

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
September 7, 2016
KCAB 2ND FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

Members Present: Leah Blough, Greg Retzlaff, Jeff Wamboldt, Boyd Frederick, Mike Skalitzky, YIG Sydney Robson, YIG Madelyn Lacroix

Others Present: Sheriff David Beth, Chief Deputy Charles Smith, Capt. Marc Levin, Capt., Ken Weyker, Steve Skutnik

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 p.m. by Chairwoman Leah Blough

Citizen Comments: 6:30: None

Supervisor Comments: 6:31: None

Chairwoman Comments: 6:31: Chairwoman Blough informed the committee that the October meeting will be on October 12, beginning at 6:00 p.m. This allows committee members extra time to review the 2017 budgets before they are presented by departments.

Approval of the Minutes from August 3, 2016:

Motion by: Retzlaff

Seconded by: Frederick

Approved: unanimously

Resolution from the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department:

1) Probationary Cabaret License – Sandlots of Salem

Motion by: Skalitzky

Seconded by: Frederick

Approved: unanimously

6:33: Capt. Weyker presented the resolution. Steve Skutnik attended the meeting on behalf of Sandlots. Business previously was Players Park South and is located on Antioch Rd. in Salem, with a primary business of softball fields. Due to new ownership, a new probationary application is required. Sheriff's Department and building inspections were completed and passed. Supr. Frederick asked if there would be musical events. Weyker affirmed, bands and karaoke. Supr. Retzlaff asked if there have been any fights or parking lot issues. Weyker replied only way back under previous ownership. The main focus of this business is playing ball.

Kenosha County Sheriff's Department After-Action Report on Country Thunder:

6:38: Capt. Weyker presented both a verbal and video presentation. Drone photos detailed the setup of festival, campgrounds, police, and parking areas. They also depicted the condition of the grounds after the festival. Items left behind included trash, furniture, tents, and a camper.

The festival ran from July 20 – July 24, with pre-event sales of about 35,000 tickets/day and 15-20,000/day additional single day tickets. Total law enforcement hours came to 2,396 with assistance from the City of Kenosha Police Department and UW Parkside police. Also provided were 24-hour dispatch and Highway Department hours. These costs came to \$145,000 for security and \$30,000 for the Highway Dept. A total bond of \$225,000 was posted. Any surplus will be refunded to Country Thunder.

Total arrests were down by about 46. This is partially due to weather causing the closing of the grounds for Thursday night. A total of 284 citations were issued: 255 ordinances and 29 State charges. These included 225 alcohol-related; 1 substantial battery; 3 batteries to police; and 24 obstructing. Criminal arrests doubled from last year. Parking and traffic issues, caused by infrastructure restraints, will be addressed.

Event organizers started an entry scanning system this year, which offered a better accounting of people, however, drastically slowed admission. The main event stage area can hold 40-45,000 people.

After the show, many proceed to a tented area that has a DJ. Too many people were allowed into the tent area, which only has one entrance, resulting in people being crushed.

Supr. Wamboldt asked where fights occur. Weyker replied primarily in the campgrounds. Retzlaff asked if enough parking is available and Weyker affirmed that there is. The back-up on the streets was due to slower admission to the grounds. Skalitzky asked if everyone, including campers, come in through the same entrance. Weyker affirmed that all enter through the one entrance. Weyker reported that only one portable sanitation unit was burned this year; last year thirty-one were burned. Country Thunder only owns the festival grounds. The rest of the areas are leased. YIG Lacroix asked who cleans up the grounds. Weyker explained that this is contracted out. Retzlaff commented as to the increase in attendance. Weyker explained that this is due to the single daily-use tickets sold. Scalpers sell campsites to others, so they cannot track who is in campsites. Daily passes were unlimited this year. Event organizers' emphasis seemed focused on selling tickets with no regard for affects. Friday and Saturday, the main event bowl was filled past capacity expanding into bordering areas. They need to look at capping attendance. Skalitzky commented that with scanning attendance, they should be able to track and limit easily. He also stated that they need to invest in multiple entrances. Weyker stated that they are limited due to road structures, however, options are being explored. Retzlaff asked if our agreement with Country Thunder addresses any numbers and the significance of the batteries to officers. Weyker replied that numbers are not in the contracts; and reported that batteries consisted of one elbow in the eye, one officer was spit on, and one was punched. Retzlaff asked if conceal/carry is allowed on the grounds. Weyker replies that they should not be and he will check. People probably carried arms on the grounds and/or in the campgrounds.

Weyker reported that they are increasing the security manpower as much as possible. Wamboldt asked if they get enough people and if Country Thunder would pay for more security. Weyker replied that the Sheriff's Department is maxed. Some people take vacation in order to work Country Thunder. He stated that Country Thunder would pay more. Skalitzky asked if private security is used to keep Sheriff's Department at more important posts. Weyker affirmed.

Weyker stated that hopefully all licenses and resolutions will be done by April next year. The tent/DJ area will be addressed, including two entrances and security in there. The general infrastructure for the area is difficult for such large crowds. Frederick commented that the area seems smaller than Alpine Valley. Weyker replied that Alpine Valley is smaller, they can only hold about 30,000 people. This is why Country Thunder likes their location. They will try to keep bolstering law enforcement. They may have to go outside of Kenosha County for assistance and Skalitzky suggested Walworth County. Weyker stated that Walworth County has an event the same weekend as Country Thunder. Sheriff Beth added that possibly Planning and Zoning can evaluate and impose limitations of areas and people. A traffic engineer will be consulted. Backups can go into Richmond IL.

Skalitzky asked if Kenosha County receives any additional revenue besides cost reimbursement. Weyker responded revenue from citations. Skalitzky suggested checking with other venues to see if they impose or receive any other type of county revenue. Sheriff Beth stated that golf carts, gas, ice, food, etc. are all provided by Country Thunder. Skalitzky stated that this is still lucrative for Country Thunder. Wamboldt asked if local businesses profit from Country Thunder. Weyker affirmed, including Twin Lakes, Walworth County and Richmond.

Kenosha County Sheriff's Department Discussion – Agreement to Provide Policing Services for the Village of Somers:

7:14: Sheriff Beth distributed copies of the agreement. He stated that this is on the agenda as advisory only. The agreement covers from November 1, 2016 through the end of the year. Next year, the agreement will mirror other municipalities such as Paddock Lake, Bristol and Silver Lake. Services consist of patrol and investigation, and all auxiliary and technical services in support of patrol and investigation. Increased needs for Somers are expected with the expansion on Green Bay Rd. Walmart and Sams themselves may need a squad.

Coverage for Salem is planned to start in February 2017. Salem will be combining with Silver Lake and discussions will be needed with both to determine their needs. The need for Public Safety Officers will end.

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: 7:18: At the request of Chairwoman Blough, Sheriff Beth provided information about mutual aid requests. If Kenosha sends staff to another county, the other County's insurance, liability and Worker's Compensation take over. Mutual assistance happens all of the time, with the City of Kenosha as number one; followed by Twin Lakes, Walworth County, etc. When someone is shot, mutual aid is brought in. The Sheriff is included in a standard request group and the response is mutually good upon request. No department can handle everything that comes to them on their own. When we hear of big events happening, we will start sending aid before the request even comes in. All is reciprocal.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 on motion by Skalitzky; seconded by Wamboldt.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DeBree