

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

April 14, 2011

Chairman Frank McCoy called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Committee members present:

Frank McCoy	Herbert Cornell
Jerry Cade	John Mitchell
Sheriff John Spears	Kevin Gobel
	Chief Deputy Sheriff Nate Campbell

Cade moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2011 meeting. Cornell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Coroner Reed went to the Coroner training in Wisconsin Rapids in April. Training will now be twice a year in April and October. Gobel moved to approve the Coroner vouchers in the amount of \$1730.39. Cade seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Income for the month was \$1000.00.

The law enforcement bills were reviewed and explanations provided as requested. We have not yet received reimbursement from Madison for officers sent to assist with the budget repair bill demonstration. We have met with the E-3 coalition regarding solar panels, updating some lights and heating improvements. The solar panel installation is not completely dead, but will not be installed on the main building roof in any event. The WI-VINE (Victim Information & Notification Everyday) program is being implemented in the jail, allowing citizens to track someone sentenced to jail. The funding is from the state and Vernon County is one of only 4 counties in the state that does not have VINE. Cornell moved and Mitchell seconded a motion to pay Sheriff's bills in the sum of \$63,972.14. Motion carried unanimously.

In his Sheriff's Activity Report, Sheriff Spears said that DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) prescription take back day is April 30th, with 6 sites in the county participating. The week of May 16 is Police Memorial week, with the annual program at the Sheriff's Department taking place at 10:00 a.m. on May 17. This week is 911 Telecommunications week, and the Sheriff put out a press release honoring the Vernon County Sheriff and City of Viroqua dispatchers.

Sheriff Spears is preparing a request for a revolving fund of \$50,000 from Ho Chunk funding to be used for meth lab clean-ups. The State will no longer be funding clean up and the county will be responsible. The Vernon County Haz Mat team is a level B team and can do some clean up. A level A team is required for the transport and disposal. A clean up suit costs \$7,000 and is disposed of after one

use. It is not uncommon for a super lab clean up to be in excess of \$20,000. The Sylvan Glen meth lab was approximately \$3,000 in clean up costs.

The hiring freeze expired March 2011. We are still posting and filling positions from within and when that is complete we will be ready to petition the county board for the Bekkedal (Court Services), Henry (Investigation) and Spears (Deputy Sheriff) positions. The funding (\$140,000/year) for Court Services and Investigation was pulled from our budget when they retired. Meanwhile, our budget for overtime and special deputies (part time deputies) is at \$70,000 1-1-11 to 3-31-11. We were not aware that the funding was removed from the budget and now we have to ask for both positions and funding.

Mitchell moved that the committee forward a request to the county board to authorize 3 positions and fund 2 positions for the Sheriff's Department. Cade seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The Sheriff's Fee Schedule was last updated 8-1-2003. The Sheriff presented a list of suggested revisions, with many of the fees staying the same and additional fees being added to the list. As technology advances the requests have changed and the new fee schedule more accurately reflects the time and material cost involved. Mitchell moved that the committee forward a request to the county board to approve the new fee schedule. Cornell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Department is looking at new vehicle batteries with a 5 year warranty which will allow a squad car to operate lights and radio for at least up to 1 1/2 hour while the motor is not running, such as at an accident scene. The Department bought the Stoddard Squad vehicle, a 4-wheel drive with 2 cages, radio and lights for \$9,000. The 4-wheel drive is very beneficial in the winter, patrolling rural areas and government land. The committee recalled that about 10 years ago the Department had a KVR vehicle for patrolling in that area, and suggested petitioning for Ho Chunk funds for that purpose.

The next meeting is Thursday, May 12, 2011. Cornell moved to adjourn and Cade seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Carol Oliver, Acting Secretary