

## Price County Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 2, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Courthouse County Board Room 101; 126 Cherry St; Phillips, WI 54555

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Larry Palecek, Committee Vice-chairperson. Roll Call - Present: Paula Houdek, Robert Kopisch (ex officio), Larry Palecek, Ginny Strobl. Excused: James Hintz. Absent: Doug Erickson. Also present: Nick Trimner, Brian Schmidt, Brian Roush

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communications: None.
2. Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2021: Motion Houdek/Strobl to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
3. Coroner's Report and Vouchers: December was the busiest month in the Coroner's history with 26 deaths. Motion Houdek/Strobl to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$3,476.82. Motion carried.
4. District Attorney's Report and Voucher: There was one jury trial in December. Motion Strobl/Houdek to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$4,764.29. Motion carried.
5. Clerk of Circuit Court's Report and Vouchers: Courtroom remodel finished with new jury chairs. Jury Room being remodeled and new furniture. Motion Houdek/Strobl to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$45,797.87. Motion carried.
6. Sheriff's Office Report and Vouchers: Motion Houdek/Strobl to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$257,583.20. Motion carried. Lieutenants Peterson (jail) and Lilly (patrol) available to discuss administration restructure. There are two patrol lieutenants that oversee each deputy tour. Jail has been full and also need to house out-of-county. That along with a high profile court case and staffing issues has resulted in budget overage. There has been a COVID outbreak in one cell block. Several staff have required quarantine. Looking for a grant for a full-body scanner. Have implemented Less Lethal protocol.
  - a. K-9 Unit – Proposed Additional Unit: Funding is available for a second K-9 Unit. Will need to equip a squad and choose the K-9 Officer (possibly Craig Calzavara).
  - b. Humane Officer: Going well. Dealing with several investigations.
  - c. Proposed Recreation Officer: Will work with WDNR and National Forest Service. Posted for internal interest. 70% funding from DNR. 56 hours per week.
  - d. New Squad Cars: If vehicle designs change, some of the equipment may not fit. Placed order for three squads. Out 16-18 weeks.
  - e. Staffing Shortages: Jail staff is full. Deputies staff is full, with two in training.
  - f. Pending Retirements: Lori Zondlo December 2022, Dean Merlak January 2023.
7. Ordinance Updates: Several county ordinances need to be amended or developed. Working with the DA's Office. Will be work in progress and bring items to the committee.
8. Date of Next Meeting: March 4.
9. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk