

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

November 30, 2005

KCAB 2ND FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

Members Present: Jim Huff, Terry Rose, William Michel II, Brenda Carey-Mielke, James Moore

Others Present: Supr. Ekornaas, Chief Deputy Charles Smith, Capt. Larry Apker, Nancy Otis, Richard Pierangeli

Meeting Called to Order: 8:27 p.m. by Chairman Jim Huff.

Citizen Comments: None

Supervisor Comments: Supr. Ekornaas commented about Courthouse Security. He said that he has run a private security company since his term as Sheriff. Although there are many good private security guards you do not know what you are going to get. Private security does not offer the quality you will get with law enforcement officers. It is important that people are selected and trained properly. He believes that people trying to enter the Courthouse may be denied or delayed access for various reasons and become offended. His experience has found private security personnel that will not confront a situation or will over react. In most instances either his assistant or himself had to be called. If the Sheriff runs security he will be responsible, however, who will be responsible with private security? Money is secondary; this needs to be done right. He would go along with hiring retired law enforcement. He believes that Committees getting involved with policies could become cumbersome and troublesome.

Supr. Michel said that what happened during the meeting preceding this one (regarding Courthouse Security) is very concerning. He commented that Racine does have private security manning the entrance to the Courthouse, however, they have actual deputies that are bailiffs in the courtroom for that extra protection. Weapons, etc. may be caught at the door, however, what happens if someone goes into the courtroom and starts pushing people around? Members of the jury, people observing, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, etc. need to be protected.

Chairman Comments: None

Minutes Read: November 9, 2005

Motion by: Huff

Seconded by: Rose

Approved: unanimously

Resolutions from the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department:

1) Probationary Cabaret License – Shadow Hill Ranch

Motion by: Rose

Seconded by: Michel

Approved: unanimously

Capt. Apker reported that this is an extension of the Probationary License for Shadow Ranch (Country Thunder). There still are some concerns about Country Thunder. A report was submitted regarding incidences. There were significant improvements from years past; however, there could still be more improvements. Apker said that the management for Country Thunder worked with the Sheriff's Department very well. Supr. Rose asked if a probationary license can legally be extended and for how long. Chief Deputy explained technically it can be extended indefinitely, however, a decision is made within a reasonable time. Extensions are requested when there are special circumstances. Rose asked what the difference is between a probationary and regular. Chief Deputy said that when there is a probationary the establishment is monitored more closely and they have to come back to the County Board for conversion to regular. When a regular cabaret license is issued it continues to renew unless something is brought forward to revoke it.

Supr. Moore commented that he thought the list of violations from this year is unacceptable and questions whether the probationary should be extended. Due to his short tenure with the County Board he is unaware of Country Thunder history. Apker said this is understandable since Moore has not been involved with Country Thunder in the past. This was the first year that law enforcement was on the grounds of Country Thunder and that Capt. Apker was head of that security. This year serious offenses were basically non-existent. The high numbers of arrests were due to the large number of law enforcement assigned. Communications and the working relationship with Country Thunder were good. Country Thunder spent about \$100,000 on law enforcement/security. They gave everything that was asked for. Improvements can still be made and the message sent via all the arrests this year may also contribute to improvements. Carey-Mielke updated Moore regarding the letter the Committee sent asserting that the license would be denied if Country Thunder was not in compliance with all of the Sheriff's directives.

2) Cabaret License – “1146”

Motion by: Carey-Mielke **Seconded by:** Rose **Approved:** unanimously

Capt. Apker reported that this resolution asks that the probationary license granted to “1146” be allowed to expire due to loss of their Class B liquor license. The license was suspended for 90 days due to a major incident there (huge crowd, several fights, two patrons stabbed and another patron shooting a handgun in the parking lot). This was reviewed by Somers Township and they suspended the license. Without a liquor license they do not need a cabaret license. Mr. Pierangeli, the owner/license holder, was in attendance. Supr. Huff reminded Pierangeli that when the probationary license came to the Committee he cautioned Pierangeli about potential for incidences due to past history and the location between two colleges. Pierangeli at that time said they would put in scanners for ID checks, have extra security, and not run that kind of business or cater to that kind of crowd. Pierangeli said that they did their best throughout the night to try to prevent outbursts. They thwarted a couple earlier fights. He did not see exactly what happened at the end of the night; everything was over so quickly. He said that the crowd that night was not indicative of their usual crowd. He said he was given incorrect information regarding who was coming that evening and what the event was. He said that he hired new management. Huff said that he understands but Pierangeli's name is on the license. Pierangeli asked what he has to do to get his license back. Huff said he has to re-apply.

3) Cabaret License – Knocker's Pub and Grill

Motion by: Moore **Seconded by:** Carey-Mielke **Approved:** unanimously

This is a conversion from probationary to regular. There were only minor calls and no violations. Moore asked about unfounded calls. Is the incident over before they get there? Apker said possibly or someone is mistaken. Huff asked what the crowds are like at Knocker's, if they serve food, and if they are open all the time. Apker said that the last time he went by there were 10-12 cars, they do serve food, and he believes they are open all week.

4) Cabaret License – Barb and John's Hangar

Motion by: Moore **Seconded by:** Rose **Approved:** unanimously

This is a conversion from probationary to regular. There have been no incidents.

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: None

Meeting Adjourned: At 8:53 p.m. on motion by Carey-Mielke, seconded by Michel.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DeBree