

Public Health & Safety Committee

Overseeing the Sheriff, Emergency Management, Coroner and Animal Control.

Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 6:30 PM in the County Board Room

Committee members present were Barbara Fletcher, Steven DeMoss, Travis Cooley and David McCleary. Also present were Rich Wagner, John Simon and Scott Graham. Absent was Becky Weed.

All bills were reviewed and appeared to be in order.

A motion to approve the minutes of the prior meeting was made by Steven DeMoss, seconded by David McCleary. Motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: Sheriff Wagner

Jail:

Two corrections officers have submitted letters of resignation in the past week.

They have open applications for new corrections officers.

The current jail population (8/17/2021) is 145.

The jail has 8 inmates ready for transport to IDOC. The IDOC is refusing to accept them at this time.

Sheriff's Office:

They have had one or two employees off of work every week for the past two weeks due to a positive COVID test.

Roger Edwards, the office typist, has submitted a letter of resignation after 8 years on the staff. Sheriff Wagner is hoping to induce him to stay.

They have added three new Dodge Durangos to their fleet. The officers are very appreciative of their new squad cars. These Durangos replace three older squad cars, each of which had over 200,000 miles on them.

Coroner's Report: Coroner Graham

There were 64 reported deaths in July 2021. 8 autopsies, no abandoned cremations and 28 cremation permits issued in July 2021. Coroner Graham reports that they have seen a slight increase in the number of autopsies this year.

Emergency Management/Ambulance: Director Simon

Ambulance:

Director John Simon reported that staffing is their main concern. The department requires 22 paramedics to make the schedule work. At this time, they are short of EMTs. They require 1 paramedic and 1 EMT to operate an ambulance.

They are looking at new options for recruiting and educating paramedics. This is the first year since 1986 where they have been unable to hold a paramedic class due to insufficient numbers of enrollees.

They are searching for a new Paramedic Captain. They had 2 responses from their nationwide search. The Paramedic Captain serves as a shift supervisor.
Camera systems are being installed in the rigs this week and are being done here locally, on site.

Emergency Management:

COVID vaccination numbers are up. Director Simon reports that 44% of the population is fully vaccinated.

Vaccinations are available by walk-in at the Health Department.

COVID testing continues, Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

As of 8/16/2021, there were approximately 700 active cases. These figures are similar to January.

The Delta variant is hitting younger patients. They are seeing many admissions among people between 20 and 30 years old. Most of these admissions are unvaccinated people.

Ambulance responses for COVID calls are increasing.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Business being concluded, a motion to adjourn was made by Steve DeMoss and seconded by Travis Cooley.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 6:30 PM in the County Board Room.