

Rusk County Emergency Services Minutes

April 12, 2023

Present: Cudo, Gudis, Schmitt, Schneider and Wedwick

Others Present: Tom Hall, Annette Grotzinger Sheriff Wallace, Jail Captain Murray, Ashley Heath, Chrysa Ostenso

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Schmitt at 8:00 AM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Cudo/Schneider motion to approve the February 8, 2023 and March 8, 2023 meeting minutes, motion carried.

3. Public Comment

Chrysa Ostenso advised that she was there to record the ES Meeting in hopes that the county will decide to live stream/record all open meetings for public viewing.

4. Rusk County Emergency Management/Ambulance Director Presentation

- a. **Monthly Report** – The EMA/Ambulance report was reviewed by committee and included EMA/AMB updates, trainings received and meetings attended. LifeQuest will now be doing collections along with billing for Ambulance services.
- b. **Training Requests** – none. There were in-house trainings of new skills for EMTs/EMRs along with Fire Extinguisher and BBP.
- c. **Payment of Bills** – Wedwick/Gudis motion to approve payment approval report, motion carried.
- d. **Budget Review** – Schmitt/Schneider would like to add wage increase discussion for Ambulance on next committee meeting agenda.

5. Rusk County Medical Examiner Presentation

- a. **Monthly Report** – Grotzinger presented the monthly report. There were 3 natural deaths, 8 cremations and 7 hospice deaths. The decedent cot ordered back in 2022 still has not arrived so committee suggested Grotzinger check with other potential vendors to order one. Grotzinger also advised there are four applicants to be interviewed for the on-call deputy coroner position.
- b. **Training Requests** – Grotzinger advised there were no new training requests and had a listing of the trainings she completed in March 2023.
- c. **Payment of Bills** – Wedwick/Cudo motion to approve the monthly payment approval report, motion carried.
- d. **Budget Review** – Attached report from Finance.

6. Rusk County Sheriff Presentation

- a. **Monthly Report** – Sheriff Wallace presented the monthly report which included inmate population, training, meetings, calls for service, inmate housing A/R and overtime. Average daily inmate population was 27 and average daily EMP was one. The average daily number of inmates housed out of county was four with only one inmate billable to Rusk. Sheriff Wallace advised the monthly calls for service portion of the report was condensed from 53 call types to ten. Sheriff Wallace further advised the committee that if they wanted a specific call type back in the monthly report it could be re-added. The option to add a call type that had not previously been in the monthly report was also discussed.

- b. Training Requests** – Wallace/Grassmann/Wojcik: Management Conference, Sawyer County [4/18-4/20]; Engel/Fenstermacher: Rescue Tactics for Patrol, FVTC [4/18]; Ohmstead: HRVC Update, NWTC [5/3]; Zielke: ATV/Snowmobile Training, Stevens Point [5/5]; Olson/Hraban: NENA Conference, WI Dells [5/6-5/10]; Kummet/Ohmstead: SWAT Command & Leadership, Milwaukee [5/8-5/12.] Schneider/Gudis motion to approve the upcoming trainings, motion carried.
- c. Payment of Bills** – Schneider/Wedwick motion to approve payment approval report, motion carried.
- d. Budget Review** – Attached report from Finance. Schneider asked about the county’s status on the quote to refurbish Rusk County’s existing Emergency Services radio system.
- e. Discussion & Possible Motion**
 - i. K9 Purchase** – Sheriff Wallace requested purchasing a 2nd department K9 for evening patrol. The K9 fund currently has enough donated money available to cover the cost of a new K9 and the training involved for the K9 and handler. Schneider/Gudis motion to approve purchasing another department K9, motion carried. Purchase approval (from K9 fund donations) will be requested from Property Committee.
 - ii. Hiring Jail/Dispatch Position** – The jail still needs to hire for three open positions with six individuals scheduled for interviews on 4/27/2023. Sheriff Wallace asked committee members to think of incentives to potentially attract new hires.
 - iii. Separation of Jail/Dispatch** - Sheriff Wallace mentioned that the majority of employees who have left the jail division for jobs at surrounding counties have done so due to being able to work just jail or just dispatch at the other facilities. The State of WI highly recommends that counties make their dispatching and corrections separate positions. Jail Captain Murray estimates it would take a minimum of at least four new employees to separate the current combined dispatch/jail positions.

7. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 8:00 AM

8. Adjourned

Gudis/Schneider motion to adjourn at 9:05 AM, motion carried.