

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 10, 2019

Easterday called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. Committee members present:

Cary Joholski - Absent  
Frank Easterday  
Mary Henry  
Sheriff John Spears

Mike Leis  
Darrel Clark - Absent  
Chief Deputy Nathan Campbell

**Others in Attendance:** None.

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

**Invoices:**

The Sheriff's invoices were reviewed and explanations provided as requested. Leis moved and Henry seconded a motion to pay the invoices in the sum of \$79,544.06, which the motion passed unanimously.

**Sheriff's Activity Report:**

Sheriff Spears reported not much activity. Sheriff said there were no problems at the recent large events, such as the Retreat Worlds Fair. Henry asked if there were any updates on the cold cases. Sheriff reported DNA from the Jane Doe case was submitted in hopes of finding a DNA match to a relative. Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell reported an incarcerated person recently confessed to the homicide, but the prisoner later admitted he lied.

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

Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell reported maintenance technician, Don Dregne, is now working full time at the sheriff's office. Chief said Vernon Manor hired a new employee, and that person is trained.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell discussed the radio system update. Chief said in the afternoon of October 16, 2019, ComElec is giving a presentation with final numbers. Chief estimated the cost would be less than \$1 million. The estimate from ComElec in 2014 was \$550,000. Chief stated he would bring the bid from ComElec to the Committee for approval next month and then bring it to the Finance Committee for approval before bringing it to the Vernon County Board.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell said they are interested in purchasing a property and tower on Chipmunk Ridge Road, Town of Bergen. Chief reported it is an abandoned, free standing tower, and they already own a building which would be used to store supplies and equipment. Chief said they would prefer to purchase the property and tower rather than lease. Chief reported they are working with Vernon County Corporation Counsel on this potential purchase. Chief stated he expects to hear from the property and tower owners soon so he can bring an offer to the Committee next month for approval.

**ATV / UTV Ordinance Requests:**

The Town of Webster submitted an amendment to the ATV/UTV ordinance #2017-01, which the Town of Webster Board of Supervisors approved. Leis moved and Henry seconded a motion to accept the change. The motion passed unanimously.

Easterday asked Sheriff Spears if there has been an increase in the number of ATV/UTV accidents. Sheriff explained there has not. Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell reported nearly all ATV/UTV accidents occur on private property.

Sheriff Spears reported there is a meeting with the Towns Association soon where they will discuss the possibility of having all of the towns be consistent in their ATV/UTV ordinances. Sheriff said he will be unable to attend the meeting, but there will be a representative from the sheriff's office there. Sheriff stated the sheriff's office cannot enforce township ordinances unless they have a contract, but they can enforce Vernon County ordinances.

Sheriff Spears said the sheriff's office recently signed a contract with the Town of Liberty to enforce their shining ordinance. Sheriff said the Town of Liberty also has a dark skies ordinance requiring people to have covers over lights to prevent them from shining into the sky.

Henry moved to adjourn, Leis seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 14, 2019.

Amy E. Dvorak, Acting Secretary