

Public Property & Law Enforcement Committee
July 14, 2020 at 9:00 am
County Board Room

Present: Mike Berlin, Laura Nagro (Zoom), Ron Sztynodor (Zoom), Philomena Kebec (Zoom)

Absent: Doreen Hanninen

Others: Dick Pufall, Clark Schroeder, Lori Schmidt, Max Lindsey, Mary Jo Gingras, Mick Brennan

Dick Pufall called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and roll call was taken.

Dick Pufall then asked for nominations for Chair of this Committee. Philomena Kebec nominated Laura Nagro. Dick Pufall then asked 3 more times for any other nominations. Dick Pufall casts a unanimous vote for Laura Nagro for Chair of this Committee.

Laura Nagro then asked for nominations for Vice Chair of this Committee. Mike Berlin nominated Philomena Kebec. Laura Nagro then asked 3 more times for any other nominations. Laura Nagro congratulated Philomena Kebec on becoming Vice Chair of this Committee.

Clark Schroeder asked to change the agenda today to place item #13 as item #4. Motion by Philomena Kebec to move item #13 to item #4 on the agenda and to approve the agenda. Second by Mike Berlin. Motion carried.

Max Lindsey (Corp. Counsel for Ashland County), stated that regarding this specific case, he would advise against discussion/action as there is a potential for liability to the County as the Statute of Limitations has not run out yet. Max stated that we can talk about law enforcement in general, just not this specific case.

Philomena Kebec stated that she brought this item to the agenda because the County never had a public hearing and feels that it would be wise for the County to hold one and to also talk about law enforcement in general at the hearing as this could prevent future liability to the County.

Clark Schroeder read the written public comments that were submitted to the County regarding this case (available at public comments 7-14-20 PPLE Committee). Richard Ketring (in person) stated that a public hearing needs to be held regarding this case and that the family needs closure. Public comments by Zoom: Edith Leoso wanted to know what type of cultural training is given to law enforcement, review of training program, is there officer drug testing, what about a national night out, Holly Marie Toudo(?) wanted to reinforce everything stated by Edith Leoso, Abee Ferg(?) stated that it is shameful for the County to be more concerned about liability than public hearing, Amy Birchhill stated that she supports all comments before her and that public comment is important, Alexander Waters stated he is a former County Board Supervisor and understands the County's position but that they ultimately need to answer to citizens, Laura Comer stated she is in support of a public hearing, Wenipazbtaabe (Sandy Gokee) re-iterated comments given before her.

Motion by Mike Berlin, second by Philomena Kebec to approve the October 10, 2019 and December 12, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Mick Brennan handed out the Sheriff's report for review and discussion (on file with minutes). Mick stated that he is looking forward to working with this Committee and with the public to make a better

community for all of us. YTD there as been 223 arrests, 381 citations, 426 complaints to investigate and 4,084 calls for service. As of today there are 45 inmates, 25 on monitor and 5 boarded out. Mick stated that they are trying to keep COVID out of the Jail and therefore, they are being selective on who they take in. Discussion followed. From July 1 thru June 30, deputies are required a minimum of 24 hours of training. At this time lots of training has been shut down due to COVID so they are trying to do online and in-house training as much as possible. Mick encouraged every member of the Committee to come to the Jail to see and learn what they do there. Six (6) officers attended Tribal Officer Police Training. Clark Schroeder stated that a UV Light cleaner has been purchased for the Law Enforcement Center and is currently in use. They are looking at moving the Dispatch Center out of the Jail and into the Admin side of the building due to the fact that Dispatch is located on the Jail side and they do not want Dispatch to possibly be exposed to COVID should it enter the Jail. Discussion followed regarding Officers wearing PPE's. Mick stated that they are encourage to wear masks when necessary and will wear one if requested by an individual(s) that they are talking to. Motion by Mike Berlin, second by Philomena Kebec to accept the Sheriff's report as given. Motion carried.

HHS report – Terry Barningham as not present at today's meeting. Motion by Mike Berlin, second by Philomena Kebec to table the HHS report. Motion carried.

Discussion followed regarding Land Conservation lease and space needs. Clark Schroeder stated that he was directed by the Finance Committee to do a comparative lease/study. Clark stated that the new owner of the building is asking for a reasonable increase and would like an answer soon. The building is currently for sale and the owner would like to sell it showing that there are leases so someone would see it as an investment and some guaranteed income. Clark stated that the HHS building as been looked at as employees are working remotely, however this will not work as employees will be coming back to work and at the present time there are no offices that are available. The County owned former New Horizons building was also looked at, however the offices would be located on the 2nd floor but is not an ideal fit either and parking would become an issue at this location. If Land Conservation continues to stay at its current location it will be at a cost of \$10,000 - \$15,000 more per year. Discussion followed.

There was further discussion regarding concern of the weight in the attic, a leaking roof that is affecting the 2nd Court Room and the upcoming 2021 budget.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 24, 2020 at 5:00 pm in the County Board Room.

Motion by Philomena Kebec, second by Mike Berlin to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Lori Schmidt,
Administrative Assistant