-Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: October 12th, 2026

1/2: Call to Order/Roll Call:

In person: Mike Taylor, Robert Sendelbach, Daniel Schultz, and Nathan Nelson

Others were present in person or virtually for All or Parts of the Meeting: Sheriff Jake Laehn, Chief Deputy Ryan Howell, Kassie Serum, Jail LT Emily Scholl, Coordinator Lee Engfer, Emergency Management Steve Wall, and Penny Pronschinske.

3: Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance:

Kassie Serum advised that the meeting was posted on the County website and at two other locations per the County Clerk.

4: Approve Agenda

Nathan Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Robert Sendelbach.

5: Minutes of Previous Meeting:

No changes to the previous meeting minutes.

Robert Sendelbach made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Daniel Schultz.

6: Public Comment: None

7: Buffalo County Trail Riders-Modify hours of operation:

Penny Pronschinske was present to represent the group. Lee Engfer stated he was contacted by Kari Kent from Buffalo County Trail Riders, and they would like to modify the current ordinance. They would like highway speed which is currently 35mph increased to highway speed 55mph and have the night curfew changed from 10pm to 24/7. They are having issues with vehicles passing them in unsafe areas. They would like the time changed from 10pm to 24/7 because there are many events that go past that time and they are having to leave before the events are done. They also feel like it will be less confusing for surrounding counties that already have 24/7 when riding in our County. Sheriff Jake Laehn stated that the speed change is a concern, he stated that some UTV's don't have tires that are made to go those speeds on highways, he also stated we haven't had any complaints about the unsafe passing. Mike Taylor is also concerned about increasing speed. Dan Schultz asked if we have communicated with the surrounding Counties that have already made these changes? Laehn stated he has not, but he will reach out to them for the next

meeting. Nathan Nelson asked what the requirements are and Laehn stated age 16 and a valid license. Lee Engfer stated it is being reviewed by Corp Counsel. Nathan Nelson stated it would be a concern with having someone under the age of 16 without a license to be travelling on the roads at that rate of speed and not knowing all of the laws of the road. This will be brought back to next month's meeting to discuss the new information.

8: Emergency Management Current Expenditures and Report:

Steve Wall stated he has 34% left in his budget, he stated that there was no increase to his budget for 2027. Wall stated that between highway and Emergency Management they were able to et $55,918 from the Wisconsin Disaster Fund. There was a total of $157,000 for the whole county. Mike Taylor asked if the bill that was in the State-that would possibly be individuals and not just public. Walls stated that he hadn't heard that it had passed. Taylor asked if getting assistance from Federal is still an option and Wall stated yes but you have to have 14 million in damage.

Robert Sendelbach made a motion to approve expenditures and report, seconded by Nathan Nelson.

9: Law Enforcement Current Expenditures, Vouchers and Revenue:

Kassie asked if there were any questions. Mike Taylor asked what Lexis Nexis was, Kassie advised it is a 3rd party records request.

Robert Sendelbach made a motion to approve expenditure, seconded by Daniel Schultz. Accepted.

10: Donations:

Kassie stated we received a donation for the Ye Old Schoolhouse in the amount of $1000 for the K-9 program.

Donations accepted.

11. Sheriff's Office Reports:

Emily Scholl discussed the Jail report that was included in packet. Scholl stated that she would like to bring inmates back next year. Scholl would also like to revisit the feasibility study with Pepin County and if they are not interested, she believes we should do it ourselves. Mike Taylor asked about the two different rates from Trempealeau, Scholl advised there is a higher fee for inmates with special needs.

Ryan Howell asked if there were any questions on the report that was provided in the packet. Mike Taylor asked if the total overtime hours were with both overtime categories? Jake and Ryan stated we break it down with reimbursable and regular overtime combined.

Jake Laehn stated that Winona and Buffalo County worked together on a recovery case, there were people coming to help from all over. They all worked hand in hand, and he wanted to thank everyone for all of their help. Laehn stated that this week they will be having 2 interviews for the open Deputy position. Laehn also stated that there is one CCO that will be finishing up training this month and there is one male that is a few weeks into his training. Laehn stated that November they will be covering shifts.

12. Collaboration with Tremealeau, and Jackson County with a Tri-Community Reginal Computer Forensics Cooperative:

Jake Laehn that moving forward this program will allow us to get returns on electronics such as cellular, and computers. Currently we utilize the West Centrual Drug Task Force for our electronics. Trempealeau County would have one person assigned for this; this person could even go to the scenes. Currently some returns can take up to 9-12 months. This could speed up this process. This can help with crashes, drug case, and sex crimes. Laehn discussed the packet he handed out to all members. Laehn stated that Health and Human Service has some fund that could help with the start up costs. Next year it will be split by three with the total was $13,750. Trempealeau County is looking to host a training event to help with the training. Mike Taylor asked if after that the cost per year would be $4,743. Lee Engfer stated that he believes we should move forward. Mike Taylor asked if there is a cost with the Current one we are using? Engfer stated no and we are very lucky.

The Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee gives support.

Nathan Nelson made a motion to support the collaboration with Tremealeau, and Jackson County with a Tri-Community Reginal Computer Forensics Cooperative, seconded by Robert Sendelbach.

13.Committee Chair Report:

Mike Taylor advised he did not have a report.

14. Future Agenda Items:

We will be bringing back Buffalo County Trail Riders-Modify hours of operation.

15. Next Meeting Date and Time:

A meeting on November 9th at 9:00AM. was scheduled.

16. Adjournment:

Adjourn at 9:40am.

Kassie Serum, Secretary