

**APPROVED**

**Fauquier County Board of Supervisors’  
Public Safety Committee  
Meeting of March 19, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Public Safety Committee Chairman, Chris Granger, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**2. Introduction of Participants**

Present were:

- Chairman Chris Butler, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors
- Mr. Chris Granger, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors
- Ms. Catherine Heritage, Deputy County Administrator
- Mr. Robert Mosier, Sheriff
- Chief Darren Stevens, DFREM
- Assistant Chief Mark Ciarrocca, DFREM
- Mr. Tom Marable, President, Fire and Rescue Association
- Ms. Erin Kozanecki, Office of Management and Budget
- Ms. Janelle Downes, Department of Human Resources
- Ms. Carrie Horvath, Department of Human Resources
- Ms. Angie Betsko, Department of Human Resources
- Captain Mike Zeets, Sheriff’s Office
- Lt. Greg Harris, Sheriff’s Office
- Lt. Richard MacWelch, Sheriff’s Office
- Ms. Joell Kight, Sheriff’s Office
- Tom Pavelko, Staff

**3. Approval of the Minutes and Agenda**

Mr. Granger moved for approval of the current agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting. Sheriff Mosier requested one additional item be added (#11 Over Dose Mapping). Tom Marable requested (#12 Goldvein Station Renovations) also be included. Those additions were made and approved as were the minutes of the February 26 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Butler.

**4. Communications Statistics and Updates**

Ms. Kight distributed “calls for service” statistics for the month of February. Nothing out of the ordinary was reported for this month. Ms. Kight advised there are two job openings in the Communications Division

**5. FCSO Nuisance Property Process**

Captain Mike Zeetz discussed a new initiative being implemented by the Sheriff's Office to notify home owners of potential criminal activity taking place on their property. In some situations, these properties are rented and the home owners are unaware of any wrong doing. The Sheriff's Office worked with the County Attorney to develop an official notice that is served to both the home owner and tenants, if the property is deemed a potential nuisance as outlined in Virginia Code 18.2-258. The code section describes a nuisance property as one that displays a pattern of visitors under the influence of drugs or frequenting for the purpose of purchasing drugs. The objective of the notices, is to identify areas in the County that show a pattern of possible criminal activity before the problem gets out of control. It has already been used successfully in a few cases.

**6. 2019 Citizen's Academy**

Lt. Rick MacWelch announced the Sheriff's plans for a Citizen's Academy. The inaugural cohort will be limited to twenty (20) citizens who applied and passed routine background checks. Members will meet on Tuesday evenings for several hours starting in June. They will attend class room demonstrations and gain knowledge on a variety of Sheriff's Office functions to include budgeting, Civil Process, Patrol and several others. Fifteen citizens have applied thus far and they expect to fill the remaining spots in the next few weeks.

**7. 2019 Junior Sheriff Academy**

Lt. MacWelch outlined plans for the Sheriff's Office Junior Academy. The program is designed to be a three-day law enforcement immersion for kids ages 13-15 and will be held in June. It will be a hands on exercise to provide members with a well-rounded law enforcement experience. The initiative was fully funded through a private donor and the first academy will host 40 students. They hope to expand the academy to 100 students next year. The experience will serve as a "feeder" for the Sheriff's Explorer Program. Youth Explorers will serve as mentors to students in the academy. The event will be a collaboration between several law enforcement agencies including the Warrenton Police Department, DHS and the Department of Forestry.

**8. A.D.C. Operational Assessment**

Sheriff Mosier advised that he requested an assessment of the Fauquier Adult Detention Center from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). The exercise was funded by the Jails Division of the NIC and took place in early 2018. The assessment covered several components including physical structure, staffing levels, inmate classification and overall safety. The final report was encouraging and offered recommendations on how to improve in certain areas such as inmate classification. Sheriff Mosier requested improvements or replacement of the facility be considered as part of the BOS strategic plan in the coming years.

**9. Blocked Crossing Press Release**

Sheriff Mosier advised there have been numerous citizen complaints to his department about trains blocking rail road crossings for extended periods of time. In some cases these blockings could last up to an hour or longer. This also presents a public safety concern for first responders. The Sheriff organized a meeting with citizens and the rail road to discuss the issue, however, representatives from the rail road did not show up. Therefore, the assistance of the State Corporation Commission was requested. The SCC has the ability to gather information from rail road companies to determine why a crossing may have been blocked. If there is not a reasonable explanation, charges can be brought against the rail road. The Sheriff's Office is working with the SCC to resolve and bring more awareness to the problem.

**10. Governor's Commission on Opioid Abuse**

Sheriff Mosier indicated that staff from the Sheriff's Office were invited to speak before the Governor's Commission on Opioids and Addiction. They presented their over dose map that was developed by the crime analyst division. The map shows locations and descriptions of all over doses that occur in the County and links to similar maps both state-wide and regionally. These maps help crime analysts with the ongoing problem of opioid abuse. Sheriff Mosier also advised that new laws will allow over dose deaths to be treated as possible homicides in an effort to crack down on dealers. He also requested a letter on behalf of the BOS to the Governor's Commission encouraging them to loosen restrictions regarding search warrants in overdose cases. This will further assist law enforcement in obtaining information with these investigations. Katie Heritage will APPROVED a letter for review.

**11. Fire Station Renovations**

President Marable indicated that he had the blueprints/plans for the renovation of the Goldvein Station with him and had been working with a designer. He indicated that he anticipated about 10 years before a new station in Morrisville would be built. He indicated the cost of the anticipated renovation of the existing Goldvein Station was now estimated at \$600,000. This would include repair of the bay doors, a new kitchen, new bath, staffing quarters and various other updates. He indicated that Chief Woodburn had agreed to an 80/20 split on this cost— with 20% coming from the Company and 80% from the VFRA Fund Balance. Ms. Heritage inquired as to whether the Public Safety Committee wished staff to continue to seek potential properties for the new Morrisville station. Mr. Butler indicated that staff should proceed. Ms. Heritage indicated that she and Assistant Chief Ciarrocca would present a list of potential properties at the May Public Safety Committee meeting.

**12. Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, Mr. Granger called for adjournment at 6:41 pm. Generally concurred.

*Given under my hand this 20th day of March, 2019*

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*Thomas S. Pavelko, Staff*