

**Bayfield County Board of Supervisors**  
**Sheriff's, Emergency Government, Veterans and Child Support Committee**  
**February 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Jeremy Oswald, Dennis Pocernich, Larry Fickbohm, and Jeff Silbert

**Others Present:** Sheriff Paul Susienka, Chief Deputy Dan Clark, Mark Abeles-Allison-County Administrator, Cpt. Kathleen Haiden, Jan Victorson-Emergency Management, Bonnie Chivers-Child Support, Kevin Johnson-Veteran's Service Officer, Deb Milanowski

Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm by Vice-Chairman Oswald

Silbert nominated Jeremy Oswald for Chairman of the committee. Dennis Pocernich seconded it and to close nominations and cast a ballot for Oswald. Motion carried by unanimous decision (3-0).

Silbert nominated Dennis Pocernich for Vice Chairman of the committee. Jeremy Oswald seconded it and to close nominations and cast a ballot for Pocernich. Motion carried by unanimous decision (3-0).

**Approval of Minutes:** *Motion by Dennis Pocernich, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Silbert to approve the January 8, 2018 minutes. Motion carried (3-0)*

**Public Comment:** None

**Report from Child Support:** Bonnie Chivers attended the Child Support Conference where there is still discussion around the State (CCAP) wanting to remove the filing fee waiver for Child Support filings. They want to charge \$30 per filing. There is discussion of having the filing party pay for the fee and not the local child support agency. This filing charge is mainly due to Motions to Modify which would amount to around 100 cases a year.

There is also a pending decision regarding Administrative Paternity Tests. These tests would occur without a court order and everyone would be tested whether they admit to being the father or not. This goes before the board next week. This could save money in the long run by avoiding court appearances, but will not prevent all court appointments. These charges are reimbursable at the 66% rate.

*Bonnie Chivers left the meeting at 4:12 p.m.*

**Report from Veterans Service Office:** Kevin Johnson and Mark Abeles-Allison updated the committee on Kevin's replacement. We have interviewed 6 people and narrowed it down to the top two choices. Mark's office has contacted the top choice. He currently works for Disabled Americans in Superior & Duluth. This position requires Board approval before the individual can start. Hoping to have a 2-3

week overlap with Kevin prior to his departure with a start date of March 5, 2018. This will be a full time, limited term position of 9 months and ends upon Kevin's return.

*Larry Fickbohm entered the meeting at 4:14pm*

Kevin is working with the county on verbiage in the county's policy covering certain processes regarding individuals that get called up for active service. These include addressing the accrual of sick, vacation and the county's contribution to WRS. This should also address years of service and the step-increase regarding wages. This will all be handled in the Personnel Committee.

There was a consensus among the members that they would support Kevin and he shouldn't lose out on anything. This includes accrual of vacation and sick and to maintain his longevity benefits. They would like him compensated as much as possible.

The application for the annual Dept. of VA money was submitted before the deadline. This is for an \$80,000 award.

*Kevin left the meeting at 4:29pm*

**Report from Emergency Management:** Jan reported that on March 1, 2018 at 2:30pm in the EOC there will be a kickoff for a Mitigation Plan. She hopes this will be completed by the end of December of 2018. This is a county-wide plan and opens the door for applying for future FEMA funds.

There will be a software upgrade to the 911 equipment on February 21, 2018.

Currently working with the Birkie communications person to resolve some issues.

Ready to submit her strategic plan for the March meeting.

**Report from the Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff reported that the strategic plan is ready to be reviewed at the March meeting as well. He covered a few of the standout points that will be an issue before the 10-year plan is up. These include the fact that the two state juvenile institutions through DOC will be shut down and counties will have to house these juveniles somehow. There are some grant opportunities for counties that support new juvenile centers. The Sheriff will follow-up with Human Services regarding the number of juveniles this would entail. The second issue is the 911 Next Generation Service. This involves dispatchers providing CPR instructions over the phone. This is currently in the legislature and is expected to pass. This will be followed by the Emergency Medical Dispatching (which are pre-arrival instructions). This will be an issue for Bayfield County as we often have only one dispatcher on duty. This will not allow for these enhancements by our dispatchers since they will have to answer every phone call that comes in.

Discussed the need for a padded cell in the jail. Provided the committee with photos of the Corporal's Office as part of this office could be re-purposed as a padded cell. This is in the very early stages and will have follow-up with feasibility, whether there really is a need for it, and how much it will cost. Discussed the need for one more holding cell in addition to this padded cell.

**Report from Mark Abeles-Allison:** Mark updated the committee on the Re-Entry Grant that we received from the state. This amounts to \$80,000 for the year with the possibility for renewal in the subsequent 3 years. A budget amendment will occur shortly because of this grant.

**Future Agenda items:** The Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management will present their Strategic Plan at the March meeting. The May meeting will include a tour of the jail and the whole county board will be invited to participate in the tour.

Chairman Oswald proposed that these meetings occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month to alleviate conflicts in schedules. There were no objections by anyone in attendance.

**Next meeting date is March 19, 2018 at 4:00pm in the EOC**

*Meeting ended at 5:14 p.m.*

Minutes submitted by: Deb Milanowski

Minutes approved on: 3/19/18 4:03pm