

**MINUTES OF THE ONEIDA COUNTY  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2013**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Bob Metropulos, Dave Hintz, Billy Fried, Jack Martinson and Mike Timmons.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Marcus Nesemann (River News), Tim Zeske (HazMat Member), Greg Zeske (HazMat Member), Theresa James (Pine Lake), Roger James (Pine Lake), Bob Troutman (Tomahawk Fall Ride), Gerry VanHarpen (Hodag Country Fest), Karilyne Roberts (Hodag Country Fest), Gary Baier (County Board Supervisor), Jack Sorenson (County Board Supervisor), Carol Pederson (County Board Supervisor), Sheriff Hartman, Chief Deputy Sweeney (Sheriff's Office), Jill Butzlaff (Sheriff's Office), Lt. Gauthier (Sheriff's Office), Brian Desmond (Corporation Counsel), Lisa Charbarneau (LRES), Karl Jennrich (Planning & Zoning), Todd Troskey (Public Health), Jody McKinney (Public Health), Mary Bartelt (County Clerk), Larry Mathein (Medical Examiner), Bonnie Wilcox (District Attorney), Kathy Belliveau (Branch I), Deb Shawl (Branch II), Ken Kortenhof, Emergency Management Director and Dawn Robinson, Committee Secretary.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Metropulos called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. at the Oneida County Law Enforcement Center, Community Room, stated the meeting notice had been posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and noted accommodations would be made for handicap accessibility.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

MOTION: To approve the Amended Agenda and allow the Chairman to move around on the agenda (Fried/Hintz, PASSED).

**APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: To approve the March 11, 2013 Committee Meeting Minutes (Fried/Martinson, PASSED).

**SCHEDULE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE(S)**

The next meeting was scheduled for May 16, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

**BILLS, VOUCHERS AND LINE ITEM TRANSFERS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS WITH NO AGENDA ITEMS**

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Public Safety Departments (Martinson/Timmons, PASSED).

**Emergency Management**

*HazMat Service Award*

Tim Zeske is a member of the County HazMat Team and has been since the Team's creation, 1993. Zeske has retired from the Team, was recognized for his training and participation, and was presented with a plaque for his years of service and dedication.

*Disposal of Equipment*

There are three old defibrillators that were purchased in 2000. Information was provided on trade-in value and purchasing costs. The Emergency Management Director recommended destroying the equipment.

MOTION: To destroy defibrillators as recommended (Timmons/Martinson).

Discussion on motion:  
Donation and liability were discussed.

MOTION: To destroy defibrillators as recommended (Timmons/Martinson, PASSED).

The department has old Minitor IV Pagers that are no longer supported by Motorola and, there is a Vendor who is interested in purchasing them at a cost of \$75.00 per pager. The Emergency Management Director recommended selling the pagers.

MOTION: To sell the old Minitor IV Pagers at a cost of \$75.00 each (Martinson/Hintz, PASSED).

*Bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Emergency Management*

MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Emergency Management (Hintz/Fried, PASSED).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comment was taken.

Mrs. James informed the Committee she and her husband's property borders the Hodag Country Festivals overflow and parking grounds and referred to a letter that was sent to County Board Supervisors she thought were on the Public Safety Committee. The Committee did not receive the letter and copies were provided, Exhibit #1. The letter, dated March 12, 2013, contained concerns to be addressed before issuing the 2013 permit. The County Clerk provided a copy of the Hodag '50' Inc. Large Assembly Application, Exhibit #2.

Law enforcement expenses, festival revenues, length of festival, permit fees, safety/hazard issues, town road access, loading zone areas, parking, traffic flow, emergency access, pedestrian traffic, camping rules and permits, verification of the number of festival attendees, festival security, zoning ordinances and sound control/noise levels were discussed.

The Planning & Zoning Director explained the Festival is a temporary event and falls under the Large Assembly Permit. The festival is not required to obtain a Conditional Use Permit and referred to the Zoning Ordinance. Short-term camping is a special exemption.

A Public Health Sanitarian explained Public Health reviews permit information pertaining to the number of attendees and issues permits based upon FEMA's recommendations

for the number of privies/porta-potties, wash stations, etc. It was noted, Country Fest Officials have always complied with Public Health recommendations.

Mr. James indicated the Town road is being used to collect daily parking tickets, as a loading zone and attendees are driving ATV Vehicles on the road. Mr. James expressed safety concerns for festival attendees who walk out in front of traffic, cited a festival attendee walked between his tracker and the hay wagon and, expressed safety concerns for local residents who have to travel on the Town road. Local residents are disrupted for days at a time. Mr. James informed the Committee he installed noise protection barriers inside his home to offset noise disruptions.

It was noted public comment cannot be debated and the issue (and concerns) could be discussed with festival officials and law enforcement when the Committee is addressing the agenda item.

Mrs. James asked who has the authority to enforce festival operations and what committee has the jurisdiction to address concerns.

Corporation Counsel stated the County Clerk's Office is the central spot to direct issues to and explained, town road issues are addressed by the Town, noise issues are addressed by the Public Safety Committee, sanitation and water facilities are addressed by Public Health and Conditional Use Permits are addressed by Planning & Zoning. Corporation Counsel suggested addressing issues before granting the permit.

Lt. Gauthier explained the Sheriff's Office enforces public safety. Deputies are present during the festival (via foot patrol, ATV's, golf carts, etc.) to discourage and identify criminal activity. The Sheriff's Office worked with Emergency Management on a Traffic Safety Plan addressing additional parking on festival property to open the right-of-way, etc. Country fest security (Per Mar) enforces country fest rules and has the authority to cut an attendee's wrist band if need be. Lt. Gauthier referred to last year's Saturday night crowd, concerns he had and affirmed he wants to work with fest officials, security and neighbors.

County Board Supervisor Sorenson explained the Town of Pine Lake scheduled a special Town Board meeting tomorrow night addressing Hodag Country Fest.

## **Circuit Court Branch I & Circuit Court Branch II**

### *Law Clerk Contract*

The Law Clerk Contract runs June to June. Vilas County and Oneida County Judges hire a Law Clerk and the annual contract is signed by the appropriate parties in both counties. Vilas County reimburses Oneida County for their 1/3 share of the budget. The Law Clerk position is a good entry-level position that is typically filled by Attorneys (who have recently graduated) to conduct research, perform small claims mediation and perform weddings, etc. The Law Clerk works 1/3 time for Vilas County and works 2/3 time works for Oneida County, which is a budgeted.

MOTION: To approve the Law Clerk Contract (Timmons/Hintz, PASSED).

*Bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Circuit Court Branch I & Circuit Court Branch II*  
MOTION: To approve bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Circuit Court Branch I & Circuit Court Branch II (Fried/Martinson, PASSED).

### **Large Assembly**

#### *Fall Harley Ride*

The County Clerk provided a copy of the Fall Ride Large Assembly Application, Exhibit #3.

There was no Public Health issues or concerns.

The Nokomis Town Chairman was present and was recognized. Town Chairman Baier stated the permit was approved and the Town had no concerns or issues. Noise concerns/issues were discussed. Mr. Troutman explained the following; there are no performances or small stages allowed in camping areas, music ends when stage performance ends, never received a complaint, have twenty security guards on duty and indicated there are approximately 3,000 to 4,000 people that camp onsite and have approximately 15,000 attendees on Saturday with the large number of influx between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Troutman stated the application form has been vague over the years.

Lt. Gauthier explained the Sheriff's Office writes a Department of Transportation Grant that allows for additional squads to patrol roads on the West side of the County enforcing traffic laws and allows for additional Deputies to perform walkthroughs on stage areas and through campground area. There are public safety concerns associated with this event, that may involve criminal activity, due to presence of motorcycle gangs.

There were discussions regarding the Large Assembly Permit Application (maximum number of attendees, revising and updating the application, who and what departments review applications, departments signing-off on the application, applications reflecting current year dates and requiring supporting documents to be provided).

MOTION: To approve the Fall Harley Ride Large Assembly Application under Condition of Approval/Certification of the County Clerk for final approval (Fried/Hintz).

Disc on motion:

Committee member Martinson felt the attached diagram illustrating where stands are located was beneficial to the approval process.

MOTION: To approve the Fall Harley Ride Large Assembly Application under Condition of Approval/Certification of the County Clerk for final approval (Fried/Hintz).

#### *Large Assembly Contracts*

The agenda item referred to the Hodag Country Festival and the Fall Harley Ride, no separate topic needed.

### *Hodag Country Festival*

The Committee and Hodag Country Festival Officials addressed each concern listed in Mrs. James letter dated March 12, 2013.

Hodag Country Festival Officials indicated the following;

*Parking on town right of way:* Modifications to and additional signage were added three-years ago.

*Camping prior to festival dates on permit:* Campers are allowed to be dropped off in advance in order to get in line for available camping sites, campers are not level and are unable to open, additional reserved camping has been reserved in the over flow area, and attendees are not allowed to camp. County Fest Officials indicated 'no camping' could be added into the 2014 rules. Gates open at 6 a.m. on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

*Monitoring of tickets sold, permit capacity:* Capacity amount on application indicated 25,000 people and festival averages 20,000. The number of tickets and wristbands that are sold determines festival attendance. Each ticket and each wristband are tracked/reported by certified numbers. The 2012 Saturday event had higher attendance. Special event campgrounds are exempt from the County's Zoning Ordinance. The number of portable toilets and water are based upon the number of campers listed on the application which meets FEMA requirements. Public Health Sanitarians conduct onsite visits and have no issues.

*Traffic flow and pedestrian traffic:* Traffic flow is weather dependant and rain events were addressed.

*Lack of security:* Private Security firm hired, PerMar Security. PerMar works with the Sheriff's Office to help increase law enforcement presence during events when there is a higher ratio of festival attendees. Security was increased for the 2012 Saturday event due to the entertainment lineup and the increased number of attendees.

*Noise control and enforcement of camping rules in overflow area:* A quiet timeframe is established and is listed in the rules (1 a.m. – 7 a.m.). If noise occurs, contact PerMar Security. No stage, no loud music and no large sound systems are allowed in the overflow area. Country Fest Officials were not aware of a stage setup in the overflow area until after the fact.

A Committee member indicated he attendees the festival and affirmed security and law enforcement are out enforcing rules.

Additional concerns were raised regarding a camper operating a generator 24/7, less than 100-yards of the James property, security/law enforcement coverage and response time if an incident were to happen, home sales and safety issues.

A Committee member indicated concerns should be brought to the Committee's attention in the event something has been overlooked and needs to be addressed.

A question was asked who should be contacted to address issues. A Country Fest Official indicated the office is open every day of the event.

Mr. James referred to past incidents, past communication with Country Fest Officials, citations he received and disagreed with the offer to file complaints with Festival Officials.

Lt. Gauthier mentioned he is available, can be reached during festival operations, works at the festival and added, the Sheriff's Office would determine if a complaint should be addressed by the Sheriffs Office or by PerMar Security.

A Committee member stated complaints should be forwarded onto the Public Safety Committee shortly after the event so issues/concerns can be reviewed and addressed.

Another Committee member suggested addressing issues/concerns in September or October along with reviewing the Large Assembly Application rewrite.

MOTION: To review the Hodag Country Festival Application at the October meeting (Hintz/Martinson).

Discussion on motion:

Both the first (Hintz) and the second (Martinson) agreed to amend the motion to review all large assembly events.

MOTION: To review all Large Assembly Event Applications at the October meeting (Hintz/Martinson, PASSED).

Committee members suggested the following during the application revision/rewrite: has application been filled out properly, initialing columns, date listed by any updates, more details provided along with supporting documents required, map area designations, distance between neighbors listed and reference was made to the last sheet of the application citing hired sound company. A Committee member stated information should be listed on the bottom of page 2 with more details incorporated (when sound ends, quiet period, etc.). The County Clerk explained the process of revising the Large Assembly Application. Once the Committee reviews the application revision/rewrite, then the County Clerk can certify the application.

Corporation Counsel informed the Committee the application also pertains to political events and rallies. Need to consider legal ramifications of events that may pop-up on occasion verses having events repeated annually and, need to consider approval timeframes and the date in which the event is scheduled to take place.

A Committee member asked the Festival Official to provide the necessary supporting documents and indicated the County Clerk would confirm if the appropriate documents were provided.

There was discussion regarding restricting helicopters. The Emergency Management Director requested medical helicopters be allowed.

**MOTION:** To approve the Hodag Country Festival (Hodag '50' Inc.) Large Assembly Application based upon the following conditions: provide supporting documents and up-to-date application information to the County Clerk and obtain Condition of Approval/Certification of the County Clerk for final approval (Hintz/Timmons, PASSED).

11:19 a.m. The Committee took a brief break.

11:28 a.m. The Committee reconvened.

### **Sheriff's Office**

*It is anticipated that the committee will adjourn to closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1)(c) and (e) for (1) the purposes of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee, and (2) purposes of deliberating the County's position in a matter relating to collective bargaining under subch. I, IV, or V of ch 111, stats. when bargaining reasons require a closed session. Pursuant to section 19.82(1) stats., the Committee is not considered a governmental body whenever it is meeting for the purpose of collective bargaining under subch. I, IV, or V of ch 111, stats. Topics: Sheriff Department and Emergency Management Department merger, negotiations*

**11:30 a.m.** **MOTION:** To go into closed session (Martinson/Hintz). Roll call vote: Timmons 'aye', Martinson 'aye', Fried 'aye', Hintz 'aye', Metropulos 'aye'.

*Upon completion of this portion of the meeting, it is anticipated the Committee will return to open session to consider the remainder of the meeting agenda*

**12:07 p.m.** **MOTION:** To return to open session (Martinson/Timmons). Roll call vote: Timmons 'aye', Martinson 'aye', Fried 'aye', Hintz 'aye', Metropulos 'aye'.

The Chairman stated no motion was made in closed session.

### *Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management Department Consolidation*

A joint meeting was scheduled with the Labor Relations/Employee Services Committee on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

### *Civil Process Uncollectable Accounts and Bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Sheriff's Office*

Uncollectable accounts total \$1,011.00. If an individual decides to pay their account, the bill can be put back into collectables and then paid.

**MOTION:** To approve Civil Process Uncollectable Account and Bills, vouchers and line item transfers for Sheriff's Office (Fried/ Martinson, PASSED).

*Employee Service Awards*

The Sheriff and the Chief Deputy recognized Jill Butzlaff, Sheriff's Office Manager, for 20-years of service.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Develop agenda at Emergency Management Director's discretion.

**ADJOURN**

**12:13 p.m.** MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Hintz/Timmons, PASSED).

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Bob Metropulos, Chairman

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Dawn Robinson, Committee Secretary