

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: September 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. County Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Megan Myers, Claro Carter, Melonie Tilley and John Werts. Also present, Dee Dee Rentmeister, County Administrator.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Farris

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

- Brad Barnes spoke to the committee concerning Facebook hacking and the need for board members/everyone to review their settings and change friends list from public to only me. Facebook hacking has become a big problem.
- Motion by Carter, 2nd by Werts to approve the August 12, 22 and September 5 minutes. Voice vote, motion carried.
- Motion by Tilley, 2nd by Carter to approve the claims. Voice vote, motion carried.
- Discussion on the animal control administrator position. Myers stated that the committee interviewed 4 applicants. Committee felt that there were some good applicants for animal control warden but not the administrator. Tony Harris, 911 Coordinator, has applied for the administrator position and was present. Committee interviewed Tony. Tony brings leadership/management to the position that the committee feels is necessary. Sheriff Walker and Police Chief Lowers both support Tony for the administrator position. After discussion, a motion was made by Werts, 2nd by Tilley to recommend to the full board to appoint Tony Harris as animal control administrator. Voice vote, motion carried.
- Tilley thank both Sheriff Walker and Tony Harris and staff for their response to an incident over Labor Day weekend.
- Tony Harris informed committee that a public service meeting was held with the Boy Scouts with the fire department and a 10 year old used the information given to get help for his father.
- Discussion on Narcan kits for law enforcement. Sheriff Walker indicated that all of his patrol personnel have Narcan kits in the vehicles. The health department is offering businesses free kits.
- Sheriff Walker informed committee that he is looking into costs for a thermal imaging drone.
- Motion by Tilley, 2nd by Werts to adjourn at 6:01 p.m. Voice vote, motion carried.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Approve the August 12, 22 and September 5 minutes.

Approve the claims.

Recommend to the full board to appoint Tony Harris as animal control administrator.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FULL BOARD:

Recommend to the full board to appoint Tony Harris as animal control administrator.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: October 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

**AGENDA FOR THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date and Time of Meeting: September 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. County Building

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Persons Wishing to Address the Committee (If requesting action, also list below in section three)
 - a.
3. Items for Discussion and Possible Action
 - a. Approve August 17, August 22 and September 5 minutes
 - b. Approve the claims
 - c. Animal control administrator position
 - d. Hiring animal control administrator
 - e.
4. Items for Discussion Only (No Action Requested)
 - a.
 - b.
5. Closed Session
 - a.
6. Motion to adjourn

Posted: September 12, 2023 at 12:10 p.m
By: Dee Dee Rentmeister

EMA Monthly Report

Updated and completed quarter 3 DCO check.

Attended Clinton Power Station Quarterly Meeting.

Updated, completed, and submitted to the state, both the Integrated Preparedness Plan and IL-Catt. The IL-Catt is the county's threat assessment to disasters that could most likely affect the County. The Integrated Preparedness Plan helps track results of exercise and helps form a path to improve.

Provided weather support and information on 8/25 and 8/26.

Completed and submitted the FY24 EMPG grant to the state.

Working close with IEMA REP to schedule and complete all trainings required for law enforcement, fire, EOC personal and other county agencies.

Worked on updating plans and procedures for the Clinton Power Station plan.

Updated county mobility impaired list.

Animal Control Administrator Proposal

Currently, I manage and supervise the emergency 911 call center and keep all facets of the center operational and properly staffed. I manage 9 employees and maintain a budget for CENCOM and the ETSB.

I would maintain the same level of professionalism at the Animal Shelter as I currently provide for the emergency call center.

The administrative work would either be done in my office at the Sheriff's Department or at the shelter. Regardless, dispatch staff or the shelter staff would have access to me via radio or cellular phone.

It's my understanding that the shelter will be staffed with one Animal Warden and (2) part time kennel workers for the daily cleaning and other work assignments.

My envision is for the Animal Warden to handle calls through out the day with my assistance. My guess is 80% of the calls for service for the shelter is dispatched through my CENCOM staff. In most cases I will field the calls and determine a response. That response would either be a one person respond or both of us responding, depending on the nature and severity.

My goal is to set up an RMS (Records Management System), which is currently in place through dispatch and law enforcement. All calls received will have a CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) started through the dispatch center. Animal control will complete a report with a narrative of the incident and the outcome of the incident. This will aid in record keeping for the shelter on calls for service and action taken on calls. The RMS will also be shared with all three law enforcement agencies in Dewitt County. All verbal and written warnings on violations and citations for violations will be shared for interoperability with law enforcement. In a nutshell, if a warning is issued to an individual for a dog running at large and there is a second violation law enforcement and or animal control will know so the appropriate measure can be taken on a second offence.

What my day will look like:

I will report to the shelter at 8am to check in and make sure all staff is present and read over calls / incidents the night before. If appropriate, duties and or assignments will be discussed with staff. I will then report to CENCOM and be available by both CENCOM and Shelter personnel. Throughout the day I will field animal control calls and respond if necessary and or dispatch animal control warden. I will be available for animal control staff throughout the day. My goal is to have someone at the shelter all day for the public, but at the very least notify the public via a note on the door with either dispatch phone number or my cell phone number if no personnel are available. I will end my day at CENCOM at 4 or 430 and I will report to the shelter to evaluate and review the days activities and check on Kennel staff. If there is still work to be done, I will do it at that time. Once I get a better understanding of my role and

responsibilities, I will tweak my time between the two offices. If I need to spend more time at the shelter on a day-to-day basis, I will incorporate that.

Goals / Ideas:

It is my goal to work diligently with rescue groups including Second Chance. I understand this has been a challenge over the years, but I have seen first-hand the positive magnitude Second Chance has on rescue and fostering. It's my opinion that the county and Second Chance and other rescue groups must foster a good working relationship. We all have the common goal to help animals. There must be a clear understanding and expectation of the goal. Policies and procedures must be in place along with agreements and expectations of all involved in the rescue of animals.

As mentioned previously, it's my goal to get the proper software in place for adequate reporting and interoperability with all three law enforcement agencies in the county. This can be achieved through our Motorola Flex RMS.

The shelter camera viewing software will be installed in my office and monitored when I am in my office at the Sheriff's office.

Currently, CENCOM has a successful funding source by all municipalities that utilize our services. That funding mechanism should be explored by the board to properly fund the animal control services.

We need a clear strict policy on after hour animal control response. It's my opinion that animal control should only respond if it's a life or safety hazard or animal safety issue. Intergovernmental agreements will need to be looked at or adopted if there are none with a clear outline of emergency response.

It's vital to gain the public's trust and respect and one way to achieve this is to treat the public with respect and to be friendly and courteous. I believe employees should show respect and be friendly even while being stern when dealing with a violator of the law. My staff will be respectful and courteous, and nothing less will be tolerated.

Public education is a must. When time allows either myself or the Warden will be out in the public meeting with groups or guest on our local radio for public education. I foresee one of the positions speaking to social groups and or a monthly radio time slot on our local WHOW radio morning show to educate the public of local laws and or regulations and or promote adoption events. I realize this goal may take some time as there are more pressing issues that will need immediate attention.

Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to expand my leadership abilities to lead and direct the Dewitt County Animal Shelter. Attached is my Resume. I hope you see some value in my proposal and Resume. I understand this is uncharted territory for me and the Dewitt County Board and if I am chosen, I will need the support from the entire board to achieve the above goals and to be a successful leader. Success will not come overnight, and your support will make this process go smoother.

I can not claim to know the position entirely, but I do have a good understanding of the leadership responsibilities after reading the job description. I have volunteered at the shelter since January, mostly cleaning and I have assisted on a few adoption processes.

Thank you for the opportunity to expand my leadership abilities. I look forward to speaking to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion.

Respectfully submitted.

Tony Harris

tonyharris911@gmail.com

217-855-0796

Clinton, IL 61727

Skills

- Project management
- Staff development
- Contract development and management
- Issue and conflict resolution
- Workforce Management
- Budget forecasting

Education And Training

06/1986

High School Diploma:

Clinton High School

Clinton, IL

Certifications

- Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)
- IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning Training - 2018
- Developing Leadership In Your Communication Center - 2017
- Critical Thinking - 2017
- Liability In The 911 Center - 2014
- Crisis Intervention Training For The Dispatcher - 2014
- Tactical Risk Management Certification - 2008
- Personnel Issues - 2007
- Crisis Callers - 2005
- Techniques For Effective Supervision - 2003
- Workplace Conflict Resolution - 2003
- 911 System of The Future - 2003
- GIS Data in Emergency Response and Management - 2003
- Managing Employees - 2003

Tony Harris

Summary

Insightful manager with 20 years of experience leading operations by directing daily activities. Proven track record of developing targeted emergency operation plans, implementing improvements and overseeing emergency communications. Decisive leader highly competent in establishing and achieving ambitious goals and quality standards, while working directly with community leaders to improve emergency response.

Experience

The County Of DeWitt - 911 Manager

Clinton, IL

06/2002 - Current

- Recruited and hired qualified candidates to fill open positions.
- Established and created training programs to enhance employee knowledge of best practices, resulting in improved emergency call handling.
- Coordinated dispatchers schedules to ensure no calls were missed.
- Hired, trained and mentored employees to maximize contributions.
- Made proactive improvements to CENCOM operations by compiling information, reviewing failures and simplifying procedures.
- Purchased and organized resources, established schedules and assigned tasks to maintain smooth and efficient operations.
- Provided ongoing training to address staff needs.
- Identified and corrected performance and personnel issues to reduce impact to emergency operations.
- Coached and mentored 10 staff members through constructive feedback to develop long-term career goals.
- Conducted employee evaluations and reviews.
- Brought projects in on-time and in accordance with budget and quality standards.
- Established project budgets and tracked expenditures.
- Secretary of the ETSB (Emergency Telephone System Board), completed minutes, posted meeting agendas and assisted the chairman with running meetings.
- Representative of CENCOM / 911 on the DeWitt County TRIAD board.
- Implemented and oversaw the operation of the RUOK telephone welfare checking system for senior subscribers.
- Overall manager of the Hyper-Reach mass emergency notification system for the entire county of DeWitt and partnered with the city of Clinton and Farmer City.

The County Of DeWitt - 911 Telecommunicator

Clinton, IL

03/2002 - 06/2003

- Handled emergency phone calls calmly and obtained pertinent information with

composed approach.

- Used radio, telephone and computer system to update first responders with new information.
- Prioritized responses to public emergency and non-emergent calls to promptly dispatch police, fire and EMS while tracking data in real-time.
- Dispatched calls to relevant police, fire or medical response personnel depending on individual call situations.
- Took caller information, read associated computer information and documented vital details in call tracking and assignment system.
- Assisted departments with special requests such as BOLOs.
- Mitigated risks and emergency response delays by efficiently monitoring public safety field units.
- Boosted productivity by ensuring on-time emergency response and life support with zero service delivery errors.
- Entered information on computerized systems to verify locations and notify nearest responders.

Accomplishments

- Promoted from 911 Telecommunicator to 911 Manager, in less than 12-months
- Awarded a \$370,000 grant from the State of Illinois to replace aging 911 call taking equipment
- Re-addressed the entire unincorporated area of DeWitt County with little help from vendors
- Letter of Commendation / Award March 13, 2013 From Sheriff Jered Shofner, DeWitt County Sheriff's Office
- Letter of Commendation April 18, 2011 from Sgt. Ropp, Clinton Police Department
- Letter of Commendation / Letter September 22, 2004 to the Editor at the Clinton Daily Journal from Betty Gauze, Champaign Illinois