke moved to approve the agenda of 10 items; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date: Call of the Chairman; Tentatively set for August 13, 2021.

Review and Approve June Invoices: Schuld reviewed the monthly bills. Mildbrand moved to approve the June invoices as presented; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

Ambulance Business: Nothing to report at this time.

Medical Examiner: Report was provided via email. Mildbrand stated as of July 6th, Taylor County had 32 COVID-19 related deaths based on an online report.

Emergency Management Services: Handrick gave an update.

- PPE items are still being distributed to local nursing home facilities.
- LEPC meeting has been scheduled for July 15th at 9am.
- The completed application Handrick submitted has been returned for modifications. Updates are being made and the application will be resubmitted to Wisconsin Emergency Management.
- Handrick will be hosting a 3-day course on August 24, 25 & 26 regarding Debris Management Planning for State, Tribal and Local Officials. The course is designed to provide local officials with the knowledge and skills to manage debris removal and disposal in the aftermath of a tornado or flood. The course covers staff development, pre-disaster planning, local response and recovery actions, contracting procedures, selecting and operating a temporary debris storage site. Course information was shared with county/city staff and as of today no one has signed up. Handrick will follow-up with those departments to encourage participation.
- Shelter-in-Place brochures will be distributed at the Taylor County Fair to make residents better aware of what to do in case of a chemical release.
- The Clark County EM Director is resigning for a job in the private sector. His last day is July 23rd and it is hoped for a replacement by September. Currently a new part-time clerical staff person will be the only one available, but she has no prior EM experience.

Clark County has asked if Handrick would be available to assist if necessary. Due to mutual aid agreements and lack thereof with other counties, they are unable to assist. Handrick is requesting authorization to assist if needed. Discussion was held for mutual aid agreements to be drafted with the surrounding counties and disappointment was expressed this was not addressed at the State/Region levels. Mildbrand moved to allow Handrick to assist Clark County, if necessary, during the absence of a new director; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

- The Taylor County Fair Incident Action Plan is being updated for the upcoming event.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business: Woebeking gave a brief update.

- The new 911 project is completed with approx. \$36,600 left over in funds. Brandl recommended using these funds to cover the K9 replacement costs of \$15,000 and \$21,600 towards two (2) new squad replacements. The Committee agreed with covering the K9 costs. Woebeking stated he reduced the squad replacement account to meet the 2% decrease for the 2021 budget resulting in delaying replacements for a year. The estimated time for delivery is about 15-16 weeks if ordered today. Brandl stated since the funds were in a law enforcement account, they could be moved to another one without having to go to the Finance Committee. Brandl stated the squads are on a three (3) lease agreement. He stated holding off on the purchase would be playing catch up next year with needing to purchase four (4) squads instead of two (2). Discussion was held regarding saving the funds for the communication radios needing to be replaced, both squad and portable. It was stated the funds initially were taken from the general account and should go back to it. Woebeking gave a quick estimate of \$90,000 to \$100,000 for the radios. However, he stated the radio communications company is making changes and it was suggested to him to hold off a little bit before purchasing any units. The question if ARPA money could be used to purchase the radios but no specific guidelines have been set for that. Brooks moved to approve using the remaining 911 system funds of approx. \$21,600 towards the purchase of two (2) new squads; Seconded by Lemke. Vote – 3 yes (Brooks, Lemke, Lewis) and 2 no (Soper and Mildbrand). Motion carried.
- Woebeking stated the Jump River 4th of July events took a lot of resources but ended with a great deal of positive feedback from citizens.
- Currently the jail is housing 29 inmates, no outside inmates. The staff is short two (2) jailers.
- The jail nurse has submitted her resignation for Jan. 14, 2022. Woebeking stated the position will be difficult to fill, as it only half-time of 28 hours per week. Discussion was held regarding advertising and job shadowing with current nurse. Mildbrand asked about contracting instead of filling the position. Woebeking stated the cost of contracting would be more costly than filling the position. Soper moved to fill the jail nurse position as it currently is and start advertising as soon as possible; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.
- The Chamber of Commerce is going to be auctioning off "a Sheriff for a Day" as a fundraiser for Huey's Hideaway.
- Lewis inquired about the department's procedure for how long a deputy will stay on scene for a downed tree over the road, as he had a recent experience involving such a

situation. Woebeking stated there could have been a number of factors but will ask the deputies involved.

Adjournment: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff's Office

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

June 11, 2021

3rd Floor County Board Room

Call Meeting To Order: Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Lewis, Brooks, Lemke, Mildbrand, Soper.

Members Absent: none

Other Attendees: Larry Brandl-Accounting/Finance, Colleen Handrick-Emergency Services Manager, Jeff Nuernberger-Ambulance, Alyssa Branowitz, Larry Woebeking-TASO Sheriff.

Approve Minutes of the April 9, 2021 meeting: Brooks made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Soper made a motion to approve the agenda; Mildbrand seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

Review and approve April and May invoices: The monthly bills were presented and reviewed. Mildbrand moved to approve the April and May invoices as presented; Seconded by Soper. All ayes; motion carried.

Ambulance Business:

Jeff Nuernberger explained what a Binder Lift was and how it works. A Binder Lift allows EMT's to easily lift patients. The ambulance is currently using a demo Binder Lift. Looking to purchase 4 bariatric and 4 regulars so there will be one in each ambulance. This will be purchased using funds given by the state with an approximate total cost of \$6,500. The bariatric is for a circumference chest size of 58"-82" and the standard is for 34"-62."

Lewis questioned how they would be cleaned and if cleaners would deteriorate the material, it is made out of over time. Nuernberger stated hospital grade cleaners are able to be used to clean the surfaces and it will not affect the Binder Lift.

Soper questioned if any equipment would need to be taken out of the ambulance to make room for the Binder Lift and Nuernberger stated there are places to store the Binder Lift in each ambulance without removing any current equipment.

Mildbrand motioned to purchase Binder Lifts; Seconded by Lemke. All ayes; Motion carried.

Nuernberger addressed staffing issues for the ambulance crew in Medford with moving people to Gilman and Rib Lake. Lewis suggests a notification to the public of staffing issues. Full time staffing for Rib Lake and Gilman would be very costly compared to the current cost of volunteers on the ambulance crew.

Medical Examiner:

Medical Examiner Scott Perrin provided the committee with a written department status report for March – June 10, 2021.

Emergency Management:

PPE items still being distributed to reduce Handrick's final inventory. A number of items were taken to the Medford Fire Department to be placed into the Mass Casualty trailer for potential future needs.

The Mortuary Affairs group will discontinue their monthly meetings at this time, but Handrick will remain in contact with all to monitor any needs that may arise. (TC EMS, Taylor County Funeral Homes, the Medical-Examiners Office, Human Services, Health Department and Chairman Metz).

Taylor County community testing events with the National Guard ended on May 27th. Future requests can be made with the state if any outbreaks occur in the future.

All (9) of the Taylor County off-site plans have been completed.

LEPC Meeting has been set for July 15th @ 9am. Public notice will be going out in the next week or two.

Taylor County Emergency Management received notification from Wisconsin Emergency Management on 6/10/21 that FEMA has approved their Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Taylor County received \$1,721.78 for the 1st allocation of the EMPG-Supplemental grant to support local and state COVID-19 efforts. Handrick has submitted a grant application with Wisconsin Emergency Management – EMPG-S for the 2nd round of allocations which would cover expenses from 1/27/2020-9/30/2021 for items such as travel expenses incurred with PPE delivery/pickups, equipment (PPE), supplies & operating expenses not covered by other COVID-19 grants. Taylor County could potentially receive \$5,730 – expenses are reimbursed at 50%. Handrick will work with Andria to review what was not covered under the Routes To Recovery Grant and expenses incurred after that grant closed last fall.

Handrick will be hosting a 3-day course on August 24, 25 & 26th – Debris Management Planning for State, Tribal & Local Officials. The course is designed to provide local officials who may have to manage debris removal and disposal in the aftermath of a tornado or flood with the knowledge and skills to do so. The course covers staff development, pre-disaster planning, local response and recovery actions, contracting procedures, selecting and operating a temporary debris storage site. This class is required towards Handrick's WI EM certification and she also felt it was important to have so she can work with other TC Departments that would be responsible for the items if there would be an incident in Taylor County or to assist the surrounding communities. Course information will be shared with county/city staff within the next week.

Lewis also requested Handrick to speak about a recent chemical spill that occurred in Stetsonville and the response to the situation along with the disposal of the chemical.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business:

Woebeking stated he met with a prisoner transport company to compare rates and availability to the current transport company. Will be using both companies intermittently to determine which one to go with.

The Taylor County Jail is currently housing 26 inmates and one Price County Boarder. Holly Miller graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy and is going through field training.

Brittany Hoffman is next to go to the Law Enforcement Academy in August to fill the vacant deputy position.

Deputy Petersen is currently with a new K9 at training and the dog is doing well in training and is social around the public. Deputy Petersen has been asked to do a K9 demonstration at the fair this year as he has done in past years.

The 911 upgrade is up and completely operational.

The jail is struggling with staffing issues and there are currently three new jailers training. Soper asked about exit interviews for the jailers that are quitting to help figure out why people are leaving. Woebeking said exit interviews are being conducted by Human Resources and one reason given for leaving was better pay and better insurance at the new job.

Adjournment: With no further business, Lemke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Soper seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alyssa Branowitz

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee

April 9, 2021

3rd Floor County Board Room

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Lester Lewis.

Members Present: Lester Lewis, Myron Brooks, Catherine Lemke, Ray Soper, Scott Mildbrand.

Members Absent: None.

Other Attendees: Christina Schuld, Colleen Handrick – E.M., Jeff Nuernberger – Ambulance, Larry Brandl – Finance, Larry Woebeking and Corey Dassow via Zoom meetings.

Approve Minutes: Soper moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2021 meeting; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Mildbrand moved to approve the agenda of 12 items; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date: Call of the Chairman; Tentatively set for June 2021.

Review and Approve March Invoices: Schuld reviewed the monthly bills. A few clarification questions asked by Mildbrand regarding internet reimbursement and cell-phone bills. Soper moved to approve the March invoices as presented; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Ambulance Business: Nothing to report at this time.

Medical Examiner: No report was provided.

Emergency Management Services: Handrick gave an update.

- Week 54 of COVID-19.
- PPE items are still being inventoried and distributed.
- The EOC remains activated on a virtual basis.
- The Mortuary Affairs group will continue to meet monthly.
- Taylor County community testing events with the National Guard continue and the next event is scheduled for April 15, 2021 at the Medford Fire Department.
- Five (5) off-site plans have been completed and four (4) remain to be finalized.
- The County Wide Hazardous Materials Strategic Plan has been updated and signed off by LEPC Chair, Lester Lewis. County Board Chairman, Jim Metz, has signed the plan. It will now go the LEPC Committee for review.
- Taylor County E.M. participated in a state exercise on April 8. It will go towards EMPG 2021 Plan of Work grant requirements.
- The local Hazardous Tabletop Exercise will be held on April 13, 2021 from 2-4 pm. This event will count as credit towards the EPCRA Plan of Work Requirements.
- Andria Farrand, County Clerk, is waiting for confirmation regarding the amount of another grant opportunity for Taylor County, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This grant will run through December 31, 2024. Specific items have already been determined under this grant and as further information becomes available, it will be shared with the

Taylor County Board. All COVID-19 expenses continue to be run through a designated account for tracking purposes.

- Shellie Shaw, who was an LTE staff member, has accepted the position as Veterans Officer with Taylor County. Handrick is now needed to assist the Health Dept. staff at the vaccination clinics. She will also be handing the PPE inventory responsibilities.
- There were four (4) vaccination clinics held this week and one (1) scheduled for next week. Locations included are Gilman and Rib Lake School Districts, Marathon Cheese, Gilman Cheese and Taylor County jail for inmates.
- There are currently 12 active COVID-19 cases in Taylor County with 20 individuals being monitored.
- There was a suggestion for the Mortuary Committee to temporarily stop meeting due to the lower number of cases. Lewis stated the Committee meets monthly and should continue unless something changes.
- Handrick stated the US Treasury has determined each Town will receive a portion of COVID-19 grant money. The amount will be determined by population size and needs and will have until 2024 to spend the money on specific items. At this time, those items have not been identified, but COVID-19 and Broadband expenses should be included.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business:

(a): Deputy Eric Petersen gave a brief update on the K9 replacement process. Petersen stated Perces has health issues and muscle degeneration in his leg, often resulting in limping at the end of the shift. Petersen researched some kennels and bases on location, training qualifications and cost, he is suggesting Jessiffany Canine Services out of Iron Ridge, WI. An invoice for a fully trained dual purpose police service canine, detection and handler protection, health guarantee and warranty, and a five (5) week training course with JCS Certification, with housing included, was provided for a total of \$15,000.00. Petersen stated it will be the same breed of dog as Perces. Mildbrand asked if Perces will retire with Petersen and he said absolutely. Woebeking stated having Corp Counsel draft a letter of ownership transfer from the County to Petersen. Mildbrand moved to approve proceeding with the K9 replacement using the Jessiffany Canine Services in the amount of \$15,000.00 as presented; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

(b): Woebeking requested filling another Jailer/Dispatcher position. There are currently three (3) open positions. Brooks moved to approve filling the Jailer/Dispatcher position; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried.

Closed Session for the purpose of conducting interviews for Deputy Sheriff position:

Motion made by Mildbrand to go into closed session; Seconded by Lemke. Roll call taken: YES – Soper, Brooks, Lemke, Mildbrand, Lewis, NO – none. Motion carried. Committee in closed session at 9:27 am.

Open Session: Motion made by Mildbrand to go back into open session; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried. Committee in open session at 10:12am. Woebeking stated Marathon County will be pulling their inmates from the Taylor County jail due to open space available in the Marathon County jail.

Adjournment: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff Office

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee

March 12, 2021

3rd Floor County Board Room

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Catherine Lemke.

Members Present: Lester Lewis, Myron Brooks, Catherine Lemke, Ray Soper, Scott Mildbrand via Zoom meeting.

Members Absent: None.

Other Attendees: Christina Schuld, Colleen Handrick – E.M., Jeff Nuernberger – Ambulance, Greg Shaw – Aspirus Hospital, Larry Brandl – Finance, Larry Woebeking via Zoom meeting, Brian Wilson – Star News.

Approve Minutes: Soper moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Brooks moved to approve the agenda of 11 items; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date: Call of the Chairman; Tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2021.

Ambulance Business: Greg Shaw from Medford Aspirus Hospital presented the 2020 Ambulance Subsidy Request. The estimated budget for the 2020 Taylor County Subsidy was \$354,092 and the actual amount was \$444,239, an increase of \$90,147. Shaw explained the differences between the budgeted items and the actual costs were due to wages and training for additional EMS staff hired late in 2019, the number of service calls were higher than projected, and the discounts for insurance (Medicare, Medicaid, HMO and Uncollectibles) were higher (paid less due to more deductions from the bill sent to insurance companies). Shaw stated the insurance discounts was the biggest gap in the comparisons. Larry Brandl stated the County will absorb the overrun and money will come from reserves to cover the difference. Soper moved to approve the 2020 Aspirus Ambulance Subsidy Request of \$444,239, an increase of \$90,147 over budget, as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Jeff Nuernberger mentioned the third week in May is National EMS Week and he is planning on a celebration for May 10, 2021. He stated he would be donating \$300 out of his own pocket to purchase three (3) \$100 Visa gift cards, one for each EMS unit (Medford, Rib Lake and Gilman) to recruit a new member. He would also like to hold a raffle and provide a small dinner. Nuernberger stated he is not looking for any financial support, but Larry Brandl said the County budgets \$500 each year for misc. items and suggested matching Nuernberger's amount to put towards the purchase of raffle prizes. Soper moved to match Nuernberger's donation of \$300 for the celebration for National EMS Week; Seconded by Lewis. Motion carried.

Mildbrand asked Nuernberger why Taylor County was the lowest county for vaccines to be distributed. Nuernberger said the County's distribution is based on what is allocated, not requested. Currently the number of vaccinated employees at Aspirus is unknown but of all EMTs offered to receive the vaccine, only about 33-36% have chosen to receive it.

Medical Examiner: No report was provided.

Emergency Management Services: Handrick gave an update.

- Week 50 of COVID-19 and this is the longest emergency activation in the State of Wisconsin's Emergency Management history.
- PPE items are still received on a bi-weekly basis and getting distributed as needed.
- The EOC remains activated on a virtual basis.
- The Mortuary Affairs group will continue to meet monthly and the next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2021.
- Taylor County has renewed the community testing events with the National Guard but are moving it to bi-weekly Thursdays from noon to 5 pm starting on March 18.
- Handrick has begun working on the business off-site plans and will start on the Emergency Operations Plans in the upcoming weeks.
- The County Wide Hazardous Materials Strategic Plan has been updated and signed off by LEPC Chair, Lester Lewis. County Clerk, Andria Farrand, confirmed this morning it will need to go to the County Board for an updated promulgation statement signature.
- The WI Emergency Management Plan of Work requirements have not changed since last month.
- A regional tabletop exercise is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2021 from 10 am to noon. The exercise will give Handrick credit for her EMPG Plan of Work Requirements.
- The next employee blood drive is scheduled for Friday, March 26, 2021.
- The local Hazardous Tabletop Exercise has been scheduled for April 13, 2021 from 2-4 pm. This event will count as credit towards the EPCRA Plan of Work Requirements.
- Handrick has been in touch with Farrand regarding another potential grant opportunity for Taylor County through FEMA-Public Assistance Grant. They have not been able to meet to determine what Taylor County would qualify for besides vaccination efforts as some other potential department needs could be met, including some SCBA's for the Taylor County Jail.

Review and Approve February Invoices: Schuld reviewed the monthly bills. Lewis moved to approve the February invoices as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report: Woebeking requested the filling of two (2) vacant Jailer/Dispatcher positions. A few applications have been received but there is a continual struggle for dispatchers. Lewis moved to approve the filling of two (2) Jailer/Dispatcher positions as requested; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried. Woebeking also requested filling an anticipated vacant Deputy position. Lewis moved to approve filling a Deputy position when it becomes vacant; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement Business: Woebeking gave a brief update.

- The jail is currently housing 41 total inmates, 16 from Marathon County and two (2) from Price County. Marathon County may transfer a few more inmates and potentially another county may be interested in housing a few inmates here.
- Currently six (6) inmates are on ankle bracelets but four (4) have violated their bonds and are back in jail. The Dept. is not too impressed with the program.
- Some of the cells must remain empty due to COVID quarantine measures. As new inmates come into the jail, they must be secluded from the general population for two (2) weeks first.

- A question was asked regarding the replacement of the Jail Nurse. Woebeking stated the position is working great as it is and has some anxiety about filling it due to being limited hours and set in the jail. However, the cost of contracting a nurse to come in would be approx. \$115,000 to \$120,000 annually.
- Woebeking stated the new dispatch equipment has been ordered but not yet installed.

Adjournment: With no further business, Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff Office

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee

February 11, 2021

3rd Floor County Board Room

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Lester Lewis.

Members Present: Lester Lewis, Scott Mildbrand, Myron Brooks, Catherine Lemke.

Members Absent: Ray Soper - excused.

Other Attendees: Christina Schuld, Colleen Handrick – E.M., Jeff Nuernberger – Ambulance, Larry Brandl – Finance, and Larry Woebbecking and Corey Dassow via conference call.

Approve Minutes: Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2021 meeting; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Lemke moved to approve the agenda of 13 items; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date: Call of the Chairman; Tentatively scheduled for March 12, 2021.

Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Angela Becker For Her Many Years of Service to Taylor County: Lewis presented a Resolution to Angela Becker for her service to Taylor County. Mildbrand moved to approve the Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Angela Becker For Her Many Years of Service to Taylor County as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Jennifer Hess For Her Many Years of Service to Taylor County: Lewis presented a Resolution to Jennifer Hess for her service to Taylor County. Lemke moved to approve the Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Jennifer Hess For Her Many Years of Service to Taylor County as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Ambulance Business: Jeff Nuernberger gave a brief update.

- The stair chairs are available and ready for use. Gilman has used the power-load system and liked it.
- The old chairs are boxed and ready for return.
- Refund of approx. \$2,000 should be expected in a couple weeks. The subsidy should be ready for the March meeting.
- Lewis stated with the new chairs, the recruitment opportunities might be more favorable for personnel.
- Nuernberger was asked if they respond to 911 calls outside their service areas. He said 911 calls are obligatory and they cannot refuse. It was discussed private ambulance services do not to cover certain areas and often the cost of services can be expensive. Nuernberger stated public 911 service cannot refuse calls, no matter the location. They often work with adjacent agencies for coverage if needed.

Medical Examiner: No report was provided.

Emergency Management Services: Handrick gave an update.

- Week 46 of COVID-19 and continuing to work with the Health Dept.
- Still receiving PPE items on a bi-weekly basis. Contact information for some businesses changed and PPE supplies available through E.M. was not relayed properly to new staff. All contacts have been updated.
- EOC remains activated on a virtual basis. The Health Dept. is working on the weekly vaccination requests with DHS and completing phase 1a eligible individuals. Phase 1b does not open until March 1st for the next group.
- The Mortuary Affairs group continues to meet bi-weekly. No updates to report.
- Taylor County has two (2) community testing events with the National Guard scheduled for February 19 and March 5. Testing needs have been decreasing at the events. Clark County has cancelled their remaining testing events due to low participation. Taylor County will continue to offer the events but will adjust the times as noon – 5pm at the Medford Fire Dept. and reduce the number of testing kits available.
- Wisconsin Emergency Management Plan of Work requirements have not been modified through COVID-19. Handrick will continue to do online courses but the in-person classes are still required but not available at this time, which will delay her certification.
- Taylor County has scheduled four (4) additional blood drives with the American Red Cross for 2021. The Courthouse employee blood drive will be an additional one for a total of five (5).
- Handrick is finalizing the date in April for the virtual tabletop Hazardous Chemical Exercise. This exercise is necessary as part of the EPCRA Plan of Work requirement for 2021.
- Additional notes based on questions from committee members:
 - Despite the cold weather, the testing sites worked fine with 19 participants at the last one. It is still recommended to get tested if a person shows any symptoms or is quarantined.
 - Vaccines are being administered as they are available. The Health Dept. requests approx. 200 doses but receives less. The second dose for the vaccine is going to start in March for those who have received the first dose.
 - EMS must be present during the vaccines. To date, no reaction to the vaccine has occurred in Taylor County.
 - An interpreter is also present at both testing and vaccination sites.
 - It was stated the Health Dept. has been training over the years for a pandemic and was ready to respond when this one started.

Review and Approve January Invoices: Schuld reviewed the new format for the monthly bills due to the County's new finance system. Brooks moved to approve the January invoices as presented; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report: A brief update was given.

- Woebeking introduced the new Jail Sergeant, Kevin Kree.
- The jail is currently housing 44 total inmates, 16 being from Marathon County.
- The K9 unit is starting the process for a replacement dog in 2021. The costs and possible breed of dog will be considered. It was mentioned by Lewis to contact Sawyer County for information on their unit.

- Dassow stated he has been in contact with General Communications for a replacement system for Etime. The cost of the system and installation is approx. \$29,900, a five (5) year warranty is approx. \$14,000, for a total approx. cost of \$44,000. There is a pending refund for the current returned system of \$60,000. The new system will be installed late February/early March 2021.

Law Enforcement Business: None.

Adjournment: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff Office

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

January 8, 2021

County Board Room

Call Meeting To Order: Chair Lewis called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Members Present: Lewis, Brooks, Lemke, Mildbrand, Soper,

Members Absent:

Other Attendees: Larry Brandl-Accounting/Finance, Corey Dassow-TASO Chief Deputy, Colleen Handrick-Emergency Services Manager, Jeff Nuernberger-Ambulance, Holly Miller, -The Star News, Larry Woebeking-TASO Sheriff

Approve Minutes of the 11/13/2020 meeting: Brooks made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Mildbrand made a motion to approve the agenda; Brooks seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

Animal Control Contract:

The Taylor County Humane Society presented their written bid for the Taylor County Animal Control Contract. The Humane Society Provided their mission statement, adoption statistics, and details about their facilities and programs. Programs run by the Humane Society include their spay and neuter program, The Fix is In, as well as vaccination and microchip clinics. Staff at the Humane Society regularly participate in continuing education programs for further training. The Humane Society received a \$200,000 donation that allowed for a new shelter and facilities to house both cats and dogs. In the past, the Humane Society required \$3,900 per month for the contract. Due to county-wide budget cuts, the Humane Society's bid for contract would only require \$3,822, a figure 2% lower than the previous \$3,900.

Paws of Hope Animal Rescue presented their verbal bid for the Taylor County Animal Control Contract. Paws of Hope provided their mission statement, adoption statistics and details about their facilities. Paws of Hope operates primarily off community donations and adoption fees. Currently, the facility is only able to house cats. The shelter would likely be able to expand their facilities to be able to house dogs if they were to win the contract. Paws of Hope would require \$3,200 per month for Animal Control operating costs.

The committee took time for discussion. Soper stated that the Humane Society is already fully established and equipped to manage both cats and dogs. Both Lemke and Books voiced agreement that the contract should remain with the Humane Society.

Soper asked for clarification on the contracts. He pointed out that the 2018 animal control contract contained language for vet services. Chairman Lewis read a portion of the current contract for clarification.

Soper made a motion to accept the Humane Society's bid for the Animal Control Contract as written; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Ambulance Business

Jeff Nuernberger said the power stair chairs have arrived. Power stair chair training for staff is scheduled for January 13, 2021. The chairs are expected to be in use by February.

Soper asked about the status of the old chairs. Jeff said the old power stair chairs will be returned for rebate when training is complete. Jeff also affirmed that each chair has a spare battery.

Chairman Lewis asked for an update regarding EMT training. Jeff stated that Stetsonville and Rib Lake have trainees. He said numbers of EMTs are lower than ideal, but scheduling is adequate.

Medical Examiner:

Medical Examiner Scott Perrin provided the committee with a written department status report.

Emergency Management:

Emergency Management continues to work closely with the Health Department on various work responsibilities including provision of PPE and school reopening plans. PPE is being received bi-weekly and inventoried.

EOC remains activated on a virtual basis.

Colleen has been working closely with Taylor County EMS, County funeral homes, the Medical Examiner's office, human services, and Chairman Metz to address mortuary affair needs to ensure that the county is capable of handling an increase in decedents within the county at any given time. The Taylor County Mass Fatalities Plan has been reviewed and modifications have been made that need to be implemented. A purchase of body bags was made for potential future needs within our county.

Taylor County has begun to host community testing events in conjunction with the National Guard beginning January 8, 2021. Testing will be held bi-weekly at the Medford Fire Department from 9:30am-5:30pm until March 5, 2021.

The appeal regarding the withholding of EMPG/EPCRA Grant Funds was reviewed by Dr. Darrel Williams of Wisconsin Emergency Management. The grant funding for the FFY20 EMPG and EPCRA Plan of Work was ultimately approved.

Taylor County continues to work with the American Red Cross to plan regular blood drives. The next blood drive is scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2021.

Colleen will be working with Nestle, Aspirus Medford Hospital, Taylor County EMS, Medford Fire and Police, and the Taylor County Health and Human Services Departments to hold a tabletop hazardous chemical exercise. The exercise is anticipated to occur virtually in April of 2021 and is necessary as part of the EPCRA Plan of Work requirement for 2021.

Mildbrand asked Colleen about a timeline for COVID-19 vaccinations for Taylor County. Colleen assured the committee that Emergency Management will try to ensure Taylor County gets their share of vaccines.

Law Enforcement Business:

Law enforcement officers will resume trainings. Trainings will occur in-house whenever possible, but some may need to travel to attend trainings.

Sheriff's Report

The Taylor County Jail is currently housing 35 inmates. 6 Huber inmates are released on electronic monitoring. The jail is fully staffed with new employees still being trained.

Chief Deputy Dassow outlined an issue with dispatch recording systems, both on the 911 lines and admin lines. The Motorola system will be uninstalled, and the department will be refunding \$60,000. Radio traffic is currently being recorded on the old system. Chief Deputy Dassow will begin meeting with vendors next week.

The department received \$600 in donations for the K-9 fund.

Review and Approve November Invoices: After review, Brooks made a motion to approve the invoices from October; Mildbrand seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review and Approve December Invoices: After review, Brooks made a motion to approve the invoices from October; Lemke seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment: With no further business, Lemke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brooks seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Holly Miller