

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
June 13, 2019

Joholski called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Committee members present:

Cary Joholski  
Frank Easterday  
Mary Henry  
Sheriff John Spears

Mike Leis  
Darrel Clark  
Chief Deputy Nathan Campbell - Absent

**Others in Attendance:** Supervisor Roger Call and Tim Hundt.

Joholski confirmed that the Agenda was properly posted. Easterday moved to approve the minutes of the May meeting. Henry seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Invoices:**

The Sheriff's invoices were reviewed and explanations provided as requested. Leis moved and Clark seconded a motion to pay the invoices in the sum of \$73,393.22, which the motion passed unanimously.

**Sheriff's Activity Report:**

Sheriff Spears reported a fatal motorcycle accident on State Highway 35. Sheriff said the motorcyclist struck a dog, and ultimately the driver of the motorcycle was ejected from the cycle, and was struck by other passing vehicles. The case still remains under investigation, and is very unfortunate.

Sheriff Spears mentioned this weekend is the June Dairy Breakfast at the Torgerson farm. Sheriff urged everyone to attend, and the program starts at 8:30 AM.

Sheriff Spears said he's nominating Chief Deputy Sheriff Nathan Campbell for the Life Saving Award. Sheriff explained the event in detail where Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell was passing by on the interstate, and intervened during a crucial car accident, and potentially saved the gentleman's life.

Joholski asked about the Coon Valley Canoe Races. Sheriff Spears said this year will be a smaller event, family orientated with bands, and will continue to grow each year. Sheriff said the Command Post will be set up, along with extra officers from Vernon County and surrounding agencies / counties.

**Matters pertaining to maintenance and operation of office:**

Sheriff Spears reported the sheriff's office original generator went down, which is used in case of an emergency backup. Sheriff said to repair the cost will be about \$45,000.00. Sheriff said in case the generator doesn't backup in the case of an emergency, there is an emergency plan in place. Sheriff said the sheriff's office was still able to operate, and luckily the emergency plan didn't have to go into effect.

Sheriff Spears mentioned to get a rental generator was extremely expensive, and then if you had to use the rental generator you were charged for using it.

Sheriff Spears advised that this is an unplanned expense. Sheriff said Chairman Brault agreed to keep moving forward with the repair and to use monies from the general fund.

A discussion escalated on finding backup generators for the whole county and repair suggestions.

**ATV / UTV Ordinance Requests: None.**

Sheriff Spears updated the Committee on the hiring process of the new full-time patrol deputy. Sheriff Spears said 8 applicants were interviewed, and the position was offered to Donald Krzewinski. Sheriff announced Donald has been in law enforcement for 24 years, is currently a correctional officer in the jail, and is on the Honor Guard.

Sheriff Spears said now, Donald Krzewinski's correctional officer position will need to be filled. Sheriff said the sheriff's office is really looking for employees, part-time deputies and correctional staff. Sheriff mentioned the positions are advertised, but they are not getting the numbers and quality people. Sheriff gave an example of a well-rounded part-time employee who just gave his two-week's notice due to having a family and the high risk of a patrol officer. Sheriff Spears explained in just the patrol division alone, there are 33 open shifts that need to be filled, and they need to be covered for public safety. Sheriff said running short adds strain to the employees.

A discussion took place. The Committee questioned how to stay competitive. Sheriff said the only appeal Vernon County has is the safe community and county.

**Request to restructure two (2) correctional officer positions:**

Sheriff Spears said the sheriff's office is looking to restructure two Correctional Officer positions. Sheriff explained they are requesting to move two 80% correctional officer positions to full-time. The costs can be absorbed. Sheriff added operation costs and the revenue has increased, creating the jail to make revenue, which it's not supposed to do. Sheriff said the burden falls on the 17 correctional officers.

Sheriff Spears suggested the possibility of changing the correctional officer's status to a protective status, which can be done on the county level, the job description needs to be rewritten. A discussion took place on protective status. Roger Call requested getting numbers together for the cost of this change.

Easterday made a motion to restructure the two (2) correctional officer positions. Henry seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Roger Call asked about the progress with the engineer. Sheriff Spears said it's moving forward, and Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell was working on meeting with an engineer.

Leis moved to adjourn, Easterday seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 11, 2019.

Morgan C. Paulson, Acting Secretary