



Effingham County Board
101 N. 4th Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL
217.342.4990

April 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: Josh Douthit

Others Present: Sheriff Kuhns, Chief Buhnerkempe, Michelle Shoot, Tina Daniels, Kevin Bullard, Jim Niemann, Pam Jacobs, Kevin Bullard, Karen Feldkamp

Minutes

- J. Deters motioned to approve the January 17, 2024 committee minutes. S. Gillet seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Sheriff's Office/Sheriff Kuhns

- Sheriff Kuhns reported eclipse preparation was well tasked with extra staff and monitoring of traffic patterns and Sheriff Kuhns praised his staff for their hard work and efforts making this eclipse a smooth operation. Sheriff Kuhns shared the jail floor will be getting updates funded through the Sheriff's budget. Upon completion, Sheriff Kuhns will invite Board members to come view. Chief Buhnerkempe reported calls are mostly the same with a slight increase in January; Jail population is lower than last year, however January to February and February to March has shown an upwards trend. Chief Buhnerkempe reported no updates on SAFE-T Act. Sheriff Kuhns stated they are struggling with detention hearings.

EMA/Pam Jacobs

- P. Jacobs shared the Hazard Mitigation Plan which is coming due in 2026. P. Jacobs stated the county will need to obtain the grant and the county pays match. P. Jacobs stated there is no date set at this time for the grant, however she will be scheduling a meeting with Mayor of City of Effingham for updating to get things started for the updated plan.
- J. Niemann reported identification of six (6) major chemicals that require evacuation and Effingham County has three (3) stored here. The three (3) located in Effingham County are anhydrous, chlorine, and a chemical used at truck washes in very limited amounts. J. Niemann reported hazardous chemicals are transported through the county on trains on daily basis, of which J. Niemann receives a call to inform of pending transport. J. Niemann shared only two (2) spills have been reported in county the last quarter with one spill being a diesel spill on interstate. J. Niemann shared he has been posting educational information on the website and will be posting more soon. D. Campbell inquired on EMA drone. J. Niemann stated drone is old and needs replaced because of limited capabilities.

Coroner/Kim Rhodes

- No report

911/Tina Daniels

- T. Daniels shared it is National Telecommunicators Week. T. Daniels reported they are still working on radio towers.

Animal Control/Michelle Shoot

- M. Shoot reported it is Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week and they have been receiving many contributions from the community to support. M. Shoot shared an upcoming Adopt-A-Thon at Evergreen Park on June 9th sponsored by a local resident. J. Deters inquired on assistance from other organizations. M. Shoot confirmed EARS and Humane Society have been assisting. M. Shoot stated she has requested staff to focusing on dogs at this time. J. Deters inquired on Crawford County's request for assistance reported at last meeting. M. Shoot stated Crawford County has not responded.

Emergency Preparedness/Karen Feldkamp

- K. Feldkamp shared her grant period ends in June. K. Feldkamp reported with the influx of immigration to Chicago, they are keeping an eye on measles spreading from north. J. Deters inquired on TB cases as well. K. Feldkamp reported only one she has been made notice. K. Feldkamp expressed kudos to jail staff with their response to a possible communicable disease issue in immediately reaching out to health department staff. K. Feldkamp shared the Hazardous Mitigation Plan mentioned by P. Jacobs addresses the issue of inmates with communicable disease. K. Feldkamp shared meeting is her last meeting with her retirement being June 14th, 2024.

Dive Rescue Team/Terry Trueblood

- D. Campbell reported a couple calls, but no known details.

K-9 Search and Rescue/Kevin Bullard

- K. Bullard reported he completed the April 5, 6, 7 Spring Seminar at Camp Walter Scott and was able to retrieve a couple prospects from the seminar. K. Bullard reported water courses will be provided throughout the year with multi-state. In 2025, K. Bullard states he will be hosting a full seminar at Camp Walter Scott with 50 dogs if there is enough land for running trails. The camp is reserved for the event.

General

- D. Campbell encouraged sharing any recommendations for needs for ARPA and/or capital expenditures.

Closed Session

Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator