

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
February 14, 2023 – 2:30 p.m.**

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF PIERCE**



**EOC Room
555 Overlook Dr., ELLSWORTH, WI**

2023 – 02

1) Meeting Convened

The Pierce County Law Enforcement Committee met in the EOC Room of the Pierce County Law Enforcement Facility, Ellsworth, WI. Chairman J. Aubart called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1a) Those Present

A quorum was established acknowledging 4 members present; 1 excused.

Members present:

Jon Aubart District #3
Ben Plunkett District #5
Scott Bjork District #7
Mel Pittman District #17

Absent/Excused:

Dale Auckland District #12
Chairman J. Aubart appointed supervisor Neil Gulbranson as temporary LEC member.

Also present: Jason Matthys-AC, Jamie Feuerhelm- County Clerk, Chad Koranda-Sheriff, Christine McPherson-Emergency Management Director, Brad Lawrence-Corp Counsel, Halle Hatch-DA, Alli Verges-Jail Administrator, Kerry Feuerhelm-Clerk of Court, Judge Elizabeth Rohl.

1b) Public Comment

Chairman J. Aubart announced that he had previously anticipated more members being absent, thus the reason he asked supervisor N. Gulbranson to serve as temporary member on the Committee.

2) Agenda Adopted

Motion by S. Bjork/M. Pittman to adopt agenda as presented; motion carried unanimously.

3) Approve Minutes

Motion by B. Plunkett/S. Bjork to approve minutes of the Jan. 9th, 2023 meeting as presented; motion carried unanimously.

4) Discuss/take action on CJCC Coordinator contract renewal

Chairman Aubart stated that the contract is due annually & that the service provided allows Pierce County grant opportunities. Motion by S. Bjork/M. Pittman to approve the renewal of the contract with the CJCC Coordinator; motion carried unanimously.

5) Discuss/take action on District Attorney Office 2022 Budget deficit

H. Hatch explained that the majority of the deficit was caused by two items. Health insurance, because an employee changed from single to family coverage. The other being professional services because of an expert witness that was called on to testify in a case. She added that this sort of thing with expert witnesses may happen again because of other cases in the future that may require one. Also, that there was still a possibility some reimbursement from the State could still be received & reduce the number further. Motion by M. Pittman/B. Plunkett to recommend to the Finance & Personnel Committee that funds be made available to the District Attorney's Office to cover the deficit in the 2022 budget not to exceed \$60,000; motion carried unanimously.

6) Discuss Law Enforcement co-responder program

Sheriff C. Koranda explained to the Committee that this was a fairly new program being implemented by St. Croix County & being used, in part, in the City of River Falls which is split between Pierce & St. Croix counties. Currently St. Croix County funds the work being done in the Pierce Co. portion of the city. He further explained that the co-responder is a mental health specialist that is vetted by county officials before being employed. That individual will then respond with law enforcement officials on mental health related calls. Sheriff Koranda indicated that the results have been very positive. Reducing law enforcement's time engaged on the call as well as reducing transports to other facilities for the perpetrator. No action taken.

7) Discuss/take action to approve a leave of absence from the Collective Bargaining Unit for Chad Koranda to hold elective office of Sheriff & for the leave not to exceed 6 years consistent with Article 20.9(Elective Office Leave) of the Agreement

Sheriff C. Koranda explained that the Collective Bargaining Unit for law enforcement allows an individual to take a leave of absence for up to 6 years to seek or hold an elective office. This allows that person to retain a position within the bargaining unit should they not be re-elected during that time period. Motion by S. Bjork/M. Pittman to approve a leave of absence from the collective bargaining unit for Chad Koranda not to exceed six years consistent with Article 20.9 of the agreement; motion carried unanimously.

8) Discuss/take action on out of state travel/training request for Emergency Management Director to attend the 2023 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness (NREP) Conference; Apr. 3-6, 2023; Indianapolis, Indiana

Motion by B. Plunkett/S. Bjork to approve travel/training request for EM Director Christine McPherson to attend 2023 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness conference in Indianapolis, Indiana; motion carried unanimously.

9) Discuss/take action on request for Emergency Management Department social media (Facebook) account creation

C. McPherson explained that the Dept. would like to set up an account to offer safety updates & awareness to the community. Motion by N. Gulbranson/B. Plunkett to approve & authorize Emergency Management Dept. to set up & create a social media, Facebook, account; motion carried unanimously.

10) Future Agenda Items

Supervisor M. Pittman inquired as to the number of vacancies that may still be open. Sheriff Koranda stated that the Chief Deputy Sheriff would be on staff soon & that 5 patrol positions are in process of setting up interviews. No future agenda items presented.

11) Closed Session

Motion by S. Bjork/M. Pittman to go into closed session at 3:05 p.m. pursuant to §19.85 (1)(d) Wis. Stats. for the purpose of considering specific applications of probation, extended supervision of parole, or considering strategy for crime detection or prevention: Courthouse security & Annual Jail inspection pursuant to §19.54 (15) Wis. Stats. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- -Supervisor S. Bjork left meeting.

12) Open Session

Committee returned to open session at 5:59 p.m. by motion of J. Kosin/S. Bjork; motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. No action taken.

13) Next Meeting Date

Next regular meeting scheduled for second Tuesday, Mar. 14th at 2:30 p.m., in County Board Room, Courthouse.

14) Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 2:55 p.m. by M. Pittman/N. Gulbranson; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Jamie Feuerhelm, County Clerk