

Price County Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 25, 2022 Time: 9:00 a.m.

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

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Jean Gottwald, County Clerk. Roll Call - Present: Brian Ernst, Larry Palecek, Ginny Strobl, Lori Wakefield (remotely). Excused: Doug Erickson. Also present: Brian Schmidt.

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Elect Chairperson: Strobl nominated Brian Ernst. Ernst declined. Palecek nominated himself. No other nominations. Motion Strobl/Ernst to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Larry Palecek for committee chair. Motion carried. Supervisor Palecek took over running of the meeting.
2. Elect Vice-chairperson: Palecek nominated Brian Ernst for Vice-chairperson. No other nominations. Motion Strobl/Palecek to close nominations and cast a unanimous for Brian Ernst for committee vice-chairperson. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment and Communications: None.
4. Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2022: Motion Strobl/Ernst to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
5. Coroner – Jim Dalbesio
 - a. Department Overview and Report: Jim explained the associated expenses with cremations and reimbursements from the families.
 - b. Vouchers: Motion Strobl/Ernst to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$1,290.00. Motion carried.
6. District Attorney
 - a. Department Overview and Report: No report.
 - b. Vouchers: Ernst/Strobl to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$4,509.05. Motion carried.
7. Clerk of Circuit Court
 - a. Department Overview and Report: No report.
 - b. Vouchers: Strobl/Ernst to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$33,152.98. Motion carried.
8. Sheriff's Office – Brian Ernst
 - a. Department Overview and Report: Reviewed the OWI Enforcement Statistics report.
 - b. K-9 Unit – Proposed Additional Unit: A new K-9 Unit is starting to be in place when Dixon retires. Craig Calzavara will be doing the training with the new dog.
 - c. Humane Office: Dean Merlak is retiring. Will be recruiting for a new Humane Officer. Discussion on contract with Catkins to provide the statutory requirement to provide a certified animal shelter.
 - d. Recreation Officer: Seth Dabler has reached out to the lake associations and has been doing patrols. Discussed duties and working with the DNR. Reimbursement requires a defined number of contacts.
 - e. New Squad Cars: Three cars are expected to be delivered. The old cars will be reassigned to other officers.
 - f. Staffing Updates: Vacant deputy position. Three successful candidates. Recruiting for a full-time male correction officer/civilian dispatcher and eligibility list for females.
 - g. Pending Retirements: Laurie Zondlo November 1, Brian Roush December 1, Dean Merlak January 2, Joe Lilly early 2023.
 - h. Vouchers: The required health care provider for the inmates presented a significant cost increase. Motion Strobl/Ernst to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$220,983.52. Motion carried.
9. Ordinance Updates: Several ordinances need to be reviewed and updated. Will provide a list to the committee at the next meeting.
10. Date of Next Meeting: July 15.
11. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk