

Port Washington, WI
April 26, 2011

The Public Safety Committee met in Room 211 at the Justice Center.

Present: Supervisors Szatkowski, Niehaus, Walker, Slater, Meyer, and Curtis. Staff: County Administrator Meaux, Sheriff Straub, Emergency Management Director Owen, Captains Guss and Johnson, Clerk of Courts Mueller, Human Resources Director Dzwinel, Office Manager Nelson, Lts. Taylor, Sauer, and McCormick, and County Clerk Winkelhorst.

Others Present: Supervisors Buntrock and Nelson, Att. Ron Stadler, Judges Wolfgram and Malloy, employees of the Sheriff's Department – Scott Heller, Renee Keller, Eric Sager, Brian Ronan, Sherri Leppla, Justin Kaas, Michael Glass, Susan Jarvela, David Domagalski, Jason Shelander, Marie Arendt, April Hermann, Brad Kittinger, Scott Smith, Becky Swanson, Char Love, Nick Depies, Stan Griffin, Wayne Lambrecht, James Goerke, Santino Valente, Brad Arndt, Chad Eibs, Joseph Milczarak, Rick Seidemann, Craig Webb, Jerri Behnke, Cory Jepson, Hillary Fry, Ralph Beck and John Dettman; others present - Kathy Domagalski, Arnold Jordan, Carol Dodson, Nancy Webb, Ray Leppla, and Mike Hamann,

Call to Order/Proper Notice/Adoption of Agenda: Meeting called to order by Chairperson Szatkowski at 8:30AM. Assurance that the meeting was properly noticed, so noted by Ms. Winkelhorst. Motion made by Supervisor Meyer, seconded by Supervisor Niehaus to adopt the agenda as presented. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. (6-0)

Meeting Dates and Time: The consensus of the committee is to meet on the second Thursday of the month beginning with the May 12 meeting and will meet at 9:00am.

Chairperson Szatkowski welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for choosing to participate and educate the committee. She further commented that the committee appreciates the opportunity to hear from the employees and to listen to their concerns. The County has to continually look at ways to increase efficiency and save money by changing the way business is done. This is not just a matter of saving money; the County has always done a good job of looking for efficiencies, of which all the employees have contributed to and their efforts have been appreciated. This matter today is to look at a balance between public safety and the responsibilities to our taxpayers.

Sheriff Straub stated that he has never been an advocate of having a civilian jail staff. Over the past 20 years, when this issue has been brought forth, he has weighed the relatively minor savings against the efficiencies that were able to be found with a sworn jail staff.

When this was brought forth, the command staff met and created a proposal by which the jail staff was civilianized and wages were frozen, however, in this proposal decertifying jail staff would require additional law enforcement personnel. The decertified jail staff would not be able to accomplish law enforcement duties as they currently do now. The additional personnel made the savings very minimal the first year with anticipated further savings as the years went on. The proposed plan was submitted and was deemed not acceptable.

Sheriff Straub further commented that he pledges to work with the committee to make a good decision which keeps the integrity of the Sheriff's office and the county jail intact. He noted that the Deputy's Association needs to be heard as well. They have been sensitive to this issue in the past and have made concessions which were intended to ward off the threat of becoming civilian corrections officers.

Sheriff Straub concluded that there are efficiencies that are realized in using sworn staff in the jail. It will be the committee that will be challenged to identify, recognize and ultimately quantify those efficiencies to determine the course of action to take.

Public Comment: Judge Wolfgram and Judge Malloy addressed the committee expressing their concern as to how this proposed change will impact the Sheriff's constitutional obligation to attend upon the courts. They urge the committee to explore the spirit of cooperativeness of the collective bargaining process to achieve the economic goals while maintaining the integrity of the sworn jail officers.

Deputy Smith addressed the committee providing a scenario of a typical day in the Sheriff's office.

8:55AM Secretary Lazar joined the meeting.

Deputy Domagalski addressed the committee on behalf of the union representatives, on the flexibility of utilizing sworn deputies in the jail compared to civilian correctional staff. He cited the recent firearms training and continual training that the deputies are involved in; the certification that deputies paid for to become law enforcement officers in Ozaukee County; the assistance that they provide at public disturbances such as in Madison; their assistance to patrol officers; their assistance with security details for public officials; and deputies utilized to assist guarding prisoners at hospitals, just to name a few of the sworn officer duties.

Sgt. Behnke addressed the committee presenting a financial worksheet showing the impact of the concessions that the Deputies Association gave in the 2010 budget; the change in work schedule rotation in 2010; the jail staff total base wages; the Waukesha County wage scale comparison rate sheet; the proposal factoring in decertification of staff, new hire rates, Wisconsin Retirement System change, additional staff needed, and an early retirement scenario. Sgt. Behnke reviewed the current staffing levels, the need to have sworn staff to draw from when needed and a comparison of other county staff levels that have civilian staff in their jails.

Mr. Haman addressed the committee expressing his concern in his role as the juvenile teacher in the County jail and his support for sworn officers.

9:27AM Lisa Curtis, News Graphic joined the meeting.

Deputy Jarvela addressed the committee citing her personal experience and the importance of a sworn staff in the jail.

Supervisor Walker commented that he supports keeping the sworn deputies in the jail.

Supervisor Meyer thanked all those that attended and assured them that their comments and concerns will be taken into consideration.

Deputy Beck addressed the committee supporting sworn staff in the jail.

Chairperson Szatkowski concluded the public comment by thanking those that attended and assuring them that this committee is dedicated to thoroughly investigating this matter, doing due diligence, being fair and just as they can be, to maintain the balance between public safety and the responsibilities to the taxpayer.

Motion made by Supervisor Meyer, seconded by Supervisor Slater to enter into closed session pursuant to sections 19.82 (1) and 19.85(1) (e) of the WI State Statutes. Roll call vote was taken. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. (6-0)

CLOSED SESSION –Pursuant to Sections 19.82 (1) and 19.85 (1)(e) of the Wisconsin State Statutes: Update regarding Collective Bargaining: Entered into closed session at 9:40AM. Present: Szatkowski, Niehaus, Walker, Slater, Meyer, Curtis, Meaux, Dzwinkel, Sauer, Johnson, Straub, Guss, Taylor, Stadler, T. Nelson, R. Nelson, Buntrock, and Winkelhorst.

10:00AM Supervisor Leider joined the meeting.

10:18AM Supervisor Buntrock left the meeting.

Motion made by Supervisor Niehaus, seconded by Supervisor Walker, to reconvene into open session. All members present voting aye. Motion carried. (6-0)

OPEN SESSION: Entered into open session at 10:43AM. All were present and members of the Sheriff's Department rejoined the meeting.

10:44AM Recess

10:52AM Reconvene

Discussion Item:

Draft Resolution – Decertification of Sworn Officers in Ozaukee County Jail and Establishment of Civilian Correctional Officers: Mr. Meaux explained that this resolution was done in consultation with the Sheriff's Department. It is not intended as a reflection on any individual or the performance of the department. It is his obligation as County Administrator to look for efficiencies throughout the county. This is an opportunity that is worth reviewing. The resolution changes the nature of the county operations, provides for an early retirement opportunity, provides for additional deputy hires, and holds harmless the current employees as it relates to wages. The four fiscal scenarios were reviewed. Mr. Meaux further stated this is a very preliminary analysis at this time.

Jail Tour: The committee proceeded to tour the jail at 11:06AM.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 9:00AM

Adjournment: The committee adjourned at 11:43AM.

Julianne B. Winkelhorst, County Clerk