

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021**

**4:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice-Chairman Commissioner Wayne Ridge, Commissioner Brian Droscha, Commissioner Mark Mudry, and Commissioner Dairus Reynnet

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Tim Barnes, Commissioner Brandon Haskell and Commissioner Jane Whitacre

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chairman Jeremy Whittum, Controller John Fuentes, Undersheriff Jeffrey Cook, Dispatch Director Michael Armitage, Emergency Manager Ryan Wilkinson, and Lisa Leeman

The July 8, 2021 regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Commissioner Ridge.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all, led by Commissioner Ridge.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS AND CHANGES –**

There were no additions or changes to the agenda. Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES –**

Commissioner Droscha moved to approve the Minutes of the June 3, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Mudry seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Eaton County resident Sandy Southwell of 5100 Long Highway spoke on behalf of herself and fellow neighbors regarding safety concerns within the neighborhood and the Sheriff Department's handling of a recent homicide investigation.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE –**

Undersheriff Cook highlighted the major incidents that occurred in June, 2021.

Undersheriff Cook reported on the Department's Crisis Intervention Training initiative related to the public comment.

Commissioner Droscha invited the Sheriff's Office to attend the next Eaton Township meeting if possible. Undersheriff Cook advised he will discuss the invitation with the Sheriff.

There was discussion regarding one of the incidents that resulted in a lockdown of Grand Ledge Public Schools and a shelter in place alert for the City of Grand Ledge.

#### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COPS SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

A resolution to approve a grant application for safety improvements at schools within the Maple Valley School District located within Eaton County was presented and discussed. The grant application provides \$195,000 including \$48,750 in required matching funds provided by the school district. Commissioner Droscha made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution to the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Reynnet seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE U.S. DOJ BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPLICATION

The Department applied for a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to replace departmental bullet proof vests. The vests expire after 5 years. The grant awards 50% funding for replacements of approved vests. Discussion held regarding the number of vests in use and those scheduled to be replaced. Further information regarding this data will be provided at the next regular meeting. Commissioner Droscha made a motion to recommend approval of the resolution to the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Reynnet seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION FOR EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE GRANT FY22 LOCAL FORMULA SOLICITATION

The Department is eligible to receive \$11,840 through the formula allocation.. This funds overtime expenditure will be used to continue the enhanced enforcement and education initiative the Sheriff's Office created within the commercial lodging district of the W. Saginaw corridor within Delta Township. Commissioner Droscha made a motion to recommend approval of the grant application. Commissioner Reynnet seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### MONTHLY REPORTS –

Controller Fuentes presented and discussed the monthly boarding revenue, courthouse security, and the jail census reports.

#### CENTRAL DISPATCH UPDATE –

Central Dispatch Director Armitage reported increased call volume activity. Director Armitage advised the Department completed a replacement of all call taking hardware, utilizing approximately \$200,000 in grant funding provided by the State of Michigan. Director Armitage advised they are continuing recruiting efforts to hire telecommunicators. Discussion ensued regarding the current difficulties recruiting and retaining employees, not unlike the labor market statewide.

Director Armitage stated he is pleased with how well the equipment worked for tornado alerts including sirens, phone calls and text alerts during the severe weather episode that occurred June 26, 2021. Discussion held in regards to the efficiency of the severe weather alert system.

Dispatch Director Armitage proposed the possibility of a joint RAVE alert license between the County and other local municipalities at a cost. The County's licensing is based on the total county population and can be made available to interested local units for an additional licensing fee of \$1,500 per local unit. A proposed intergovernmental agreement was presented based on interest expressed by the cities of Charlotte and Eaton Rapids. Discussion held regarding the Eaton County Board of Commissioners approval of the proposed intergovernmental agreement.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATE –

Emergency Manager Wilkinson discussed the status of the Department's operations related to COVID-19. It was reported the Barry-Eaton District Health Department continues to monitor the Delta variant of COVID-19.

Discussion ensued regarding recent severe weather episode on June 26, 2021. Emergency Manager Wilkinson advised the Department communicated with the National Weather Service to obtain updates during the storms. It was reported that overall there was minimal community impact and minimal damage in the County.

Emergency Manager Wilkinson reported the Saginaw Valley State University intern finished 240 hours and hopes to continue to expand on the internship program.

#### MISCELLANEOUS –

None.

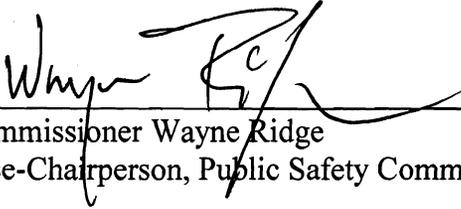
#### LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT –

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT –

Commissioner Ridge adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Room of the County Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Ridge", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Commissioner Wayne Ridge  
Vice-Chairperson, Public Safety Committee