

**RICHLAND COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
Friday, April 9, 2021**

The Richland County Board of Supervisors Law Enforcement and Judiciary Committee met on Friday, April 9, 2021 at 8:30am in the County Board Room of the Richland County Court House in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Committee members present at the meeting were: Committee Chair Melissa Luck and Committee members Kerry Severson, Chad Cosgrove. Present from the Richland County Sheriff's Department were Chief Deputy Clay Porter, and Amber Muckler. Also present for the meeting or a portion of the meeting was Richland County Clerk of Circuit Deputy DJ Adams, DA Jennifer Harper, Jenifer Laue, Barb Scott, Victor Vlasak, Bob Frank and Crickett Lochner.

**Agenda Item #1: Call to Order:** Committee Chair Luck called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

**Agenda Item #2: Read and Approve Notice of Posting for April 9, 2021 LEJC Meeting:** Committee Chair Luck confirmed with Amber Muckler that the meeting was properly posted. Upon receiving confirmation Luck declared meeting properly posted.

**Agenda Item #3: Read and Approve the Agenda for April 9, 2021 Meeting:** Motioned by Chad Cosgrove to approve the agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup> to this motion by Kerry Severson. Motion passed.

**Agenda Item #4: Read and Approve Minutes of the March 12, 2021 LEJC Meeting:** Motion by Kerry Severson to approve the minutes as printed. 2<sup>nd</sup> to this motion by Chad Cosgrove. Motion passed, minutes accepted.

**Agenda Item #5: Driftless Music Gardens Event:** Cricket Lochner who represents the Driftless Music Event. She talked about the 2020 events were cancelled due to Covid, but did have some drive-in events. In 2021, they will still have some drive-in events and they will also be having events of less than 300 people. Driftless is looking at holding a bike ride in 2021 but needs some help getting it all set up. Porter stated most bike rides that are held in the state don't usually have traffic control, he stated the department can try to help out if large groups will be going through an intersection at one time.

**Agenda Item #6: Coroner Updates:** Chief Deputy Porter gave an update by the Coroner's office.

**Agenda Item #7: Clerk of Court Update:** DJ Adams went over the monthly reports with the committee members. DJ talked about how the updated court worked in March with a trial that took place. All things seemed to go well, with just a few small glitches.

**Agenda Item #8: Probate Updates:** Jen Laue went over her reports with the committee members. Laue mentioned that the Judge is still holding court via zoom, this is also working for the out of county judges.

**Agenda Item #9: District Attorney Updates:** DA Harper went over issues affecting her department in the court system. She talked about currently having 19 day trials for this summer.

**Agenda Item #10: Approve monthly invoices and other Sheriff's Department reports:** Chief Deputy Porter went over the invoices with the committee members. Motion to approve the monthly invoices for payment made by Chad Cosgrove, second to this motion by Kerry Severson. Motion approved. Chief Deputy Porter went over the jail statistics report with the committee members.

**Agenda Item #11: Autism Communication Cards:** Chairperson Luck brought in some cards that law enforcement departments could use when encountering a non-verbal autistic child or individual. These are cards that can be shown to the child or individual that are actually taught to people with autism so they would be familiar for that person to be able to communicate and de-escalate a situation. Luck just wanted to bring this information to our department and Porter stated he would be interested in getting more cards for deputies to use as a resource.

**Agenda Item #12: Demographic data-bookings:** Chairperson Luck stated in the county paper there was a circuit court report that showed mostly Hispanic looking names and so she was just curious about what the county and department is doing to make sure racial profiling is not taking place. Porter had reports available to the committee to show the demographic of our jail. Luck went over the demographic of the county as of the 2010 census. Porter stated when looking at bookings to take into account how many times one person has been booked into the jail. As far as citations, this county deals with a lot of "through" traffic and there are a lot of factors that the paper information doesn't take into effect. There are a lot of factors of why a stop is made and it is usually something outside of the visual appearance of the driver.

**Agenda Item #13: GPS Tracking:** Chairperson Severson stated he would like to have some type of tracking for our deputies. Porter stated the department currently has a system so that he can look up where his deputies are at any given moment. MIS helped to install this with the department. The department is on a waiting list with the State program called MOCH, which is a state tracking program. Bob Frank stated that the state is going through a whole radio change and MOCH is part of that change, so that is part of the delay in the MOCH program for right now.

**Agenda Item #14: 2020 Budget Review:** Chairperson Luck went over the Sheriff's Department budget from 2020 and just going over each divisions budget and what the overall look of the department's budget from last year. There was discussion regarding casual employees and how they benefit the department when there is overtime and how we can utilize a casual employee. There was also a discussion regarding the ammo and uniform lines.

**Agenda Item #15: Radio Tower Updates:** True North will be starting and the stakeholders meeting will be held on April 12, 2021 at 5:30pm. True North's goal was

to start in 6 weeks and the county is close with this timeline. The stakeholder's meeting is an open meeting to the public. The county does have phase I and phase II covered in the budget.

**Agenda Item #16: Mapping, Radio System & Squad Updates:** Chief Deputy Porter went over the mileage report with the committee members. The Department had one vehicle that was totaled by a deer accident, this vehicle will be a total replacement, however, this year insurance will no longer replace the cost of the equipment in a squad. Porter is hoping that squads will last at least an average of 6 years with each deputy having their own squads now. Mapping – Bob Frank informed the committee that there is a grant for the counties regarding mapping. There is funding coming up for GIS and 911 in the future.

**Agenda Item #17: Future agenda items:** None at this time.

**Agenda Item #18: Adjourn;** Motion by Kerry Severson to adjourn until the regular LEJC meeting on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 8:30am. Second to this motion by Chad Cosgrove. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Office Manager, Amber Muckler