

## **Minutes of Winnebago County Public Safety Commission**

**Meeting date:** Feb 13, 2014

**Call to order:** A regular business meeting of the Winnebago County Public Safety Commission was held at the Winnebago County Court House in Forest City. The meeting convened at 4:25 p.m. Chairman Andy Buffington presiding and Jennifer Ackerman Secretary.

**Members in attendance:** Terry Durby – representing Winnebago County, Daniel Davis– representing Forest City, Nathan Ostrander – representing Lake Mills, Troy Armstrong – representing Buffalo Center, Todd Hughes – representing Thompson, Carla Langfald – representing Scarville, Phil Benn– representing Rake, Sue Urbatsch – representing Leland

**Members not in attendance:** None

**Approval of minutes/agendas:** Mr. Buffington requested a motion be made to approve the agendas and minutes of the last regular business meeting of the Commission on Dec 10, 2013 and the public meeting to present the union proposal on Jan 22, 2014. Mr. Davis made a motion, Mr. Durby offered a second. All voted aye, motion carried.

**LEC Building Update:** Mr. Durby advised the building committee was getting the word out about the upcoming vote March 4, 2014 on a bond referendum to build a new public safety center. He advised it has been met with good reception but that there is still a lot of misunderstanding amongst tax-payers on what it will cost them. Mr. Ostrander brought up concerns he is hearing in Lake Mills about what kind of agreement will be made between the County and Forest City if it does become a shared facility. Mr. Davis advised the City will be providing infrastructure, utilities, water and sewer and the possibility of an on-going rental agreement. Mr. Durby advised they have not yet come to a final agreement with the City but they are working on that. Mr. Ostrander expressed that voters will want to know what the agreement is before going to the poles. Mr. Durby further advised there are town hall meetings scheduled. Mr. Buffington encouraged everyone present to go to their town hall meetings and express any concerns they are hearing from their constituents.

**Dispatchers Union Contract:** Mr. Buffington advised the contract negotiations are set for Feb 18<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m. at the Court House. He asked if anyone present would be available to sit in on the negotiations. Mr. Ostrander advised that he would attend. Mr. Buffington reminded the Commission that after the negotiations both sides will vote to approve the contract.

**Communications Budget:** Ms. Ackerman presented a preliminary budget for Communications. The major change from the figures shown at the Dec 10, 2013 meeting was to the data processing line item. Next Generation Technology (NGT) had sent updated figures for necessary upgrades to the server and pc's which was around \$15,000 without labor. Ms. Ackerman advised she added another \$3,000 to the line item for labor. Mr. Buffington explained there had not been time to request more specific numbers from NGT on the maximum labor cost but that he'd had no trouble getting those types of figures from NGT in the past so the next time the commission meets we should have a more accurate

dollar amount. Ms. Ackerman advised the salary portion is still unclear until the union negotiations are complete and both sides adopt a contract.

**Budget for Sympathy Gifts/Funeral Flowers:** At the last meeting Mr. Buffington advised he would look into the legality of using general funds for bereavement gifts. He advised the commission although it is legal he did not feel public funds should be used in this manner. Mr. Durby advised the court house personnel use personal funds for such items. Mr. Buffington advised in the future he and Ms. Ackerman will send out notices to the commission to request donations.

**Other Business:** Mr. Buffington asked if there was any other business. There was none.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Davis made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Armstrong offered a second. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Jennifer Ackerman

March 6, 2014

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**Secretary**  
**Winnebago County Public Safety Commission**

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**Date of Approval**