

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 25, 2017
8:00 a.m. (time changed this meeting only)
Annex Building

ROLL CALL:

Present: Karen Jones (Chp.)
Dan Hare
Sheriff David Staley
Paula Nelson (recording secretary)

Absent: Dena Hawn

Audience: Megan King (ACH Rep.), Zach Devlin (Jail Administrator)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACH INMATE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE COVERAGE:

Megan King, Program Consultant from Advanced Correctional Healthcare explained the mental health inmate coverage and additional cost to the County's current contract. Ms. King and Sheriff Staley both stated jails are becoming more and more mental health facilities for the State of Illinois. Sheriff Staley and Zach Devlin both emphasized that our jail employees are not trained in these various kinds of mental health issues. They also stated the numerous inmate suicide threats are treated seriously and with specific procedures and/or guidelines, but having a mental health professional will definitely be a key element in crisis intervention.

Retaining a qualified mental health professional by ACH will take care of the needs of the inmates, lessen some of the jail nurse's time/effort, make logistics safer for all correctional personnel, and minimize lawsuits dealing with mental health issues.

Sheriff Staley mentioned that even though this is an additional cost of \$7000 to our current ACH contract, basically the county pays for these services when a prisoner is taken for a counseling appointment, etc. So having this option in place should reduce costs of services provided. The contract cost for ACH is paid out of the County's Liability budget line item not from the general fund.

Motion: by Hare to accept the ACH proposal adding inmate mental health services to the current ACH contract. This will be an additional amount of \$7,096.27 incorporating a qualified mental health professional (masters level or above) on-site 4 hours every other week to provide screenings, assessments, evaluations, treatment planning, referrals to inmate crisis intervention services pending county board approval.

Jones seconded the motion. Voice Vote: "Unanimous"

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER GRADUATES:

Employee, Brandon Alderson graduated from basic correctional officer training October 13th, 2017. He is now fully certified.

SHERIFF'S REPORTS:

The Mercer County Sheriff's reports for the month of September 2017 were presented for review and discussion. The jail census for today is: USMS=22; Mercer County=13; Cook County=24. Our numbers for the USMS is up since President Trump has been in office.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The next Law Enforcement meeting is Wednesday, November 22, 2017, 9:00 a.m. at the Annex.

LEC Chair, Karen Jones asked the Sheriff if he has hired an additional correctional officer since our inmate numbers have increased. Sheriff Staley said he has not, but is working with union attorney, Rick Stewart dealing with seniority contract language. It is being discussed to have a Seniority List A (current employees) and a Seniority List B (future). List B would be a side letter to the contract regarding newly hired correctional officers. If we increase our housing numbers by 10 paying inmates, this would financially pay for one or two correctional officer salaries. The side letter interpretation would be in accordance to the inmate population and linked to the security of the position(s) from List B.

Karen Jones also inquired how the foodservice contract was developing. The Sheriff reported that we are placing an ad for bids in the Times Record and Argus/Dispatch for a new foodservice provider. He hopes to have a new improved food system in place by early December with the new budget year. Zach Devlin stated there have been numerous times inmates have found insects in their food. The latest item found was a paperclip in a muffin. He has alerted Aramark of these infractions each time they have occurred, but nothing has changed or improved as a result. If things are achieved like the Sheriff envisions, the new foodservice would be a very large cost saving measure to both his budget and the county.

Sheriff Staley reported that as of November 17th, 2017 the Village of Seaton is terminating their policing contract with the Mercer County Sheriff's Office due to the town's budgetary restraints.

REVIEW / APPROVE CLAIMS:

Motion: by Hare to approve the claims of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office dated 10-25-17 for payment totaling \$35,458.44 in monthly bills pending County Board approval.
Jones seconded the motion. Voice Vote: "Unanimous"

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Hare to adjourn at 8:30 a.m.
Jones seconded the motion. Voice Vote: "Unanimous"

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Nelson
Recording Secretary