

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**January 4, 2017**  
**KCAB 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM**

**Members Present:** Boyd Frederick, Greg Retzlaff, Mike Skalitzky, Jeff Wamboldt, YIG Sydney Robson

**Others Present:** Robert Reidl, Chief Deputy Marc Levin, Capt. Justin Miller, Capt. Ken Weyker

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:37 p.m. by Vice – Chair Boyd Frederick

**Citizen Comments:** 6:37: None

**Supervisor Comments:** 6:38: Supr. Retzlaff stated the possibility of the Mayor shutting down First Step has been reported to him; and that this issue may be forthcoming. Supr. Wamboldt said he believes this stems from the release of a sex-offender that was given a sleeping bag and tent, and told to go to the park across from First Step. He believes this offender is now by a bus stop at 63<sup>rd</sup> and Sheridan Rd. Retzlaff asked if this is a State issue and who makes the decision of where an offender goes. Capt. Miller replied that this is a State issue and Judges and Probation and Parole make decisions on placements in accordance with State Laws.

**Vice - Chair Comments:** 6:43: None

**Approval of the Minutes from October 12, 2016:**

**Motion by:** Retzlaff                      **Seconded by:** Wamboldt                      **Approved:** unanimously

**Memo from Robert J. Riedl, Director of Personnel Services: Request for Special Assignment Wage – Corrections Supervisors:**

**Motion by:** Retzlaff                      **Seconded by:** Skalitzky                      **Approved:** unanimously

6:45: Reidl explained that this memo is to continue a practice that began last fall, and has worked well. This memo would continue the practice for a year. Costs are already included in the budget, so this does not need to go to the full County Board, only to Finance. Capt. Miller reported that during the period 8/11/16 – 12/31/16; 142 days, or 1,049 hours, were worked by supervisors. There were 262 4-hour blocks of overtime, for which 262 employees were spared being forced to work. Retzlaff asked if supervisors sign up for this willingly. Miller replied yes; 15 of 18 supervisors have worked hours. Wamboldt asked if supervisors would be forced to work and if this is a moral issue. Miller replied that supervisors are not forced to work; and that forced overtime is a moral issue. Miller continued that overtime is offered to corrections staff first, supervisors only take shifts they do not sign up for. Wamboldt commented that supervisors are paid at time and a half of the highest CO/DSO pay; this is higher than staff at lower levels of pay would receive. Miller confirmed that this would occur some.

Miller reported that interviews were to be conducted the next day, to hire nine more staff. There are currently twelve correctional staff going through Jail Academy training. Wamboldt commented that in general, it is difficult to recruit quality people into law enforcement.

Reidl shared that the County is expanding its search criteria and methods for recruitment. They are expanding internet searching and may be using a testing center at Gateway. We need to get to full staff level. The new wage scheduling is helping. Miller stated that the greatest reason for staff leaving is the overtime. They are trying to find ways to improve moral. Retzlaff asked if they thought about hiring

ex-inmates. Miller replied that limits would remain here; however, they would maybe allow a drunk driving offense. Wamboldt asked if the geographical search area will be increased. Reidl replied that the internet will do this. Miller added that they will be using WILENET to solicit candidates. Job Fairs will be organized that include demonstrations, tours, information, and immediate applications. Possible incentives include gift cards.

Wamboldt asked if corrections staff are allowed to study or read books while inmates are sleeping on third shift. Miller responded no, they must always be alert and several duties are assigned to third shift.

Supr. Skalitzky commented that there are still challenges because it is too easy not to work; as things change this should get better. Reidl stated that the internet has opened up so many options: Monster; Glassdoor; etc. They will be utilizing University of Wisconsin websites as well as Vocational and Private Colleges. Skalitzky emphasized the need to keep sites updated and maintained. Reidl affirmed, and that immediate responses will go out to applicants.

Skalitzky asked for examples of what has been done over the last six months to improve moral. Miller provided that odors and environment were depressing; environmental changes made are more uplifting and friendly. Minor changes are appreciated; as small as changing inmate faucets to regular faucets. New security has been, and is being installed, with all new cameras and better re-assurance. A new commissary provider has been brought in with expanded options for inmates/detainees. Tablets are coming for inmates/detainees that can be used for entertainment. When inmates/detainees are happier, it is better for all. We are using CO/DSO ideas to show we care and value their input.

***Resolution from the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department:***

- 1) Cabaret License – Shadow Hill Ranch (DBA: Country Thunder Music Festival)

***Motion by:*** Skalitzky      ***Seconded by:*** Wamboldt      ***Approved:*** unanimously

7:05: Captain Weyker explained that this is a conversion from a probationary license to a regular annual license. New management caused them to lose their liquor license, so they needed to start over. Offenses were provided and are typical to Country Thunder. Supr. Frederick asked if this means that this will not need to be addressed in the spring. Weyker affirmed. Retzlaff commented about the more serious charges, however, Weyker stated these are all usual occurrences for Country Thunder.

***Any Other Business Allowed by Law:***      7:07: Retzlaff asked if Kenosha County has issues with deaths within the jail facilities and the impact of on-site medical staff. He stated that this was a big deal in Milwaukee county for a while. Capt. Miller responded that he only knows of deaths relating to suicide. Inmates/detainees must report health situations, otherwise, they may go unnoticed. Correctional staff also observe residents continually. Miller stated that mental health issues are at an all-time high, people cannot afford help on the street. Medical staff does a good job with medications, however, have no resources for aftercare upon release. Skalitzky commented that we are much more cognizant and have better recognition of mental health issues. A commitment is still needed for care on the outside.

***Meeting Adjourned:***

7:13 on motion by Skalitzky; seconded by Wamboldt.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DeBree