



GADSDEN COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners

9-B East Jefferson Street, Quincy, Florida 32351

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2013

1:00 p.m.

Present:

Doug Croley, Board of County Commission Chair, Chair of Public Safety Coordinating Council
Robert Presnell, County Manager (Gadsden County)
Arthur Lawson, Gadsden County Board of County Commission
Victor Holder, Public Defender
Rick Combs, State Attorney
John Walkup, State Probation
Clyde Collins, County Building Official
Martha Chancey, County Probation
Tameka Chaney, County Probation
Laurel Bradley, County Administration
Jeff Price, County Budget Director
Nina Moody, Public Defender
Judge Kathy Garner, County Judge
Major James Morgan, Gadsden County Sheriff's Office (Jail)
Lt. Henry Miller, Gadsden County Sheriff's Office (Jail)
Annie Berry, Gadsden County Sheriff's Office (Jail)
Rick Davidson, Gadsden County Sheriff's Office - Legal
Susan Wilson, Court Administration
Nancy Daniels, Public Defender
Shawn Wood, Gadsden County Sheriff's Office
Vann Pullen, Chief Chattahoochee Police Department
Captain Tom Murray, Midway Police/Fire Department
Lt. R.B. Stone, Havana Police Department
Carlos De La Cruz, Gretna Police Department
Attorney Deborah Minnis, County Attorney
Loretta Galeener, Court Administration
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court
Beryl H. Wood, Deputy Clerk

Public Safety Coordinating Council

August 2, 2013

Page 1 of 9

1. Welcome

Chair Doug Croley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Public Safety Coordinating Council. He then asked everyone to introduce themselves for the record.

2. Election of Vice- Chairman

Major Shawn Wood nominated by County Administrator, Robert Presnell seconded by Victor Holder.

UPON MOTION BY MR. PRESNELL AND SECOND BY VICTOR HOLDER, THE COUNCIL VOTED BY VOICE VOTE, TO ELECT MAJOR SHAWN WOOD AS THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL.

Major Shawn Wood joined the dais with Chair Croley and Mr. Presnell.

3. Approval of Minutes – June 29, 2012

UPON MOTION MY MR. LAWSON AND SECOND BY MAJOR WOOD, THE COUNCIL VOTED BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 29, 2012 PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL.

4. Facilities Management – Jail Locks Update

Clyde Collins commented there were 20 different companies that looked at the locks at the Jail, but only 3 companies bid. The low bid was from CA Owens out of Freeport, FL. He said the Jail is over 20 years old and the locks should be upgraded every 10 years and we are way over due. He discussed upgrades to the jail and mentioned it would be presented to the board at the August 20, 2013 BCC Meeting.

Mr. Presnell asked was County Jail Administrator involved in the planning.

Mr. Collins replied the Jail Administrator was. He said that CA Owens is highly recommended.

Chair Croley said it finally going to happen.

5. Discussion on Use of Inmate Labor

Mr. Presnell discussed the use of inmate labor at a higher level. He mentioned some of the issues that had come forth by the Jail Administrator that are impediments to the use of that labor. He said the County's position is they would like to see more inmate labor population used for task around the County.

Major Shawn Wood conveyed he had gone to a meeting last night with the Department of Corrections down in Liberty County. "They made a couple of good points about the state of inmate labor. Basically, what they said was this year alone they saved taxpayers close to \$900,000 and Liberty was like 1.1 million." He said they had lost like \$100,000 in the last couple of years, but it is still showing a productivity of saving Gadsden County Public entities almost up to a million dollars. He said they also laid out the olive branch so they may have discussions with them on anything they could do to help us. He said they actually built their facility down there with mostly inmate labor and cut the price in half. He mentioned he didn't realize the state had started building their own facilities now and it was one of things they said we could look at. He also pointed out they now have Rick Davison he is the ex-assistant at DOC. He said one thing for them to explore is better communication between the Sheriff's Department and DOC.

Chair Croley commented the public would like to see more inmate labor used.

Judge Garner said she was impressed with the presentation and thought it was Liberty 1.9 million that was saved by inmate labor for Gadsden County it was 1.5 million. She mentioned the facility in Liberty is nice and reemphasized that the jail was built with inmate labor.

Chair Croley asked was the Liberty a work camp like Quincy.

Major Wood shared Liberty County South Unit is a new work camp for Liberty County C. I, which is the prison.

Chair Croley said this body (PSCC) is a group that can offer support and allocation of resources that may be needed for all. He asked of inmate labor is there anything this Council can do. He asked Mr. Presnell was he getting enough inmates.

Mr. Presnell stated said they are starting a new group, which is great. He said they have to create different ways, review in-depth discussions, so that they can have programs that allow them to be productive.

Chair Croley asked if the County had a facility that the inmates could work out of to get that out to do something productive.

Mr. Presnell said currently they do not but, maybe a plan of action could be developed such as diversion program.

Judge Garner asked that they involve the State Attorneys.

Mr. Rick Combs, State Attorney, said there might be a pool of people who are on probation. He discussed the benefits and the problems with diversion versus probation.

Chair Croley asked about the Saturday crew that works along the highway.

Mr. Combs those are jail work camp days, such as those sentenced to 30 days.

Mr. Presnell said if the County had a facility, is that something that you would utilize or if they had a couple of crews, would this provide an alternative for placing in the jail? He asked did they have to be a sworn officer.

Mr. Combs stated yes, a condition of probation. He said that's exactly what the Jail Work Camp is. He said they need the structure.

Lt. Moore of the Gadsden County Jail responded they did have a work camp setup. He said he keeps the time and books now for the work camp. He said they can't hire uncertified officer according to FDLE.

Major Wood said the Sheriff's Department can't have uncertified officers, but the County can.

Chair Croley asked could we contract with the Sheriff's Office, to hire off duty officers with the Road Department.

Chair Croley expressed this seems like something they should explore.

Major Wood said normally these inmates are the ones that aren't sentenced to jail for long periods.

Judge Garner conveyed there should be more conversion had when you talk diversion program. However, she suggested they utilize the work camps.

UPON MOTION BY MRS. DANIELS AND SECOND BY MRS. MOODY, THE COUNCIL VOTED BY VOICE VOTE, FOR THE COMMITTEE TO WORK ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR WORKCAMP CONSISTING OF THE JUDGE, PD, SA, SHERIFF'S OFFICE, COUNTY ATTORNEY AND THE COUNTY MANAGER.

(Mr. Presnell will set meeting date.)

6. Code of Ordinances – Chapter 58 -81 (Abatement Board) Status

- a. Ordinance 58-81
- b. Florida Statutes 893.138

Attorney Minnis said the ordinance allows a local administrative board to hear complaints and take action with the respect to the abatement of the activities specified in F.S. § 893.138 (2) is created by the board of county commissioners. Such board shall be known as and called the county prostitution, drug and criminal street gang activity abatement board. It just gives another avenue to try to curb these activities.

Chair Croley gave for example, different properties that become a nuisance; the board could do it on a civil note. An abatement board. He asked “lawfully how can we handle this, how can it be implemented.”

Major Wood said some of the municipalities have already implemented such board. “A lot of other entities do this, it is not uncommon.” He said he doesn’t know what the standard would be for Gadsden County. He recalled the 773 boys out of Sawdust and all of the citizen complaints that went along with the successful demise of that gang. He asked how do you layout bar or level.

Judge Garner commented another suggestion would be to form a different committee to see how it should be implemented.

Vann Pullen, Chattahoochee Chief of Police, said they have an Abatement Committee. “They provide the information that there is a problem, they recommend and normally it is just mediation.”

Major Wood commented the first step would be to send out letter of notification by abating the problem.

Chair Croley asked was there enough activity out there to warrant the committee.

Major Wood said he didn’t know. He said they would have to seat down and see how many areas they were getting complaints from.

Mr. Combs suggested Code Enforcement handle all abatement issues.

Mr. Presnell said Code Enforcement is in place and it doesn't deal with crime related issues.

Attorney Minnis there needs to be abatement board to deal with these type issues.

Major Wood he said it gives the community another venue.

Judge Garner said it is in the statue and agreed it would give the citizens another venue for their complaints.

Annie Berry suggested they have a board.

Mr. Combs said the Board would give a weapon for dealing with complaints.

Chair Croley asked could the committee that's working with the work camp that they also look into the abatement board.

Nancy Daniels suggested the PD office not participate in this abatement board. Is it an effective remedy?

Mr. Combs agreed with Mrs. Daniels but suggested maybe the County Attorney, Code Enforcement, and Sheriff's Office. He once again asked could the Code Enforcement Officers handle.

Chair Croley asked Major Wood, Mr. Presnell and Mr. Collins to look into this issue and report back to Council.

UPON MOTION BY MR. COMBS AND SECOND BY MR. WALKUP, THE COUNCIL VOTED BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE NAMES OF MAJOR WOOD, MR. PRESNELL AND MR. COLLINS TO LOOK INTO THE ABATEMENT ISSUE AND THE NEED FOR AND REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL.

7. Questions/Comments

Nancy Daniels discussed Jail Population Committee that was asked to form last year. She said while they had not met. She did pull the current list in jail. The population was 236 inmates she gave statistics. Of those there were 168 pending cases and 125 were Public Defender clients. 36 inmates had been sentenced. 65 were violations of probation with no bond. The jail is mostly used for VOP's. 24 people in there for only monetary reason. There are 14 for child support.

She stated her group would like to study to see if there is anything that could be done to bring down financials. She mentioned the Jail Oversight Committee something that was done in Leon to look into people who had sat for more than 30 days and can't make bond. She said they were able to reach common ground and to see if they posed any public safety risk by being released. She said one thing she would like to mention was the PSCC in Leon County they get support from the BCC allocating funding to assist with jail population reduction and issues.

Chair Croley asked Mr. Presnell is there a possibility to get funding from for this Council. He asked Mr. Daniels how much.

Mrs. Daniels said \$10 – 15,000 to start with SCRAM and GPS to get a few people out of the jail.

Mr. Presnell said now would be the time during budget season to make any request to BCC regarding funding.

UPON MOTION BY MRS. DANIELS AND SECOND BY MAJOR MORGAN, THE COUNCIL VOTED BY VOICE VOTE, TO REQUEST PSCC FUNDING THROUGH A LETTER TO THE BOARD REGARDING THE REDUCTION OF THE JAIL POPULATION. (Mr. Croley asked Major Wood (the Sheriff's Office) to write the letter with the help of the County Attorney.)

Judge Garner stated they have a procedure in place for Child Support to help those that have been incarnated for more than 30 days.

Mr. Combs said the jail population has remained stable for the last couple of years. He suggested putting them in the DOC, should be done a lot more.

Major Wood commented they have continued their efforts in trying to hinder overcrowding at the Jail. He said they have new drug called Molly that's out on the streets and it has hit Gadsden hard. He said as far as law enforcement one of the things that would help them is if they could all be on the same system to share information. He suggested lobbying state dollars to get same communication system throughout county you would be able to see productivity more. He said they are dealing with a lot, there are gangs are in Gadsden County. He said Reentry Programs are great and should be utilized more.

Annie Berry of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office expressed she had received grant information from FDLE on substance abuse in the Jail and reentry programs. She said she would like the Board to apply for the grant and it would require a match.

Chair Croley encouraged Mrs. Berry to get with the Administrator. He closed by saying

there are a lot of different avenues they can use the PSCC Council for.

8. Discuss Next Meeting Date

When committees have reported to Mr. Presnell, he will schedule the next meeting.

Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE CHAIR
DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:24 P.M.**

DOUGLAS CROLEY, CHAIR

ATTEST:

BERYL H. WOOD, DEPUTY CLERK