

COUNTY OF WEXFORD
HUMAN RESOURCES/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 26, 2022

The Human Resources / Public Safety Committee regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Potter at 4:00 p.m., in the Commissioners' Room, Historic Courthouse, 437 E. Division St., Cadillac, Michigan.

Members Present: Brian Potter, Michael Bush, and Gary Taylor
Members Absent: Kathy Adams.
Also Present: Duane Alworden, Central Dispatch Director; Stephany Anderson, Public Defender Office Manager; Travis Baker, Emergency Management Director; Jami Bigger, Deputy County Administrator/HR Director; Robert Champion, Chief Public Defender; Kathy Cline, Veterans Services Director; Megan Kujawa, Sr. Exec Admin Assistant; Sheriff Trent Taylor; and Corey Wiggins, Prosecuting Attorney.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

ADDED: G.8. Public Defender Monthly Report, **G.9.** Wexford Missaukee Community Corrections Advisory Board Application.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Comm. Taylor and supported by Comm. Bush to approve the agenda as amended. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Comm. Taylor and supported by Comm. Bush to approve the June 28, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

AGENDA ITEMS

G.1. Sheriff's Office Monthly Report (June 2022)

Sheriff Taylor was present; a report was provided in the packet. Sheriff Taylor informed the committee that he has received updates on two of the four vehicles that were ordered. Two of them are in Mt. Pleasant and should be delivered within the upcoming weeks. He has three deputies that are transferring out. The three new cadets that are being sponsored are starting their classes in August. Deputy Hoffman is in phase three of her training.

Sheriff Taylor invited Mr. Wiggins to stand and speak on the following topic. Mr. Wiggins and Sheriff Taylor are wondering and inquiring of what can be done to help house juveniles. There is nothing in the State that has the means to house juveniles anymore and nobody is staffed to take them. Mr. Wiggins was wondering if there could possibly be a wing added onto the jail to help house these juveniles, he doesn't necessarily want it to be statewide. It is getting harder and harder to keep the juveniles because there is no state funding and some homes have been shut down. Mr. Wiggins mentioned that Cheboygan County is transitioning their sally port to hold juveniles. It was suggested that maybe a committee should be formed to seek out options.

Chair Potter commented that yes there is ability to find funding to build the wing on the jail; however, the issue is finding funding to staff the new addition and simply finding staff period throughout the County is an ongoing issue.

Comm. Taylor stated that he would like to sit down with Mr. Wiggins, Sheriff Taylor, Mr. Porterfield, and Ms. Bigger to form a committee to discuss further.

G.2. MMR Monthly Update (June 2022)

Alan Deveraux, MMR, was not present. A report was provided post meeting and distributed.

G.3. Emergency Management Monthly Report (June 2022)

Travis Baker, Emergency Management Coordinator, was present; a report was provided in the packet. Mr. Baker informed the committee that he has been working with the “I Love You Guys Foundation” which is a foundation formed by parents of a girl who was killed in a school shooting in Colorado and her last text message to her parents was “I love you guys”. He has been talking with the courthouse security committee on what they would like to see moving forward as is, there is a meeting with Judge Elmore and security committee in September. The 12 new radios that were ordered with ARPA funds are at Grand Traverse Mobile being downloaded with the appropriate programs and should be here before the week is out.

G.4. Central Dispatch Monthly Report (June 2022)

Duane Alworden, Central Dispatch Director, was present; a report was provided in the packet. Mr. Alworden informed the committee that he has nothing to add than what was provided in the report. He does have interviews set up with candidates to fulfill the open position. He is working on getting the parking lot expansion in place and timing is to be determined as of right now.

G.5. Veterans Services Monthly Report (June 2022)

Kathy Cline, Veterans Services Director, was present; a report was provided in the packet. Ms. Cline briefed the committee on what the report provided. Her goal is that once all the memorial walls are completed that they should start looking on expanding the memorials in the park across from the stadium downtown. Ms. Cline noted that they have a new Veterans Service Officer starting on Monday.

G.6. Community Corrections (June 2022)

Mistine Stark, Community Corrections Manager, was present; a report was provided in the packet. Ms. Stark stated that there was nothing to add to the report that was provided. There is a Community Corrections Advisory Board Meeting on Thursday, July 28, and there will be discussion on the transition houses. Ms. Stark said that she will bring the Commissioners the recommendations.

Chairman Potter asked about the grant and Ms. Stark stated that she will hear the final verdict late August or early September. Chairman Potter asked Ms. Bigger if there were any updates on the billing of Missaukee County, Ms. Bigger stated that Mr. Porterfield is working with Judge Elmore on what that should look like.

G.8. Public Defender Report

Chairman Potter asked that G.8. be moved up to coincide with the rest of the reports. Mr. Robert Champion, Chief Public Defender, provided the committee with the following on funding for the responsibility of the state and the county: “the 2020-2021 budget was \$998,590.32 with the local budgeted share of \$149,987.23, which was a 2.7% increase over the 2019-2020 budget. The 2022-2023 budget is \$1,260,898.20 with a local budgeted share of \$148,052.20. The local share is calculated by the state, which over the last two years resulted in a decrease in the budgeted local share while the total budget increase by \$262,308. Every indigent criminal defense system shall comply with an approved plan under this act. MCL §780.997.”

Mr. Champion continued stating that: “The office has made access to the client easier and since June 1st, 2022, the office has managed over 13,000 incoming calls, have expanded our services to assist clients with housing, counseling, and employment. In June, the Public Defender’s office sponsored an addiction awareness seminar for the community. All of this, while each attorney maintaining a full criminal trial docket. In the next 30 days, we hope to add a full-time investigator and another support person to assist in complying with Standard 3 and Standard 5. Funding for these positions is available in the current budget and is already contained in the 2022- 2023 budget.

G.7. Road Commission Committee Appointment Application

A motion was made by Comm. Taylor and supported by Comm. Bush to forward a recommendation to the full board to appoint Bob Hilty to the Wexford County Road Commission Committee, with a term expiring December 31, 2026. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

G.9. Wexford Missaukee Community Corrections Advisory Board Application

A motion was made by Comm. Bush and supported by Comm. Taylor to forward a recommendation to the full board to accept the resignation of Cassandra Bugai and to appoint Amy Cox to the Wexford Missaukee Community Corrections Advisory Board, with a term expiring December 31, 2023. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Bigger, Deputy County Administrator, informed the committee that she just received notice that Mr. Bill Reedy part-time maintenance will be leaving. There are two new Friend of the Court employees that just started, there is the one Veterans' Services Officer is starting on Monday and hopes to have the new Sheriff Administrative Assistant starting soon. Ms. Bigger stated union negotiations are scheduled in September.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None.

CHAIR COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Comm. Taylor and supported by Comm. Bush to adjourn at 4:23 p.m. A vote was called, all in favor. Motion passed 3-0.



Brian Potter, Chairman



Megan Kujawa, Recording Secretary