

# Public Health & Safety Committee

Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the ROE Conference Room

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

Committee members present were Barbara Fletcher, Steven DeMoss, David McCleary and Mark Sorensen. Also present were Coroner Scott Graham, Assistant State's Attorney Todd Eyer and Sheriff Rich Wagner. Excused was Taylor Rakers.

All bills were reviewed and appeared to be in order.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022 meeting was made by David McCleary and seconded by Mark Sorensen. Motion passed.

Todd Eyer asked if he could make a statement. He complimented Coroner Scott Graham and said that he deserves special recognition for the work he does with families. Mr. Eyer stated that family members have reached out to him and expressed their gratitude for the great help that Mr. Graham had been to them at their time of great need. They were very appreciative of the compassion that Mr. Graham showed to them. Sheriff Wagner seconded the compliment.

## **Coroner's Report: Coroner Graham**

Coroner Graham reported that during the month of May 2022 there were:

- 70 reported deaths
- 6 autopsies
- 2 abandoned cremations
- 32 cremation permits issued
- 0 suicides.

## **Sheriff's Report: Email Report from Sheriff Wagner**

Sheriff Wagner reports that the Sheriff's Department has received a check from the Illinois Department of Corrections in the amount of \$345,135 as a partial reimbursement for holding IDOC inmates during COVID. The check has been deposited to the County General account.

The jail medical and food providers advise that they will be increasing the cost of services approximately 10% due to the increasing cost of supplies. The Sheriff is looking at a different commissary provider.

The jail population is currently at 143 inmates.

Inmate transfers to IDOC have become more frequent.

Staffing is currently at the minimum level. They are down four employees.

## **Sheriff's Office**

New phones have been installed which give them the ability to monitor and respond to

the panic alarms installed throughout the courthouse.

The Sheriff's Office has seen an increase in burglaries to homes and storage lockers. Our officers have been working overtime on surveillance details. Our efforts paid off and we arrested a group of individuals that were involved in numerous burglaries.

The Sheriff's Office has recently completed annual training in firearms, taser, CPR/AED/Narcan, Use of Force, Blood Borne Pathogens, and Hazardous Materials.

Sheriff's Deputy staffing is ok. They are in need of a maintenance person.

**Ambulance/Emergency Management: Chief John Simon- No Report**

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Personnel Review of Hancock County Emergency Medical Services-No report due to non-attendance of Director Simon

ARPA-Project Review Summary- The Committee reviewed the list of current ARPA projects. A question came up as to whether the Courthouse elevator project had been completed or not, and regarding monthly payments to SD Wilson of \$7,165.33 per month. These questions will be forwarded to the Finance Committee Chair.

A motion was made by David McCleary and seconded by Mark Sorensen that the Executive Committee move forward with the restroom project for Liberty, Coatsburg, Bailey Park, Plainville and Golden, since these meet the criteria for use of ARPA funds under Public Health and Safety. The combined cost of these restrooms will be approximately \$600,000. The motion passed and the resolution will be presented to the County Board at the meeting to follow on June 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

**Appointments**

None.

Business being concluded, a motion to adjourn was made by Steve DeMoss and seconded by Mark Sorensen. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

**The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the ROE Conference Room.**

Barbara Fletcher  
Chair, Public Health & Safety Committee