

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
March 14, 2007
KCAB 2ND FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

Members Present: William Michel II, Joseph Clark, Ruth Booth, Bob Haas, David Arrington

Others Present: Lt. Paul Falduto, Sue Marcinkus, Dolly Brennan, Joshua Nielsen, Gary Kunich

Meeting Called to Order: 7:02 p.m. by Chairman William Michel II

Citizen Comments: None

Supervisor Comments: None

Chairman Comments: None

Minutes Read for Approval: February 14, 2007
To be read at April meeting.

Resolution from the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department:

1) Kenosha County Pre-Trial Intensive Supervision Program X

Motion by: Clark ***Seconded by:*** Arrington ***Approved:*** unanimously

Lt. Paul Falduto explained that this \$36,801 is a partial award from the WI Dept. of Transportation for the "2007 Kenosha County Sheriff's Department DUI Intensive Supervision Program. This payment is for the first half of the year. Repeat DWI offenders are screened by WCS to receive intensive counseling treatment and supervision in lieu of incarceration in an effort to effectively deter repeat offenses. Currently, 146 people are enrolled in the program. There can be 150-200 people at any time. Supr. Michel asked if the participant pays fees and if there was any reason to believe that we would not get the second half of the grant. Falduto replied that participants do pay fees and that they expect to get the remaining grant money.

Presentation of Joint Services 2007 Budget and Discussion Regarding the Critical Staffing Situation in the Communication Center:

Sue Marcinkus attended the meeting along with Comm Center Manager Dolly Brennan and Staff Coordinator Joshua Nielsen. Marcinkus explained that this is informational only. This presentation was also made to the City of Kenosha's Public Safety and Welfare Committee, which is equivalent to the County's Judiciary & Law Committee. The presentation to the city was in three parts so this is the condensed version. Marcinkus spoke about the critical needs of her department. The Union President has approached them about the critical level of staffing. Marcinkus explained that Joint Services was created in 1981 to accommodate both the City Police and Sheriff along with Fire. Committee members received a copy of the 2007 budget. Discussion continued about the handout regarding the Communications, Records, Fleet Maintenance, and Evidence/Identification Departments. These are all departments Joint Services is responsible for. Information included overview, purpose, major activities, and statistics for each department.

Marcinkus reported that the biggest problem in dispatch is not having enough dispatchers. There are 28 dispatchers when fully staffed. Staffing is a problem and a handout was distributed addressing the recruitment process, training, and retention. Also provided and discussed were interim plans A & B to remove themselves from critical period and their impact.

Supr. Clark asked about the 50/50 split funding from City and Sheriff and which area generates the most calls. Marcinkus said there are many ways to report statistics. The city has the greatest population, probably 70%, however, city taxpayers also pay into the County Budget so it is estimated to pretty much equal out. Michel asked how many current employee vacancies there were. Marcinkus replied that dispatch is down six employees. Michel asked how much the budget would increase if fully staffed. Marcinkus said none because budget is prepared as if fully staffed. Money saved through vacancies is used for overtime to cover vacancies. Supr. Haas commented that overtime is cheaper than more employees are. Clark commented that cheaper is not always better in stressful situations. He asked what the barriers were to getting fully staffed. Marcinkus explained that they have a hard time attracting qualified people. First there are many no-shows, then they lose almost all through the extensive and long process including written & data entry testing, panel interview, background check, psychological & physical exams, and final interview with Joint Services staff. Some then decline when the job is offered. Haas asked how long the process takes. Marcinkus responded 3 to 4 months. Haas asked if shortening this would help. Marcinkus replied probably, however, they depend on other departments for many of the steps. Haas asked if people leave because of understaffing. Marcinkus said yes, some get stressed out and there is bad moral. Marcinkus said that training takes from 9 to 13 months. Dedicating instead of cross training could significantly decrease this. Training people in specific areas could reduce training to 4 months. To have an additional person for 24 hour/7 day coverage, 5 people must be hired.

Marcinkus will keep the Committee informed of reports and critical situations involving Joint Services.

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: None

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 p.m. on motion by Haas, seconded by Arrington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DeBree