



Effingham County Board  
101 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL  
217.342.4990

January 17, 2024

## Public Safety Committee

### MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Chair; Dave Campbell, Vice-Chair; Jeremy Deters; Sandi Gillet

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present: None

Others Present: Chief Buhnerkempe, Michelle Shoot, Tina Daniels, Joel Deters, Jeremy Kyle, Kevin Bullard, Lauren Heuerman

#### Minutes

- J. Deters motioned to approve the October 18, 2023 committee minutes. S. Gillet seconded. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

#### Sheriff's Office/Sheriff Kuhns

- Sheriff Kuhns reported numbers are comparative to typical numbers. Sheriff Kuhns reported calls for service are up, patrol officers are making more arrests than any other police agency in the county so he is always looking for additional correctional staffing. Sheriff Kuhns reported staffing is met in telecommunication. Sheriff Kuhns reported his biggest challenge is the jail and inmate mental illness. Sheriff Kuhns reported that with the SAFE-T Act jail population is standing at 13 inmates when on the same date in 2023 the jail population was 52 inmates. S. Gillet inquired on any inmate requests for mental health assistance through ARPA purchased inmate healthcare program. Sheriff Kuhns responded that the program is being utilized. Sheriff Kuhns reported IDHS has been inquiring with various Sheriff Offices throughout the state on mental and physical health programming for inmates.

#### EMA/Pam Jacobs

- EMA submitted reports for October, November, December 2023 for review.

#### Coroner/Kim Rhodes

- Joel Deters and L. Heuerman provided report from Coroner's office, reporting 398 total county deaths and 113 scenes reported. L. Heuerman reported Coroner's office is under budget with \$46,435.60 in savings to Effingham County.
- Jeremy Deters recommended collaborating with other counties to explore a pathologist for the region.
- Jeremy Deters recommended looking into a location for a proper morgue for Coroner's office.

#### 911/Tina Daniels

- T. Daniels reported increase in calls with 1137 more calls in 2023 than 2022. T. Daniels stated the major incidents last year may have contributed to the increase. T. Daniels reported continued wait on repairs from lightning strike, however the new generator is in, but not installed due to concerns when tested.

### **Animal Control/Michelle Shoot**

- M. Shoot reported many wellness checks for animals with weather. M. Shoot reported identifying a crack in the building of which the city has been notified, however will not be repaired until the weather warmed. M. Shoot reported Crawford County Animal Control (department of ag) has lost their animal control warden and has inquired if Effingham County could assist in set up. M. Shoot reported Clay County has been assisted as best as possible at this time. J. Deters inquired on how M. Shoot foresees this process for Crawford County set up. J. Deters recommended other county representatives come to Effingham County for any training or recommendations for set up. M. Shoot agreed. M. Shoot reported Crawford County has been doing step process for free neuter clinics. J. Deters inquired if Effingham County Animal Control can work with EARS for any University of Illinois neutering programming. M. Shoot to follow up.

### **Emergency Preparedness/Karen Feldkamp**

- No report

### **Dive Rescue Team/Terry Trueblood**

- J. Kyle reported on behalf of T. Trueblood. J. Kyle reported issues with paging system and is currently working with vendors to correct the problem. J. Kyle reported team is integrating new testing procedures. J. Kyle reported Shelbyville has adopted a resolution for their own dive team, however J. Kyle is not sure Shelby County will support it at this time. J. Kyle suggested renewal of mutual aid Shelby County dive team is able to retain support from Shelby County with resolution. J. Kyle reported Life Rescue Dive training is scheduled this weekend.

### **K-9 Search and Rescue/Kevin Bullard**

- K. Bullard reported he will be hosting the Multi-State Seminar for Human Remains Detection on Land and Water at Camp Walter Scott in April. K. Bullard reported hosting a Water Recovery class two times a year at Camp Walter Scott or Camp Lakewood. K. Bullard reported staffing for Search and Rescue is down. K. Bullard reported working on certifying dogs and may be early summer before certification. K. Bullard reported difficulty finding volunteers to take on the commitment of certifying and maintaining certification of dogs for the lifetime of dog. K. Bullard stated that if there is a need, he does have the network to provide a dog.

### **General**

#### **Closed Session**

#### **Adjournment**

- J. Deters motioned/S. Gillet seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

Minutes submitted by Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator