

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee
May 13, 2022
Ground Floor Sheriff's Training Room

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

Members Present: Lester Lewis, Ray Soper, Catherine Lemke, Chuck Zenner, Lorie Floyd, and Jim Metz.

Members Absent: None.

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

Approve Minutes: Lemke moved to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2022 meeting; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Zenner moved to approve the agenda with 12 items; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Day: Call of the Chairman; tentatively set for June 10, 2022.

Review and Approve April Invoices: No discussion. Lemke moved to approve the April invoices as presented; Seconded by Zenner. Motion carried.

Ambulance Business: John Deal presented an update on the first quarter of 2022 (January 1 to March 31). He stated the ambulance service responded to 287 calls and transported 227 patients. He recognized the paid-on-call members who had the most on-call hours for this period as Bernie Van Den Heuvel for Gilman (1638), Brittnae Maris for Rib Lake (927), and Mike Filas for Medford (798). Discussion was held regarding the number of fulltime positions in Rib Lake and Deal stated applications have been received and will be reviewed. He stated about 25% of the members on the roster are not picking up shifts. Deal reviewed the response, on-scene and turnaround times for the units. Deal stated the defibrillators in the units do not meet the requirements for paramedic. An external pacemaker is not installed on them. The existing units can be traded in for \$6,500 each or the Medford Fire Dept. might purchase them at \$11,000 each. The Fire Dept. will discuss this at their next meeting and inform Deal of the outcome. This was informational at this point and no action was taken. This will be discussed in the future. It was mentioned a new law was passed about increasing Medicaid payments per ambulance call and that might impact the expense budget at the end of the year. Discussion was held regarding the number of personnel and units responding to a 911 call when only one (1) versus two (2) EMTs and a driver are available.

Medical Examiner: A status report from January to end of March was provided and it was noted Perrin stated in an email that not much was going on lately in April to report.

Emergency Management Services: Handrick provided a brief update. She stated an agreement with Hyper Reach was signed. Also interviews for the E.M. director position will be

held next week Thursday. There are five (5) applicants and Handrick stated her June 2nd retirement date could be a little flexible if needed to train the new director.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business:

- Woebeking stated there are currently 36 inmates, with 14 from Marathon.
- Woebeking stated the jail staff is still shorthanded.
- Currently there is one (1) deputy position open and possibly another one in the near future.
- Woebeking stated three (3) of the squads have been replaced. The cost was a little higher than wanted but the ongoing struggle for vehicles is probably going to continue through 2024.
- Woebeking stated the recording equipment in the interview room is about 20 years old and is failing. The approx. cost for replacement is \$5,000.
- Dassow stated the WISCOM system (radio infrastructure for the State) is projected to have some changes but not sure what that will entail and/or how it will affect Taylor County. The end result may be having only local radio coverage with 1 or 2 towers of our own. Discussion was held regarding radio communication over the years and the possible digression backwards to only local coverage versus statewide communication.

The Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee will go into Closed Session by taking a roll call vote at approximately 9:20 a.m. pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(f), Wisconsin State Statutes, to consider medical histories, personal histories, or disciplinary data of a public employee as it relates to Section 5.1(C), Employee Handbook, *Retiree Health Insurance Eligibility*, which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of persons referred to in such histories or data. The Closed Session is expected to last for approximately 10 minutes.: Zenner moved to go into closed session; Seconded by Lemke. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Lemke, Zenner, Soper, Floyd, Lewis, No – none. Motion carried. Closed session started at 9:54am. Soper moved to go back into open session; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

The meeting will reconvene in Open Session pursuant to Section 19.83, Wisconsin State Statutes, to take any necessary action on the matter discussed in Closed Session.: Open session started at 9:58am. No action needed.

Adjourn: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Floyd. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee

April 7, 2022

Ground Floor Sheriff's 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, Ray Soper, Catherine Lemke, and Scott Mildbrand.

Members Absent: None.

Other Attendees: Larry Woebeking, Corey Dassow, Christina Schuld, Larry Brandl (Finance), John Deal (Ambulance), Bob Kirkley (Regional Director for Aspirus MedEvac), Colleen Handrick (E.M.) and Brian Wilson (Star News).

Approve Minutes: Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2022 meeting; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Approve Agenda: Lemke moved to approve the agenda with 12 items; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried. Near the end of the meeting, it was noted the numbering was incorrect and actually contained 14 items. Lemke moved to make an amendment to approve the agenda with 14 items; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried.

Set Next Meeting Day: Call of the Chairman; tentatively set for May 13, 2022.

Review and Approve March Invoices: No discussion. Mildbrand moved to approve the March invoices as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Approve Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Kelley Isola for Her Many Years of Service to Taylor County: No discussion. Brooks moved to approve the resolution expressing appreciation to Kelley Isola for her many years of service to Taylor County; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Approve Resolution Expressing Appreciation to Ingrid Purvis for Her Many Years of Service to Taylor County: No discussion. Soper moved to approve the resolution expressing appreciation to Ingrid Purvis for her many years of service to Taylor County; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Ambulance Business: John Deal, EMS Manager for Ambulance was present to answer questions related to the agreement.

a) Discuss and approve agreement: The updated agreement was presented with changes to pages 2 and 4. Page 2 paragraph 2.2 included the addition of "and paid at Aspirus's standard market rates for such positions" and Page 4 paragraph 6.1.1 with the addition of "expense" in the last line. Discussion was held regarding the on-call rate changing from \$3.00 to \$2.70 and the base rate from \$18.97 to \$20.39. Deal stated there is not a provision in the agreement for increased wages for EMT's with advanced certifications. There was discussion regarding the wording as indicating the number of employees will be dictated by Aspirus. Deal stated the County Board would have to approve changes in the number of employees. Corp

Counsel reviewed and approved the language in the agreement. Mildbrand moved to approve the Ambulance Service Agreement between Aspirus Wausau Hospital and Taylor County as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

b) Review and approve Resolution of Ambulance Service Agreement Between Aspirus Wausau Hospital and Taylor County: Mildbrand moved to approve the resolution of ambulance service agreement between Aspirus Wausau Hospital and Taylor County; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Medical Examiner: No report was provided.

Emergency Management Services: Handrick provided a brief update.

a) EM Updates:

- The FFY21 EPCRA reimbursement check was received in the amount of \$8,012.19 and the EMPG check was \$35,583.21.
- Handrick will be working with Hyper-Reach to provide 1-2 months of free coverage during the transition period for the emergency notification change. The anticipated time is Nov-Dec as CodeRED is paid for through December 31, 2022.
- A table-top exercise is set for April 14th at 1pm and involves Human Services, Sheriff's Office, Medford PD, Rib Lake PD, and Stetsonville FDPW but Handrick is still waiting to hear from other communities for a response.
- State-wide tornado drills are set for today at 1:45pm and 6:45pm.
- The National Weather Service (NWS) – La Crosse will not issue any actual test tornado warning so no information will be relayed across teletype systems or cellphones.
- The NWS will alert the weather radios with weekly test alarms, issue social media post and announce the drill over the WISCOM system. The spotter activation system will be tested.
- The FFY22 POW items are being updated.

b) Posting for EM Directors Position: Handrick submitted her resignation last week to Chairman Lewis and Human Resources. Her last day is June 2nd. Discussion was held regarding full-time versus part-time status and a possible review of the job description. Soper moved to post/advertise for the Emergency Director's Position as is; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business:

- Woebeking stated there are currently 35 inmates, with 14 from Marathon.
- Woebeking stated there are still ongoing issues with ordering the new squad cars. This is the 2nd year and orders have been cancelled again. Woebeking is working with the local dealerships to buy vehicles off the lot. There is a slight price increase due to them not being 'fleet' vehicles.
- Woebeking stated with the increased fuel costs, the monthly expenses are higher than normal.

Soper asked about the last 911 interruption. Woebeking stated it was not an in-house equipment problem. The problem lies with Motorola and/or TDS. A meeting is scheduled for April 19th with the Sheriff's Office and representatives from both Motorola and TDS to discuss this issue. Soper would like to attend the meeting.

The Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee will go into Closed Session by taking a roll call vote at approximately 9:30 a.m. pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(f), Wisconsin State Statutes, to consider medical or personal histories of specific persons, which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data regarding Section 5.1(C), Employee Handbook, retiree health insurance eligibility. The Closed Session is expected to last for approximately 30 minutes: Brooks moved to go into closed session; Seconded by Soper. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Lemke, Soper, Brooks, Mildbrand, Lewis, No – none. Motion carried. Closed session started at 9:36am. Lemke moved to go back into open session; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried.

The meeting will reconvene in Open Session pursuant to Section 19.83, Wisconsin State Statutes, to take any necessary action on the matter discussed in Closed Session: Open session started at 10:09am. Mildbrand moved to approve Sheriff Woebbeking to direct Deputy Bowers to return to work; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Adjourn: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:11am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee

March 4, 2022

3rd Floor County Board Room

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Lester Lewis.

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

Members Absent: None.

Other Attendees: Larry Woebeking, Corey Dassow, Christina Schuld, Larry Brandl (Finance), John Deal (Ambulance), Jason Keffeler and Greg Shaw (Aspirus Hospital), Colleen Handrick (E.M.), Andrea Farrand (County Clerk), and Brian Wilson (Star News).

Approve Minutes: Lemke moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2022 meeting; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

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

Set Next Meeting Day: Call of the Chairman; tentatively set for Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Review and Approve February Invoices: No discussion. Mildbrand moved to approve the February invoices as presented; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

Ambulance Business: John Deal, EMS Manager for Ambulance was present to answer questions related to the subsidy and agreement.

a) 2021 Subsidy Request: Deal presented the 2021 subsidy request in the amount of \$461,956, which is a decrease of \$36,085 from the budgeted amount of \$498,041. Deal stated the request was approx. 44.6% of the expenses. No discussion was held. Mildbrand moved to approve the 2021 subsidy request for \$461,956 as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

b) 2022 Ambulance Service Agreement: Discussion was held regarding the presented agreement, in particular the proposed "cap" on the subsidy amount. Current wording states "Taylor County's contribution is limited and it shall not exceed 45% of the accepted budget. If the difference does exceed 45% of the accepted budget, then it is the responsibility of Aspirus." Jason Keffeler stated Aspirus' attorney wanted to clarify the 'accepted budget' wording. The wording could mean either the operating budget or the operating expenses. The current model for the subsidy is payment for operating expenses. Discussion also involved a possible hard figure with a 5% overrun added. The Committee agreed the wording of the agreement needed to be clarified for 'operating expenses' and it will have to go back to Corp Counsel. Mildbrand moved to table approving the agreement until Corp Counsel reviews changing the wording to include 'operating expenses' versus 'accepted budget'; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried. No action was made on the resolution for the agreement which was to go to the County Board today.

Medical Examiner: No report was provided.

Emergency Management Services: Handrick provided a brief update.

a) Handrick completed the WI Emergency Planning & Special Needs Populations course with three (3) Human Services (H.S.) staff members.

b) The table-top exercise with H.S. had to be rescheduled from March 14 to April 7 due to H.S. scheduling conflicts.

c) Grant modifications were made to the EMPG FFY21 grant and resubmitted to the state E.M. office. The EPCRA FFY21 grant might have to be modified as well.

d) COVID-19 expenses are still being incurred. The Finance Dept. advised Handrick the COVID expense account was closed and those expenses now have to come out of the E.M. budget. Current grant criteria do not allow those expenses to be covered but the ARPA grant might be a possible avenue for funding. ARPA funds have to be committed by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business:

- Woebeking stated there are currently 27 inmates, with 15 from Marathon.
- Replacement squad cars are still unavailable and it might take another year before they are ready.
- Woebeking attended the Sheriff's Conference last month and found some information on a device for jail documentation. The device is a scanner that electronically documents activities and automatically puts the information into Spillman. The cost is approx. \$10,000 and could possibly come out of the jail improvement fund. Woebeking will do more research and bring it back to the Committee.

Adjourn: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee
February 11, 2022
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, Ray Soper, Catherine Lemke, and Scott Mildbrand via Zoom.

Members Absent: None.

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

Approve Minutes: Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2022 meeting; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried.

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

Set Next Meeting Day: Call of the Chairman; tentatively set for March 11, 2022.

Review and Approve January Invoices: No discussion. Soper moved to approve the January invoices as presented; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

Ambulance Business: John Deal, EMS Manager for Ambulance was present to answer questions related to the proposed annual subsidy and ambulance bids.

a) 2022 Subsidy Agreement: Lewis informed the Committee members no action was going to be taken on the agreement today due to Corp Counsel still needing to review it. The agreement was emailed to the Committee members prior to the meeting for review. Discussion mostly consisted of determining if a "cap" should be put on the annual subsidy amount and if it should be based on a solid figure not to exceed or a percentage of the total operating budget. Deal stated the current subsidy is approx. 47% of the total ambulance operating budget, with the 2020 subsidy at approx. \$498,000. Lewis stated he has repeatedly asked for an annual breakdown of the expenses for service calls but never received a report. It was noted the County pays for the purchases of the ambulances and all non-disposable equipment. Lewis said it would be difficult to determine if a percentage cap would be appropriate as exact expenses are unknown and the annual amount could be subject to change every year with increasing operating expenses. A solid figure not to exceed a specified amount was also discussed based on the current 2020 figure of approx. \$498,000. It was mentioned due to the increased number of full-time staff, that number would be closer to \$509,000 for the 2021 subsidy request. It was stated a solid figure would be a safeguard for the taxpayers. Committee members agreed wording along the lines of the "percentage or solid dollar amount may be negotiated annually" should be added to the agreement. Mildbrand moved to have a percentage cap of 47% of the ambulance operating budget set for the 2022 ambulance subsidy but Lemke suggested only 45%; Mildbrand amended his motion to 45%; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried. The agreement will go to Corp Counsel for review with the 45% cap on total operating expenses. It

was noted the subsidy is only for Ambulance/911 calls and does not include any MedVac services.

b) Ambulance Bids: Deal stated only bid came back with a total of \$247,960.00. The specs included a truck chassis versus a van style. Discussion was held regarding the liquid spring suspension in the bid specifications. Liquid spring suspension offers a smoother ride for patients and drivers. The maintenance of this type of suspension is unknown at this time. It was noted the warranty for this unit is five (5) years/60,000 miles and the unit's life expectancy is approx. 14 years. Lemke moved to approve the purchase of the new ambulance with liquid spring suspension for the price of \$247,960.00; Seconded by Brooks. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Lemke, Soper, Brooks, Lewis and No – Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Medical Examiner: A report was emailed from Scott Perrin and read to Committee members. No further discussion.

Emergency Management Services: Handrick provided a brief update.

a) Handrick stated she met with Human Services to discuss the power outage call and what WI State Statute requires Human Services to manage a warning center. HS was able to get donated food but anticipated feeding more people than what was donated and the some of the food went to waste. Food vouchers might be a better option in the future. HS staffing concerns were discussed. Financial reimbursement for emergency expenses was also discussed. It was decided to have a joint meeting with the Executive Committee for future events. A table-top exercise is planned for April 14th with HS staff. Other invites will include Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire, DPW and village/county staff.

b) HS and Handrick will be participating in the upcoming Training Opportunity-Emergency Planning & Special Needs Populations.

c) PPE distribution continues.

d) Coordination with the Medford FD continues for testing/vaccination clinics. The Health Dept. continues to evaluate testing at each clinic throughout February.

e) Handrick is still working on a cost saving option for the Emergency Notification platform. Woebeking has concerns with the integration of the proposed platform. IT was contacted for assistance but as of today, no response was received. The new platform would be a cost savings of \$2,050 annually. Handrick will have to decide by mid-March to receive the current price quote.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business:

- Woebeking stated there are currently 39 inmates, with 18 from Marathon.
- A jail inspection was completed with only a few small infractions. It was one of the best inspections in the State.
 - The infractions were: a form signed by Sheriff Don Wright should be updated and the number of sergeants is a little low but with a shortage of total staff it is difficult to achieve optimal numbers. Once staff is at 100%, then the sergeant numbers would be considered sufficient.
- Dave Kahan will be retiring on April 9th with approx. 38 years served to the Dept. Jeremy Dassow is in recruit school to fill Kahan's position.
- The Bellinger Tower cost approx. \$15,000 to fix the outdated equipment.

- Discussion was held regarding moving the equipment to Gilman. Since the equipment has been replaced, it was recommended to wait and see if things continue to work. If not, then maybe the move would happen. It was asked what the cost would be for an additional unit in Gilman? Corey Dassow will research the cost.
- Dassow stated all squad and portable radios are at the end of their life expectancy. Replacement for all radios would be approx. \$295,000. It was mentioned this might qualify for ARPA funds.
- Lewis stated Mike Filas spoke with the Fire Commission for funding and all fire depts. will be submitting requests for radio funding. It was also clarified Filas was only requesting \$71,000 in funds as the water tower radios were separate issue.
- The water tower redundancy equipment was discussed and it was noted that equipment was not really working either.

Adjourn: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff's Office

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Committee
January 14, 2022
Sheriff's Office Training Room – Ground Floor

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.), Andrea Farrand (County Clerk), Doris Kiefer (Taylor County Humane Society), Amy Merrill (Taylor County Victim Witness Coordinator), Mike Filas (Fire Commission), Emily Gojmerac (Star News), Rachael Schuette, Abigail Reis, Michael Martines, and Edward Rusch.

Approve Minutes: Brooks moved to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2021 meeting; Seconded by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

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

Set Next Meeting Day: Call of the Chairman; tentatively set for February 11, 2022.

Sheriff's Recognition for Citizens Assistance During an Emergency: Woebeking recognized citizens for their assistance during an accident that occurred on November 24, 2021. Individuals were given a certificate of recognition and their photo was taken by the Star News. Individuals included Rachael Schuette, Abigail Reis, and Michael Martines. Two (2) other citizens assisted but were unable to attend, Jesse Gruny and Haleigh Anding. Another individual also assisted but wished to remain anonymous.

Review and Approve December Invoices: No discussion. Mildbrand moved to approve the December invoice as presented; Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Humane Society Agreement: Doris Kiefer was the representative for the 2022 Humane Society Agreement. Kiefer stated vet bills and medications totaled about \$45,000 for 2021. Kiefer also noted volunteer staff was down but community support was still strong. Kiefer stated acceptance to the 2022 agreement with no changes from the 2021 one but would like to propose a three (3) year agreement instead of annually. The Humane Society Board would have to approve the agreement with possible inflation costs. Lewis stated if the Society could have it approved by June, it would then be reviewed and proposed to the Finance Committee for budgeting purposes. Kiefer agreed. Soper moved to approve the 2022 Annual Agreement between Taylor County and Taylor County Humane Society as presented; Seconded by Lemke. Motion carried.

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

a) Transition Plan for EMS: Deal gave a brief review of the information presented at the December meeting regarding the history of the ambulance and status of staffing issues. Each service area (Medford, Gilman and Rib Lake) has their own operational plan and license. Aspirus is in the process of reorganizing its infrastructure to have only the Wausau center as the billing and processing site for all facilities. With this new reorganization, Aspirus is proposing to consolidate the three (3) Ambulance operational plans and licenses into one (1) for Taylor County. Deal stated this would be more efficient for staff scheduling and billing processing. With each separate plan now, staff from one (1) service area cannot be used in another without going through a lot of paperwork and time. The consolidation would allow for staffing over service area boundaries. The consolidation would result in a revenue loss of \$7,175.00 from the Funding Assistance Program to Taylor County. However, Deal stated with greater efficiency in call times, that revenue will be made up in the number of increased calls and should reduce the County's annual subsidy, which is at \$461,160.00. With the logistics of staffing ambulances and on-call needs, there isn't enough employees to continue with the current plans to keep each separate. The majority of the services calls are during the day, and most volunteers work other jobs, limiting the number of people available for calls. Most volunteers cannot commit to an additional 43 hours per week of work. The number of volunteers is limited and no new EMTs are entering the field and experienced EMTs are leaving the profession. By increasing the full-time staff during the day, the number of on-call hours would be for evening/night hours. The number of full-time employees is 4.6 and on-call is 27, with 13 driver only positions. To increase some of the on-call hours to full-time would cost approx. \$31,000.00 compared to a new full-time position of \$50,000.00. Discussion was held on active recruitment needed for more volunteers and lack of interest in the profession. Discussion was also held on increasing the number of full-time staff versus on-call. Deal reviewed the three (3) recommendations presented, (1) to shift operational control from Aspirus Medford Hospital to Aspirus Wausau Hospital-MEDEVAC, (2) to consolidate the separate services plans and licenses to a single entity, and (3) to increase the number of full-time staff. Mildbrand moved to approve recommendations 1 and 2 and send recommendation 3 to County Board; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried. It was stated Corp Counsel needed to review the language in the agreements.

b) Update for Ambulance Replacement: Deal stated bids were sent out and are due back by January 28, 2022. Deal stated vendors are estimating at least 12 months for delivery.

Medical Examiner: A report was emailed from Scott Perrin and handed out for review. Clarification on COVID-19 related deaths, mainly cause or contributing factor, was emailed by Perrin: Cause=COVID was directly related to the events leading to death and Contributing Factor=Individual had COVID but died from something else or may have died regardless of whether they got COVID. No further discussion.

Radio Equipment for Medford Area Fire Department: Mike Filas of the Medford Area Fire Department presented information for portable radio replacements. Filas stated the radios are 15-20 years old and some were 4-5 years old before they got them. They are no longer able to receive updates and parts for them are discontinued. Along with the portables, there are two (2) radios on the water tower that work with dispatch and they need to be replaced. They currently

tend to lock up and can only be reset on the water tower. The amount of \$97,739.48 for replacement is being requested from the Taylor County ARPA grant. The grant allows for such projects. The County's remaining 2021 balance is approx. \$400,000. Discussion was held regarding the eight (8) municipalities in the Fire Department's service area help fund this request as each has received ARPA money. It was stated this department does not serve the entire County and therefore County money should not be used for just one department. The question was asked if a different county that serves into Taylor County came to request a portion of replacement money, would they be refused, and the answer was yes. Brooks moved to approve the request of using ARPA money to replace radios for the Medford Area Fire Department in the full amount of \$97,739.48 and send the request to the Finance Committee. No second was made. Motion died.

Emergency Management Services:

- a) EMPG-S Grant reimbursement was received in the amount of \$2,826.07 on December 21, 2021. The total from both grants was \$4,545.85.
- b) Emergency Management Updates:
 - 1) A power outage occurred on December 17, 2021 in Stetsonville. The Centennial Hall was asking if funds were available to provide meals for displaced residents. Handrick coordinated opening the Stetsonville Elementary School as a warming center and the Centennial Hall remained open for residents. Human Services (HS) was notified to assist in sending staff to the school but due to limited staffing, HS determined it would be best to offer hotel vouchers and provide meals to those needing shelter. The Sheriff's Office completed welfare checks in the area. One (1) resident used a hotel for a night and two (2) residents utilized the Centennial Hall.
 - 2) Lublin was also impacted by the power outage. The Village President was contacted. Residents were offered the opportunity to warm up at the Village Hall, but all declined. The Fire Department building was going to be opened if the outage continued but power was restored later in the afternoon.
 - 3) Outreach was done with all Village/Town clerks to notify Handrick as soon as possible when they were aware of power outages that would impact residents during cold/excessive heat conditions.
 - 4) Training opportunity: Community partners and department heads in the Emergency Operation Plans were notified and encouraged to attend the virtual training free of charge.
 - 5) PPE distribution continues and outreach is done to ensure adequate supplies are available.
 - 6) Coordination continues with the Medford Fire Department to utilize the facility for testing/vaccination clinics.
 - 7) The Prepare with Pedro classes at Holy Rosary for Dec. 16th were cancelled due school closure and are now rescheduled and completed on Jan. 13. This emergency preparedness class is in conjunction with the American Red Cross for younger students. A shelter-in-place lesson was added during this class and information was left for staff as part of their preparedness training for grades K, 1st and 2nd.
 - 8) A cost saving alternative for the Emergency Notification platform for Taylor County has been reviewed. The dispatch supervisors and Handrick participated in a demo with Hyper-Reach. It was well received. Implementation of the platform has been postponed until

2023 due to jail/dispatch staffing constraints. Currently CodeRED costs \$7,500.00 annually and a prior quote for Hyper-Reach was \$5,550.00, potential saving of \$1,950.00

9) The Taylor County Blood Drive schedule for Jan. 14 was cancelled due to Red Cross staff shortage and will probably not be able to reschedule. The next blood drive would be May 20th.

Sheriff's Report & Law Enforcement Business:

- Woebeking stated there are currently 44 inmates, 19 from Marathon and 2 from Price.
- Today, Jan. 14 is the last day for the jail nurse, Ingrid.
- Jail staffing continues to be suffering, down six (6), three (3) to start, one (1) out for National Guards until May, one (1) out for surgery for about a month and one (1) transitioning to road deputy. There is a possibility of using road deputies to fill jail shifts but the State does not highly recommend it.
- There are no COVID cases with inmates or staff currently.
- Woebeking wrote a grant for the Badger State Sheriff's Association for new tasers and was awarded \$27,500.
- The Bellinger Tower had an equipment failure and dispatch was unable to page out Gilman Ambulance and Fire. The replacement cost was \$10,000.00.
- Woebeking stated the portable and squad radios are at the end of their lifecycle and are no longer repairable. Deputies are having issues and they need to be replaced. Woebeking stated financing will have to be discussed for replacements.
- Woebeking was asked the maximum number of inmates the jail is allowed to house, and he stated the jail is certified for 92.

Adjourn: With no further business, Lemke moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Soper. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Secretary: Christina Schuld, Taylor County Sheriff's Office