



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

July 17, 2024

## Public Safety Committee

### MINUTES

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

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present:

Others Present: Sheriff Kuhns, Chief Buhnerkempe, Michelle Shoot, Jim Niemann, Kevin Bullard, Kim Rhodes, Amber Wille

#### Minutes

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

#### Sheriff's Office/Sheriff Kuhns

- Sheriff Kuhns reported the renovations for the 911 Control Room have been approved and will move forward.
- Chief Buhnerkempe reported the number of patrol calls have been average for the month.
- Sheriff Kuhns reported jail population is up 44% from January with bookings increased. Sheriff Kuhns stated he expects this trend to continue. Sheriff Kuhns shared his frustration that 15% of his housed inmates are actually assigned to the Department of Human Services (DHS), however he struggles to get DHS to take them. Sheriff Kuhns expressed concern that inmates don't improve since county jail isn't an appropriate place for assistance with mental illness. Sheriff Kuhns also shared his concerns on the emotional and physical well-being of his personnel when working with inmates in mental health crisis.

#### EMA/Pam Jacobs

- J. Niemann reported the Board approved mitigation plan is moving forward. J. Niemann also shared a department head meeting at EMA on July 31<sup>st</sup> to develop an Effingham County Liaison dedicated to EMA in certain situations and a LAPC meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Campbell inquired on generators for the fair. J. Niemann confirmed 2 generators and a supply truck have been provided.
- J. Niemann recommended checking out the website with updates on how to stay cool in weather.

#### Coroner/Kim Rhodes

- K. Rhodes reported getting numbers together for morgue along with a proposed building design.
- K. Rhodes reported death numbers are about the same with around five autopsies for the year.
- Discussion on possibility of a pathologist located in Effingham. K. Rhodes stated there are 933 total in U.S. and would be ideal to find a part-time pathologist for Effingham and surrounding area. J. Deters inquired on student scholarship/apprenticeship for a pathology program. K. Rhodes stated the pathology educational track is very long making it hard to implement such a program.

#### 911/Tina Daniels

- T. Daniels reported Global has started on the Simulcast initiation. D. Campbell shared the 911 Committee discussed performing an audit on towers.

#### Animal Control/Michelle Shoot

- M. Shoot reported animal intake not increasing significantly, but adoptions are down. M. Shoot reported current status of 10 kennels with 5 open. M. Shoot stated they are out running many calls for repeat offenders, however recently won their latest animal cruelty case just yesterday.
- M. Shoot expressed appreciation with people volunteering and donating, sharing Noon Rotary recently hosted an event to assist with supplies and vet bills.

- M. Shoot reported cats are being turned away as any cat intakes are simply a courtesy for tax payers and not a requirement of Animal Control.
- M. Shoot stated they have been assisting with some rehoming of pets through social media and other outlets, however they do not take in the pets.
- M. Shoot was happy to report that WCIA stated Effingham County Animal Control was the cleanest shelter they had been to.

#### **Emergency Preparedness/Health Department**

- A. Wille presented herself to the committee sharing she will be overseeing public health emergency preparedness program.
- A. Wille stated they are entering into a new 5-year budget cycle with new requirements for staff training, exercises, etc.
- A. Wille reported they will not be offering Narcan with hopes to have available by the end of the week.
- A. Wille shared the securing of a Residential Sharps Drop-off Location grant which will need renewed annually.
- A. Wille reported being vigilant of H5N1 as it is reported to be affecting various herds. A. Wille stated thirteen states have reported outbreaks in dairy cattle, however Illinois is not one of those states. A. Wille stated nationally there have been four human cases reported after exposure to dairy farms. A. Wille shared that the current public health risk is considered low.

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

- D. Campbell shared Fayette Dive Rescue was called with a request to use their equipment, so Fayette Dive Rescue called Effingham Dive Rescue for backup for mutual aid in case they were called out for the Nashville dam crisis.

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

- K. Bullard reported getting a call on a Fayette County disappearance, however is waiting on more information. K. Bullard stated he anticipates a thorough search once crops come down and weather cools. K. Bullard shared he is currently waiting on SIU to get back with him on a ground penetrating radar.
- K. Bullard shared a couple water classes to take place in September and October and a conference at Camp Walter Scott in which he would have around 30-40 K'9's in attendance. K. Bullard is unsure of date for the conference at this time.
- D. Campbell inquired on any new interest in dogs being trained. K. Bullard confirmed some interest; however, he struggles to get those to fully commit to the process. K. Bullard also stated the requirements with the background screen has been causing some difficulty in promotion of the program.

#### **General**

- G. Koester stated he has been performing a lot of surveillance on road flooding concerns with recent rainfalls, along with having his staff do road checks at 4:30am just yesterday. G. Koester reported a couple of river bridges are currently still out.
- G. Koester stated he has received some calls regarding dams in Effingham County as a result of the Nashville dam incident and is unsure of the county's role in these issues other than public safety concerns. G. Koester to investigate.
- G. Koester reported he has received a Lake Pauline Emergency Action Plan that was submitted as a request from IDNR.
- G. Koester reported as a result of this year's tragic accident at the four-way stop on Moccasin Road, larger reflective signs and added caution signs have been installed.
- D. Campbell requested County Highway be added to agenda for Public Safety Committee for future meetings.

#### **Closed Session**

#### **Adjournment**

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

Minutes submitted by Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator