

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

NOVEMBER 8, 2012

Page 1 of 3

Vice Chair Alden Bauman called to order the regular meeting of the Law Enforcement and Emergency Management Committee at 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, November 8, 2012, in the HR Conference area, at the Vilas County Courthouse, in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Present. The following persons were present: Alden Bauman, Christopher Mayer, James Behling, Lorin Johnson, Linda Thorpe, Stephen Favorite, Chief Deputy Fath, Captain Kennedy, Lieutenant Soltow, Corporation Counsel Martha Milanowski, HR Manager Janna Kahl, Ken Anderson, and recorder Carol Krebs. Not present and excused were Mark Rogacki and Sigurd Hjervick. *(Vice Chair Alden Bauman confirmed with County Clerk David Alleman that the meeting was properly posted).*

Approve the agenda. Christopher Mayer made a motion to approve the agenda to be discussed in any order by the Chair. Motion was seconded by James Behling. All voting aye. Carried.

Approve Minutes. Christopher Mayer made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2012 committee meeting. Motion was seconded by James Behling. All voting aye. Carried.

Civil Service Ordinance – Ordinance to County Board. Janna Kahl began the conversation by explaining the Civil Service Commission Ordinance. She indicated the Personnel Committee has previously approved the Ordinance, and has requested approval of a joint Ordinance with the Law Enforcement and Emergency Management Committee, to be forwarded to the full County Board. Christopher Mayer asked if the Ordinance was developed with some comparison with other counties. Janna Kahl confirmed that both the Florence County and Douglas County Ordinances were referenced.

Corporation Counsel Martha Milanowski stated Oneida County, just to our South has a similar Ordinance, that's been in effect for quite some time, and ours is very similar to theirs.

Alden Bauman confirmed that the members of the commission will be non County Board members. Janna Kahl pointed out the language in the Ordinance states that "no person holding any elective or appointive public position or office of any sort in said Vilas County government shall be appointed thereon."

The Committee discussed the appointment to the Commission with respect to their residency. The Ordinance currently did not address this issue. Christopher Mayer indicated he would like to see some language added to ensure equal representation from all Vilas County municipalities. With only five members, maybe the language should read "no more than one person shall serve on the commission from a given municipality."

James Behling stated that given the fact that this Ordinance has been previously approved by the Personnel Committee, and forwarded to the Law Enforcement and Emergency Management Committee for their approval today, that any changes to the Ordinance would have to be in the form of an amendment at the full County Board meeting.

Page 2 of 4

Alden Bauman asked Stephen Favorite if the County Board was still planning on combining committees in order to reduce the total number of committees, and if so are we doing the opposite here by creating another committee.

Stephen Favorite said yes, this Ordinance is initially driven by the Personnel Committee, and I serve on Personnel and I do strongly support it for the simple reason that we have an HR Manager, employed by Vilas County now for a year, and I recognize that as a very good valuable asset to assisting the Sheriff, in a lot of issues he's got to deal with in terms of Human Resources. Personnel would like to have input from Law Enforcement and that's the purpose of this meeting here today. The reason that this is time sensitive is because the County Board only meets seven times per year, we meet in November, and the next meeting isn't until January. To answer your question, if we just postpone this, by just amending one word, and send it back to Personnel that's a bad way of doing business. We would be postponing it until January, before the full County Board can hear it, and that's just a poor way of doing business.

Corporation Counsel, Martha Milanowski offered write up an amendment on the residency of the commission members, similar to the language used in the Board of Adjustment. This amendment can be presented at the full County Board meeting for discussion.

James Behling made a motion to approve the Civil Service Commission Ordinance, and forward it to the full County Board for their approval at the November 13, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Christopher Mayer. Alden Bauman asked if there was any more discussion.

Corporation Counsel Martha Milanowski asked if he should ask the law enforcement department member's that are present here today, if they have any input or concerns.

Chief Deputy Fath questioned the age limit on Deputy Sheriff's. The Ordinance stated the applicant must be over 21 years of age. Janna Kahl advised the Personnel Committee requested this age requirement be part of the Ordinance. She further indicated this could be another amendment.

Alden Bauman introduced the letter (see a copy below) authored by Sheriff Frank Tomlanovich. Each member received a copy, and the committee took a few minutes to read the letter. Vice Chair Alden Bauman requested this letter become a part of the official minutes of this meeting.

Chief Deputy Fath had a couple additional amendments. Corporation Counsel, Martha Milanowski offered to coordinate a meeting with Sheriff Tomlanovich and Chief Deputy Fath to go over the entire Ordinance, and note any further amendments before the November 13, 2012 full County Board meeting.

Linda Thorpe arrived at the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Vice Chair Alden Bauman asked if there was any more discussion, if not it was time to vote on the motion. The vote found the following members voting yes: James Behling, Christopher Mayer, Lorin Johnson, and Alden Bauman. Stephen Favorite abstained. Carried.



Joseph A. Fath, Chief Deputy
Russell Kennedy, Captain
William E. Weiss, Jail Admin.

**VILAS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
330 Court Street, Courthouse
Eagle River, WI 54521-8362



Tele: 715 479-4441
Fax: 715 479-6039

Frank Tomlanovich
Sheriff
www.co.vilas.wi.us

November 6, 2012

Mr. Alden Bauman, Vice-chair
Vilas County Law Enforcement Committee

Dear Mr. Bauman,

Due to a conflicting appointment, I am unable to attend the November 8th meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee. However, I request that you read this letter to the Committee and make it a part of the official record of the meeting.

I would like to voice my opposition to adoption of the Civil Service Ordinance as it is currently being offered. In its present form, the ordinance is marked as a "Draft." Having completed an initial review of the document, it is readily apparent to me that it is just that, a draft.

I have found several areas wherein the language is vague and open to misinterpretation, and contradictory to the spirit and intent of the ordinance. In two or more locations, the rank structure of the Sheriff's Office is incorrect. And, at least one section appears to be in conflict with State Statute. The errors, vagaries and inconsistencies are too many to list and explain in this brief letter, but they are extremely important and need to be addressed before this ordinance is adopted.

With some very minor exceptions, the procedures set forth in the draft ordinance, regarding hiring and promotions within the Sheriff's Office, are exactly what we have been doing for decades. I see no need to appoint a commission to do what we have already been doing for years. Considering the County's current budget situation, it makes no sense to appoint yet another committee, and pay the members of that committee mileage and per diem to do a job that is already being done by current employees.

Unless someone has a hidden agenda, there is no pressing reason to ram this ordinance through the committees and the County Board. There is nothing so vitally important that this can't be delayed until the document is corrected. For that matter, there is no reason this matter can't be addressed by simply making the appropriate portions of the document part of the Sheriff's Office Policies and Procedures, at no additional cost to the tax payers.

The members of the County Board would be remiss in their duties and ill advised to adopt this ordinance at this time. I am willing to sit down with anyone to discuss the issues I have pointed out so that the crafters concerns can be properly addressed.

Respectfully,

Sheriff Frank Tomlanovich

Cc: All County Board Supervisors
Media

Letters and Communications. County Board Chair, Stephen Favorite made a formal written request to place "Nov. 29, 2011 Complaint filed by the Vilas County Board Chair", on the next regularly scheduled Law Enforcement and Emergency Management Committee meeting agenda. He provided a copy of his written request, addressed to Chair Mark Rogacki, along with a letter dated September 28, 2012, detailing his complaint. He further stated, this complaint that he made to Sheriff Tomlanovich was almost one year ago, and he wants this matter discussed by the Law Enforcement and Emergency Management Committee and their next committee meeting.

Future Meeting Date. The next committee meeting is scheduled for: Thursday, December 13, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in the Justice Center Conference room. The meeting date was confirmed.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Carol Krebs, Confidential Secretary