

Vermilion County Public Safety Committee  
Wednesday September 18, 2019 5:00 P.M.  
VCAB- 201 N Vermilion Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> FL- Chambers

## MINUTES

### **Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order and Roll Call**

Public Safety Committee member, Bruce Stark called the Public Safety Committee of the Vermilion County Board to order at 5:00 p.m., on Wednesday September 18, 2019.

Upon the call of roll, the following committee members were present: Tom Morse, Craig Golden, Bruce Stark, Becky Stark, and Nancy O’Kane. (5 present, 2 absent) Chuck Nesbitt was excused. Natalie Duncan was absent. Also attending the meeting was: Larry Baughn Jr.-Chairman, Sheriff Hartshorn, Terry Scott- DPBC, Bill Donahue- County Board Risk Consultant, Erika Briggs- Financial Resources Director, and Jennifer Jenkins- County Board Office Manager.

### **Agenda Item 2 - Adoption/Amendments of Agenda**

O’Kane moved, seconded by Morse, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed by acclamation.

### **Agenda Item 3 - Approval Minutes – August 21, 2019**

Becky Stark moved, second by Golden, to accept the minutes as written. Motion passed by acclamation.

### **Agenda Item 4 - Audience Comments**

Terry Scott, Executive Director from the Danville Public Building Commission was present to discuss the updates with the radio system upgrade progress. In April 2016 was when it was determined that upgrades were needed. At that time it was decided that we would go with a digital cellular system for communications. This did not work out as planned due to the loss of connectivity, etc. So it was later determined that to improve on this system that a microwave system would be in our best interest. The initial cost was around \$100,000 and then with the upgrade to a microwave system, this amount changed to \$161,000. Both of these amounts were to come from the 2016 bond money. The microwave system is up and running and is a vast improvement. There are a few limitations with this system. Example being, that some areas of the County require the Deputies to have to change their radio channel for communication. This is burdensome. Also, often times, depending on where officers are, there are issues with reception from their portable radios. The DPBC put out a request for proposal for a simulcast system. This will allow additional transmission sites that will increase the coverage and reception tremendously. The cost for this simulcast system is \$324,842. The microwave system, has been paid for, but it came in less at @ \$131,000. The total amount of expenditures on this will be about \$456,000 part of which will be bond money.

### **Agenda Item 5 –Ordinance: Amendment to the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Sheriff’s Department**

Sheriff Hartshorn explained that this is for the amount of \$24,748. This amount is for work by the Sheriff’s Department for various organizations, villages, and events throughout Vermilion County. These organizations hire deputies for their event. This money is simply putting money back in the payroll line from the general fund. Motion by Golden to approve the ordinance as presented, second by Morse. Upon the roll of call the following voted yes to-wit: Morse, Golden, Bruce Stark, Becky Stark, and Nancy O’Kane. 5-yes 2-absent.

### **Agenda Item 6 & 6A –Budget – Sheriff’s Department & Public Safety Building**

Sheriff Hartshorn started with the general fund budget which covers all operations outside of the Public Safety Building. There are a few increases from last fiscal year. Some in the payroll. There are ongoing expenses such as longevity, etc. These amounts must be figured in even though the contract has expired. Other increases are minimal such as: education and training by \$1000, contractual/professional services remain the same. This is for dues and fees such as background checks, etc.

Motion by Golden to approve the budget as presented, second by Becky Stark. Upon the roll of call the following voted yes to-wit: Morse, Golden, Bruce Stark, Becky Stark, and Nancy O’Kane. 5-yes 2-absent.

**Item #6A** - Sheriff Hartshorn presented the Public Safety Building budget to the committee. He explained that the biggest change in the PSB budget is due to experiencing a lot of lawsuits in the jail. These lawsuits are claiming insufficient medical care for the inmates. So the increase in the budget is to add a Nurse Practitioner to the staff. Currently, the jail has an M.D. that is the Medical Director. There are also two R.N.’s that see the patients at the jail. Often, inmates are taken out of the jail to visit specialists, or if an M.D. is needed they will be taken to a local

Physicians office. The addition of the Nurse Practitioner on a part-time basis will provide additional attention to the inmates. The N.P. will have the ability to diagnose and prescribe medication, etc. To cover this position there has been an additional \$25,000 added to the salary line. There is also an increase to the inmates medical expense line of \$25,000. However, the Sheriff has decreased the line item for food by \$50,000 due to the contracting of a food vendor that provides a dietician, they also buy all of the food for all of the jails in the U.S. that they are working with. This provides us with a significant discount due to a joint purchase price. This vendor also portions the food to ensure a proper balanced diet and calorie count.

Motion by Becky Stark to approve the budget as presented, second by O’Kane. Upon the roll of call the following voted yes to-wit: Morse, Golden, Bruce Stark, Becky Stark, and Nancy O’Kane. 5-yes 2-absent.

**Agenda Item 7 - Executive Session**

Not necessary at this meeting.

**Agenda Item 8 - Items of Information or Committee Concerns**

Baughn Jr. shared that Law Enforcement Appreciation Day is coming up on September 27<sup>th</sup> at Turtle Run, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Also, Sheriff Hartshorn, Building and Grounds, and Chairman Baughn visited the pole barn on Georgetown Road. There will be some renovation work to help the Sheriff’s Department out. B&G received a few estimates as of today and they are expecting a few more. This renovation will save the deputies from having to take their vehicles, etc. home for modifications. The update will provide them with a space that is climate controlled and suitable for their needs. This will save a large cost as the modifications will not need to be outsourced.

Stark shared that the Sheriff also runs a committee for the 911 center. Through his system, along with the Director of Communications, Cynthia Linton, they have obtained a grant for over \$250,000. Stark thanked the Sheriff for this.

**Agenda Item 9 - Adjournment**

Being no further business, Committee member Stark adjourned the meeting at 5:34 P.M.

Minutes by: Jennifer Jenkins