

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

January 10, 2006

2:00 p.m.

Multi-Purpose Room, Justice Center

Present: **John Bonneprise** **Jack Overby** **Kim O’Connell**
 Tim Kufalk **Ralph Johansen**

Also Present: **Tim Moore** **Jeffrey Fuge** **Karen Olson**
 Steve Moe **Jonn Dinnies** **Lois Hoff**
 Sharon Schiebel **Kathy Poirier**

Also: **Members of the Public**

Media: **Bob Zank – Amery Free Press**
 Gregg Westigard – Inter-County Leader
 Reid Gacke – Ledger Newspapers

Supervisor Bonneprise called the monthly meeting of the Polk County Public Protection Committee to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Approve Agenda

Corporate Counsel Jeff Fuge told the committee that it is not clear if it is necessary to conduct a performance evaluation for the Medical Examiner because he is paid under a different structure than the non-represented employees. He advised amending the agenda by withdrawing this closed session item.

Motion made by Supervisor O’Connell to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Supervisor Kufalk. Motion carried by voice vote.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Supervisor Kufalk to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2005 meeting.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Overby. Motion to approve minutes carried by voice vote.

Public Comments

Gregg Westigard asked if the vacancy in the Field Services Lieutenant position in the Sheriff’s Department would be addressed. He was told it would.

Medical Examiner

Medical Examiner Jonn Dinnies was asked to clarify “moving of his office”. Dinnies explained that he was trying to move as much as possible to his home to cut down on trips to the Justice Center. He stated that his home would not be the official office of the Medical Examiner, he is just trying to do as much as possible from home (i.e.: correspondence and clerical duties). Supervisor Bonneprise asked about security and back up of his files. Discussion on options for back up of records and economic feasibility of optical imaging. Dinnies was asked to meet with the Corporate Counsel, Sheriff’s Office, District Attorney and IT department to discuss this.

District Attorney and Victim Witness Office

District Attorney Karen Olson had nothing to report.

Clerk of Court

Clerk of Court, Lois Hoff reported on new legislation that takes effect April 1, 2006. Act 59 will make it easier to collect unpaid fines by allowing the County Board to pass a resolution for the use of credit or debit cards, allowing the DOT to share information with the Dept. of Revenue and allows the Clerk of Court to charge a payment plan fee. Ms. Hoff gave a brief staffing update.

Child Support Agency

Child Support Director Jeff Fuge reported on December agency numbers. Also reported on the status of optical imaging. Fuge told the committee that they would have to replace the fax machine in the Child Support office. If the fax machine is deemed Child Support equipment, it may be eligible for partial reimbursement. Because Corporation Counsel may use it also; he will have to look at the numbers to decide the most economical way to replace the machine. On his staffing update, Fuge reported that the interviews for the Assistant Corp Counsel had been conducted and the final posting for the Child Support Specialist will be closed soon. Fuge told the committee that it doesn't look good for 2008 and beyond; Child Support funding could be cut by 50%.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Tim Moore addressed the Committee for the first time since being sworn in as Sheriff. He told the committee he plans to bring more things to the committee. Sheriff Moore discussed the issue of transports and reported that there were two that will cost the County approximately \$3,500.00. Supervisor O'Connell asked about reimbursement. Discussion followed and DA Karen Olson said that reimbursement is requested as a condition of bond. She also said the defendant can be ordered to pay, but they rarely get anything. More discussion followed on reimbursement; follow up on court orders and jurisdictional boundaries.

Chief Deputy Steve Moe handed out copies of the Water Safety Program Resolution. The resolution allows the Sheriff's Department to receive up to 75% reimbursement for the Water Safety Program.

Motion made by Supervisor Overby to proceed with the resolution for the Water Safety Program.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Johansen. Motion carried by voice vote.

Supervisor Kufalk had a question concerning the bills. He also asked for clarification on the status of the contract with Trollhaugen as reported in the Communications Committee minutes. Moe and Fuge reported we are waiting for the final papers to be signed but that we do have an agreement with the owners. Everything is on track in regards to the Communications Tower project. Supervisor Johansen commented on the temperature setting in the jail. Sheriff Moore commented that there might be State Jail Regulations that govern. Chief Deputy Moe explained that he and Jail Administrator Cyndy Moore have worked closely with Buildings Director Debbie Peterson trying to maintain an economical temperature level in the Jail summer and winter. He told the committee if they want to pursue this issue he wants to be involved. Moe will bring more information to the next meeting. Supervisor Overby commented on security lighting.

Sheriff Moore asked for the committee's permission to request proposals for Law Enforcement vehicles. Supervisor Johansen stated he wanted to go on record that he will not vote for any vehicle purchased outside of Polk County.

Motion made by Supervisor Johansen to proceed with the request for proposals according to an assessment of needs done by the Sheriff's department. Motion seconded by Supervisor O'Connell.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Emergency Management Coordinator, Kathy Poirier appeared to review the draft Joint Action Emergency Management Ordinance that was handed out at the last meeting of the Committee. Discussion followed

with questions, corrections and clarifications of the new the ordinance made by the Committee and Poirier.

Motion made by Supervisor O'Connell to accept the Joint Action Emergency Management Ordinance as reviewed by the Committee with the recommended amendments to the draft. Motion seconded by Supervisor Overby. Motion carried by voice vote.

It was recommended by Corporation Counsel that the committee make a formal motion to name a specific person granting the leave of absence approved by the committee at their November meeting.

Motion by Supervisor Johansen to grant Tim Moore as the Field Services Lieutenant of the Polk County Sheriff's Department a leave of absence from January 3, 2006 until a new Sheriff takes office on January 2, 2007 for the purpose of filling an appointment as approved by Governor Doyle. Motion seconded by Supervisor O'Connell. Supervisor Johansen called for a roll call vote. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The status of the Lieutenant position was discussed. The plan is to fill the position by appointment as a temporary position. There were questions on issues that may come up with filling it on a temporary basis. Moe acknowledged it could complicate things moving a represented employee to a non-represented position. Sheriff Moore and Moe will look into this further and report to the committee.

The committee took a break before going into closed session for employee review.

Committee reconvened. Supervisor Johansen reported on a three-day meth training that is being sponsored by the St. Croix Tribe on January 11 – 13. Members of the Meth Advisory Committee will be attending various sessions and will attend a pre-graduation open house at the St. Croix Casino event center on Thursday evening.

A motion to go into closed session pursuant to 19.85(1)(c) to conduct the performance evaluation of the Child Support Director was made by Supervisor Kufalk and seconded by Supervisor Overby. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion to return to open session made by Supervisor Overby and seconded by Supervisor Johansen. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Adjourn

Motion made by Supervisor O'Connell, seconded by Supervisor Kufalk to adjourn.