

**Minutes of the Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee
Friday, May 14, 2021**

Chair Wolff called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Peter Wolff, Christine Howard, Mike Crowley, Tyler Foti, Darlene Johnson, and Larry Nelson. **Absent:** Jacob LaFontain.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Alex Ignatowski, Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, Director of Emergency Preparedness Gary Bell, Chief Judge Jennifer Dorow, Clerk of Courts Monica Paz, Director of Administration Andrew Thelke, District Court Administrator Mike Neimon, Jury Coordinator Laura Haight, Administrative Specialist Mary Pedersen, Sheriff Eric Severson, Inspector Jim Gumm, Deputy Inspector Patrick Esser, Judge Bill Domina, and County Board Chair Paul Decker.

Approve Minutes of April 16, 2021

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Johnson to approve the minutes of April 16. Motion carried 6-0.

Next Meeting Date(s)

- June 11, 2021

Ordinance 176-O-024 First Amendment to Lease Agreement with Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless

Bell discussed this ordinance to approve the First Amendment to Lease Agreement with Verizon Wireless for the Davidson Road Radio Tower which involves Cellco replacing equipment and allowing them access to the site.

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Crowley to approve Ordinance 176-O-024. Motion carried 6-0.

Presentation on Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC) Report Regarding the Use of Video Conferencing in the Courts

Thelke gave background and history on this item and distributed copies of "Video Court Pilot and Electronic Monitoring Considerations" which he highlighted. Dorow indicated the judges are fully committed to video conferencing and support of it whereby she discussed its benefits. Answering Foti's question, Dorow indicated Waukesha County is the only multi judge county in the state that does not have video conferencing capabilities from the jail. She noted that certain hearings such as trials and motion hearings would still be held in person. Answering Johnson's question, Dorow said the number one complaint she receives from other counties is why doesn't Waukesha County have video conferencing from their jail. Discussions with the Sheriff's Department are ongoing. Crowley said it is embarrassing that Waukesha County whose logo is "Leading the Way" does not have video conferencing from the jail.

Severson said this technology has costs including the need for additional personnel as well as equipment and maintenance. He is very concerned about increasing jail staff to do the same job they are doing now. Gumm said they are not opposed to video philosophically and this has never been in dispute. He said the sheriff is against reducing the number of deputies on the road to accommodate this. Administration has not indicated there would be additional funding for more staff. Wolff questioned the amount of time and personnel needed to transfer inmates to courtrooms versus to video conferencing areas and are there any financial efficiencies. Severson said no, consultants acknowledged that video conferencing will only result in inefficiencies in the jail. Wolff asked if the jail can do video conferencing with another county. Gumm said no, the current video system has a lot of problems. Severson said other counties have to pick-up inmates.

2020 Annual Jury Program Report

This item was held over to a future meeting.

Executive Committee Report of April 19, 2021

Wolff said the Executive Committee, at their last meeting, approved the legal advertising contract and several appointments, heard a presentation on controlling specialty prescription costs for Waukesha County, an update on County Board Office communications, and toured the Courts Tower.

Future Agenda Items

- Discuss Electronic Monitoring/Huber Facility (Nelson)

Legislative Update

Ignatowski gave an update on the State budget process.

MOTION: Crowley moved, second by Foti to adjourn at 9:49 a.m. Motion carried 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Crowley

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Secretary