-Buffalo County Public Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: November 9th, 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, Kassie Serum, Jail LT Emily Scholl, Coordinator Lee Engfer.

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

Kassie advised that number 12 on the agenda can be removed, it was supposed to be removed. Nathan Nelson made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of number 12, 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:

Sheriff Laehn stated he reached out to Trempealeau and Pepin County. Laehn stated that Pepin County kept the 35MPH unless posted lower and they have the 24/7 hours for travel. Trempealeau changed their speed to posted speed and they have it 24/7 for hours of operation. Jake asked for crash data and Pepin County had 8 total crashes 2 were fatal and the rest were major injury. Trempealeau County stated that the DNR does the majority of their UTV and ATV crash reports. The Warden was out so he could not get the crash data from them. Laehn isn't against changing the hours of operation to 24/7, but he has concerns about changing the speed. He is worried that they will go over the posted speed and the UTV's are not held up to safety standards like a vehicle. Emily Scholl asked if they had airbags, no one believed they did. Schultz asked what the difference was between a vehicle and a UTV, Laehn stated UTV's are not defined as a motor vehicle. Schultz asked if you able to ride a go cart down the road with no lights, Laehn stated it wouldn't be in

compliance due to the no lights. Sendelbach also stated that you would not be able to register a go cart. Schultz asked if there is a certain weight or width and Engfer stated he was not sure. Engfer stated that UTV's are not built for impact crashes. Scholl checked online and there were no standards for testing. Engfer stated there are issues with our ordinance that they are working on to get corrected. Sendelbach asked if with the updates if they will need to have lights on the UTV's. Engfer said yes and if they don't have lights, they will not be able to operate after dark.

8: Emergency Management Current Expenditures and Report:

Lee Engfer gave the report for Steve Wall. Enger stated that Wall is working with Pepin and Trempealeau County to get their regroup up and going and they are hoping to go live January 1st, 2027. Wall is also working on closing out his grants.

Accepted.

9: Law Enforcement Current Expenditures, Vouchers and Revenue:

Kassie stated that she is working on running reports on the online version of the financial system. Kassie stated that moving forward she is going to just run the revenues for each month, and this report was very long due to extra accounts being added in. There was no question with the reports.

Robert Sendelbach made a motion to approve reports, seconded by Nathan Nelson. Accepted.

10: Donations:

Kassie advised that they had one donation from the Nelson Cheese Factory in the amount of $500.00 for the K-9 program.

Donations accepted.

11. Sheriff's Office Reports:

Emily Scholl started off with all of the funds for the PSAP grant are done. They will need to do a large radio upgrade, and she met with Jake and Lee to discuss options. Scholl stated that the Net Clock with also need to be replaced which sinks with all of the computers. Mike Taylor asked if we have been told if we will be getting more money from the grant and Emily stated no it won't be until around January. Scholl stated they had an interview last week and they will not be moving forward with that individual. Scholl stated she will be working on updating the hiring flyer.

Sheriff Laehn asked if there were any questions on Ryan Howells report, there were no questions.

Sheriff Laehn stated they had missing individual with dementia and Deputy Carothers and K-9 Ozzy tracked for 4 miles searching for this individual which led to the party being located. Laehn stated that there was a good collaboration for the water operation they had. There is one more Deputy that can now handle internet crimes which brings them to two people, and they are both on days shifts on opposite days. They are currently in the background process on their last vacant Deputy position-if everything goes well, he is hoping they will start training mid-December.

Accepted.

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

Removed-was completed at last months meeting.

13.Committee Chair Report: None.

14. Future Agenda Items:

Sheriff Laehn would like to add returning inmates back at the first of the year. Also bring back Buffalo County Trail Riders-Modify hours of operation.

15. Next Meeting Date and Time:

A meeting on December 14th at 9:00AM. was scheduled.

16. Adjournment:

Adjourn at 9:34 A.M.

Kassie Serum, Secretary