

**RICHLAND COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Thursday, October 9, 2014

The Richland County Board of Supervisors Law Enforcement and Judiciary Committee met on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 1pm in the County Board Room of the Richland County Court House in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

LEJC Committee members present at the meeting were: Committee Chair Fred Clary, Marty Brewer, Paul Kinney, Buford E. Marshall Jr. (Junior Marshall) and Don Seep. Present from the Richland County Sheriff's Department were Sheriff Darrell Berglin, Chief Deputy Tom Hougan, Lt. Robert Frank, Sgt. Dane Kanable and Office Manager Amber Muckler. Others present for the meeting or a portion of the meeting were Richland County Highway Commissioner Jim Chitwood, Richland County Register in Probate/Probate Registrar Sandy McNamer, Deputy Coroner Paul Higgins, and Susan Lawrence from the Richland County District Attorney's Office.

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order: Committee Chair Fred Clary called the meeting to order at 1pm.

Agenda Item #2: Read and Approve Notice of Posting for October 9, 2014 LEJC Meeting: Committee Chair Fred Clary confirmed with Sheriff Berglin that the meeting was properly posted. Upon receiving confirmation motion by Mary Brewer to approve the notice of posting. 2nd to this motion by Paul Kinney. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #3: Read and Approve Agenda for October 9, 2014 LEJC Meeting: Motion by Junior Marshall to approve the Agenda with 15 items listed. 2nd to this motion by Paul Kinney. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #4: Read and Approve Minutes of the September 11, 2014: Motion by Paul Kinney to approve the minutes as printed. 2nd to this motion by Marty Brewer. Motion passed, minutes accepted.

Agenda Item #5: Discussion of Ordinance on Implements of Husbandry (Hwy Dept.): Richland County Highway Commissioner Jim Chitwood addressed the committee regarding Wisconsin Act 377 regarding Implements of Husbandry (IoH), changes in the law regarding these vehicles and the different road permits needed to operate on. Each member of the committee was given an informational packet containing a Weight Limit Table, an axle spacing chart, a copy of Wisconsin Act 377, a width, lighting and marking requirement facts page and a yellow colored MV2578LG (NO FEE APPLICATION FOR IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY and AGRICULTURAL

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES). This form is required to be filled out and submitted to the local unit of government which controls the road these vehicles operate on.

Chitwood advised that the county and townships in the county need to decide which of six different options they wish to enforce regarding Implements of Husbandry and Agricultural Commercial Motor Vehicles. According to Chitwood, the State of Wisconsin has chosen option "E" and he encourages the county to strongly consider this same option. Chitwood advised the committee that it would present many problems if the different townships all had different rules-if the county had rules on county roads and the State of Wisconsin had other rules on state roads and each township had different rules it would be a mess. He said he is encouraging option "E" for all local governments and that the townships in the county will be meeting at their towns association meeting in the near future to review the options. Chitwood said that whatever option everyone picks, he feels that 100% cooperation from local law enforcement regarding enforcement of whichever permit option is chosen is essential to everyone.

Fred Clary asked who would make the decisions on permits? Chitwood said for the county he felt that he would make the permit decisions. Chitwood said that a decision had to be issued on a permit within 3 weeks or the submitter can assume the permit is approved. Discussion whether a new county ordinance is needed to address the issue of IoH and AG-CMV's. Chitwood said that a permit for each unit is required to operated on a road. So if the unit is on a county road a county permit is needed. If the unit operated on a township road a township permit is needed, same with the state. If the unit operates on all 3 types of roads the unit would need 3 permits. Chitwood said the permits are good for 1 year and it is "no fee permit" that does not cost the owner/operator anything. The money involved would be the fine for violation of permit or having no permit to operate on the roadway. Committee discussion with the decision that a county ordinance would be needed for the situation. Chitwood said that Spring time road weight posting limits would still be applied and bridge weight limits would apply in addition to the permit system. Discussion on who was consulted regarding this new permit system and whether "escorts" would be required even if there was a permit for the IoH. Chitwood then said that Extension, Farm groups, WiDOT, Counties Association, Towns Association, and citizen forums were held to discuss the situation and create the permit options.

Agenda Item #6: Clerk of Court Updates: Committee Chair Fred Clary said that Richland County Clerk of Court Stacy Kleist could not be at the meeting but she had mailed out her report to committee members prior to the meeting. Interviews for the opening in the office are next Monday and Wednesday at 6pm in the small courtroom.

Agenda Item #7: District Attorney Update: This item passed as Richland County District Attorney Jennifer Harper could not attend the meeting due to scheduling conflict.

Agenda Item #8: Coroner Updates: Deputy Coroner Paul Higgins said that the case load for the year so far is 71 with some of those being cremations.

Agenda Item #11: Reclassification of the Part-Time Position in the Probate Office: Richland County Register in Probate/Probate Registrar Sandy McNamer appeared before the committee to request that the position currently held by Jennifer Lau be moved up to part time deputy. McNamer said that she felt this was necessary in order to train Lau in more probate activities, clear cases in CCAP, make reports to the state government accountability board and do the firearms reporting. McNamer said that this had been proposed to the Personnel/Finance Committee already. Committee discussion regarding pay and hours of work for the position. McNamer said that the pay was \$14.38 per hour which is below the deputy in the clerk of court office which is \$15.79. The employee works 17.5 hours a week McNamer said.

Fred Clary said that there had never been a deputy in that office before and that the county has been working on a wage and compensation scale evaluation and that all requests for reclassification have been put on indefinite hold until the wage and compensation study has been completed. More discussion. After discussion, motion by Don Seep that this matter be postponed until after the wage and compensation study has been completed. 2nd to this motion by Jr. Marshall. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #9: Approve Monthly Invoices and other Sheriff's Department Reports: Sheriff Berglin presented his blue sheet report and other reports and discussed them with the committee. During this time, committee discussion that booking numbers were down, the committee wants to talk next month about the public use of the county's rifle range. Discussion of the department copy machine lease agreement. Sheriff Berglin reminded the county that there was one cell block left to retro-fit (B Block) and why he felt this needed to be done. Questions on bills submitted (#23,#24, #25). After discussion and review of the bills, motion to forward the bills to the audit committee by Jr. Marshall. 2nd to this motion by Marty Brewer. Motion passed.

Agenda Item #10: Mapping/Radio Updates: Lt. Frank appeared before the committee and gave the committee an update on the status of IFERN (International Fire/EMS Radio Network) channel and MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) in the county. During the discussion Lt. Frank advised that he has found a federal "matching" grant that would help pay to put "combiners" on the county tower sites enabling the county to have multiple repeaters on one tower. Frank said that this is good for the county because with "combiners" multiple repeaters can go on one tower and the county would not have to build

additional towers at the sites to add repeaters. Frank said that the county match of \$18,000 could come out of the 911 outlay account so that the total project cost of \$35,000 could be used to add the “combiners” to the county’s radio system. Committee discussed with Lt. Frank how to improve paging in the county. Lt. Frank described the limitations as terrain, mandatory switch to narrow-banding by the federal government and limited pools of money and budget restraints and getting the best bang for the buck for the county. Discussion of “simulcast paging” and cost of that system in the future. Questions and discussion regarding the current status of the Yuba radio/tower site, the difference between the local bus radio system and the county’s radio system and when will the radio system would be finished? Concerns expressed that taking the \$18,000 out of the 911 outlay account would draw that account down to about \$40,000 with still more radio work left to do. Lt. Frank said that going to a “combiner” system would save the county money in the future and enable the simulcast paging for the future which was a goal of the project way back when it started. Fred Clary said that the expense would need to go back to the finance/personnel committee and that he would encourage a detailed report on the status of the radio project be created so that the committee could see what the current status of the radio system was and what was ahead for the future. Lt. Frank said he would create the document needed to make the decision. After discussion, motion by Don Seep to accept the matching grant proposal involving the \$18,000 “combiner” system and send the matter to the finance committee for their review. 2nd to this motion by Junior Marshall. Motion passed. Matter will be discussed at the November Personnel/Finance Committee Meeting.

Committee discussion with Lt. Frank on the county’s computerized mapping system and the negative effects of a private or city operated ambulance system going into service and how that would affect the county’s current 911 mapping data supply and future jurisdictional issues and responsibilities over mapping data including obtaining, organizing and disseminating any new mapping data for a private or city owned service.

Agenda Item #13: Maintenance Agreements: Lt. Frank advised the committee that now that the county has decided not to have a maintenance agreement on the Higher Ground brand machine/system the county uses for the recording of all telephone lines and radio traffic he wants to request that money be set aside for possible repairs to this equipment should it fail. He wants the committee to be aware that he has made some small adjustments to the system but eventually it will wear down or wear out and money will be needed to repair or purchase new. This is an information only item at this time, Frank said. Hougan said the Higher Ground system was purchased in 2011 when the old recording equipment had become obsolete and that original company went out of business. So far except for minor glitches Hougan said the current system had been working well.

Agenda Item #14: Jail Assessment Projects: Lt. Frank advised the committee that this agenda item was intended to have a discussion with the committee regarding future jail assessment projects so that the jail assessment fund is not drawn down to purchase a \$73,000 IT server for the county. Lt. Frank said that when the county purchased the current server the sheriff's department put in \$10,000 to help pay for the Lennox System. Now that money is needed again, the jail assessment fund is being considered to obtain money for this county-wide server. Frank said that the sheriff's department already has the need for the jail assessment money in the cell block retro-fit project and computer upgrades to Spillman and the Sheriff's server. Discussion

Agenda Item #12: Temporary Filling of the Vacant 14th Road

Position: Sheriff Berglin advised the committee that when Pam Fargen retired (August 2009) the funding for her road position was never filled. The position is in the ordinance but it is not budgeted for. Berglin said that during the last 3 or 4 budget cycles he has tried to get funding for this unfilled position but he has been unsuccessful. Berglin said that he believes that not filling this position has stressed the department in general but specifically now because one of the road spots that is funded has now been vacant due to a long term workman's comp leave by Deputy Nick Stitzer. Sheriff Berglin said that the reason he is bringing this up now is that with Stitzer out with no return date known, he is requesting that the committee allow him to temporarily fill this 14th road patrol position to help with staffing so there is enough manpower to fulfill the duties of the department. He said he feels the department is dangerously low on manpower and he does not want to hinder his successor with this staffing issue. Fred Clary said that he would like to know what the sheriff-elect has to say about this. Clary advised Berglin that if someone was hired in this position they would receive benefits if they were then laid off when Stitzer returned to work. Berglin said that it was his job to advise the committee when the staffing is dangerously low and he can see that it is. Fred Clary said that the new Sheriff-elect needs to be at the next meeting to discuss this issue. No action taken.

Agenda Item #15: Adjourn: Committee set the next LEJC meeting as November 14, 2014 at 8:30am. Motion by Don Seep to adjourn until November 14, 2nd to this motion by Paul Kinney. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Chief Deputy Tom Hougan