

COURT SECURITY & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes: September 15, 2022

12:00 p.m. – Committee Room 2

Present: Judge Michael Bloom, Judge Mary Burns, Jean Meyer, Patti Finlan, Mike Fugle, Chad Lynch, Brenda Behrle, Amy Franzen, Grady Hartman, Lindsey Kennedy, Troy Huber, Steven Schreier, Scott Holewinski

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Judge Bloom asks for motion to approve minutes and agenda. Schreier moves to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2022 meeting and September 15, 2022 agenda; second by Behrle. Motion carried on voice vote.

Schreier states informal discussions regarding single-point entry held during Public Safety Committee meeting but never formally put on the agenda. Public Safety does not seem energized to move forward as it does not seem to be a pressing issue. New members of Public Safety seemed supportive but more information is needed. Biggest concern is funding, so single-point entry probably will not happen due to cost. Schreier is not hopeful unless some other form of cost coverage exists. Single point not “dead in water” but there is a significant cost outlay for this to happen, and it is not looking good.

Judge Bloom states he had discussions with Hartman regarding his position on single-point entry. Hartman states that he feels it is a County Board decision. He indicates no support for or against as he believes it is a policy decision and not a sheriff issue. Judge Bloom asks if Hartman would change his position if funding could be found that would cover costs. Hartman states he would cooperate with whatever the public wants.

Schreier states that it is not productive to put this matter back onto the Public Safety Committee agenda unless there is funding available. Kennedy and Huber indicate this matter has not been addressed with Buildings & Grounds recently since there are no ARPA funds available anymore and other projects are taking priority, i.e., the chiller/AC issue. Other County Board issues that are taking priority include movement of employee hours from 1950 to 2080 and a general budget shortfall.

Hartman reiterated that he is having major staffing issues and has many unfilled positions. Even if funds were available for the physical construction issues, there is no manpower available through the Sheriff Department.

Kennedy statements regarding the ARPA funding. Those funds of approximately \$200,000 were available when the first proposal was submitted but the resolution was never approved, so those funds were transferred to the general fund and absorbed into other departments and is gone.

Lisa Charbarneau was not at meeting so the issue of insurance coverage for liability issues was not addressed.

New business. Meyer states there is a Supreme Court rule that states that the Courthouse Security Committee must meet at least quarterly. However, if there is nothing to discuss, does the meeting need to be held? Suggestion made that meeting be scheduled but if there is nothing new to present, meeting can be cancelled.

Scott Holewinski statements. He indicated that pursuant to Supreme Court Rules, as County Board Chair he is to be a member of the Committee but was not notified about this meeting. He indicated that he wants copies of any reports of any incidents throughout the County. Judge Bloom indicated that Holewinski would be a member of the Committee and would be notified of all future meetings accordingly. Further, Judge Bloom indicated that Holewinski's failure to be included in the notice of this meeting was inadvertent.

Judge Bloom statements. Ultimately, the decision rests with the County Board as it is a policy decision. Once the County Board approves, the Sheriff Department would follow their recommendation.

Judge Burns statements – she objects to comments made at last meeting that County employees accept risk when they apply for job with County. She indicated that she does not assume risk just because she works at Courthouse.

Franzen requests timeline of when her office will be updated with security barriers. Huber states his office will be working with her during the winter months to get this done. Franzen and Huber will communicate directly regarding this.

Next meeting is set for Noon on Wednesday, December 21, 2022. Meeting may be rescheduled if this date is unavailable due to jury trials and/or holiday vacation time.

Judge Bloom statements. If nothing is on the table to be discussed at next meeting, perhaps no meeting will need to be held. Judge Bloom will review Supreme Court rules to determine what topics are to be discussed.

Schreier makes motion to adjourn, second by Huber, motion carried on voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.