

Medical Examiner Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

Monday, June 21, 2010 12:00 p.m.

Conference Room A260

Friendship, WI

Call meeting to order. Chairman Terry James called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in room A260 of the Adams County Courthouse.

Was the meeting properly noticed. Yes.

Roll call.

Present: Supervisor Terry James; Sheriff Renner; Coroner Terry Scheel; Community Member, Jeremy Normington

Absent/Excused: District Attorney Mark Thibodeau

Others Present: Lieutenant Dave Carlson; Corporation Counsel Jack Albert; Administrative Coordinator Barbara Petkovsek; Supervisor Al Sebastiani; and Jake Roseberry, Roseberry's Funeral Home

Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Scheel seconded by Renner to approve the agenda. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Motion by Renner seconded by Scheel to move to Item #8 on the agenda (Discuss information regarding Oconto and Door Counties). Voice vote. Motion carried.

Discuss information regarding Oconto and Door Counties.

A phone call was placed to Kevin Hamman, Oconto County Administrative Coordinator, regarding Oconto County's experience in changing from a Coroner to a Medical Examiner and contracting services with Brown County. Hamman's comments included the following:

- Oconto County went from a Coroner to a Medical Examiner in 2007 at the urging of the sitting Coroner as the Coroner position was overworked/underpaid as she was putting in 30-35 hours per week for inadequate compensation and there was lack of administration for the Coroner position.
- Brown County proposed providing a Contract to Oconto County
- Service was improved with very few complaints from users – Sheriff's Dept; medical profession
- Deputy ME's are getting \$3 per hour on-call with the on-call part of the budget being \$25,000
- Budget numbers
 - 2006 \$43,730 – coroner system
 - 2007 \$76,667 – medical examiner system
 - 2010 \$91,663 – medical examiner system
- Currently an old squad car is provided for use; however, when that is no longer operational will pay county standard mileage

- Current rates for deputy medical examiners' are as follows:
 - \$75/investigation
 - \$25/cremation
 - \$35 hospice call
 - \$3/hr. on call
- Oconto County had no negative experiences in converting to a medical examiner and putting the contract in place with Brown County. Hamman felt the additional cost was worth the improved service. The Brown County contract is inclusive of Medical Examiner Administrative Services and operating supplies.

A phone call was placed to Grant Thomas, Door County Corporation Counsel regarding the county's conversion from a Coroner to a Medical Examiner and their experience contracting services with Brown County. Thomas's comments included the following:

- Door County moved to the medical examiner position in 1983. Thomas's understanding was that when the then current coroner was not going to run for office, a local physician was willing to provide services but did not want to run for office. That physician provided services from 1983-1996 when he retired.
- The ME system with Brown County began in late 1996
- The Door/Brown county contracts works well with a little nurturing to resolve any concerns
- Door County has retained their own ME and deputies with Brown County providing Administrative Services
- The Door County Sheriff, DA, Corporation Counsel, Administrator meet at least once a year to review the contract and relationship with Brown County
- Door County's contract with Brown County is currently \$15,801.60

Approve minutes from the June 3, 2010 meeting.

Motion by Scheel seconded by Renner to approve the minutes as printed. Voice vote. Motion carried

Public participation (*If requested by the Committee Chair*). None

Correspondence.

Chairman James requested Lieutenant Carlson to share his conversation with District Attorney, Mark Thibodeau regarding the medical examiner position. Carlson explained the visit to Columbia County and the conversations held with Columbia County District Attorney. Carlson encouraged Thibodeau to contact Columbia County District Attorney Jane Kohlwey. District Attorney Thibodeau indicated that he is neutral on the subject of a medical examiner but would like the following items to be considered by the committee in making any decisions:

- The committee/county board maintains their statutory rights in choosing deputy medical examiners.
- That investigators have an individual that they can work with.
- assurance that he has the ability to use UW Madison facilities for autopsies when necessary

Terry Scheel was excused from the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Review Corp. Counsel skeleton Resolution and verbiage.

Jack Albert, Corporation Counsel, presented a draft ordinance, “Appointing a medical examiner and adopting an intergovernmental agreement with _____ County to provided medical examiner services”, for discussion. Discussion held regarding the ordinance, preparing a written document reporting the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, making a recommendation to the PS&J and Executive Committees at a joint meeting on July 14th on presenting the ordinance to County Board.

Motion by Normington seconded by Renner to have an ordinance prepared along with an intergovernmental agreement for Columbia County to provide medical examiner services to Adams County. Motion carried. Roll call vote – voting YES were Normington, Renner and James. Absent/Excused were Scheel and Thidodeau.

Next meeting date set for Tuesday, June 29th at 12:00 p.m. Agenda items to include review and sign prepared document on analysis of Ad Committee and discuss and/or act on resolution and intergovernmental agreement to be presented to PS&J and Executive Committees for consideration to present to County Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Green

Recorded by Barbara A. Petkovsek, Administrative Coordinator/Director of Finance

Minutes unofficial until approved by committee.