



HAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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February 2012 Newsletter & Commission Report

PERSONNEL & TRAINING

Sheriff Doug DeBoer: I will be attending an advanced ICS (Incident Command System) class at Cedar Shores in February (12th – 18th). This class is being provided tuition and expense free to me so long as I remain on the Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) program hosted by the state Department of Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management. This advanced class is on “logistics” and will afford me insight and advanced training into obtaining and managing resources during a disaster.

Deputy Jim Henson: Jim successfully completed the EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operations Course) training January 13th. Jim is now completely certified. Jim is now eligible for a step increase in pay for becoming certified, this is a \$0.50 increase per hour. Jim remains on probation until he completes the extra requirements associated with his disciplinary hearing.

As part of the requirements of his “disciplinary” action, Jim (and O.M. Davis) attended advanced domestic violence training in Huron this last week. Jim will also attend a training session scheduled to be held here in Miller.

Deputy Jim Keeter: Attended “Glock” handgun training late last month. The class was in Mitchell and was a one-day class which has a tuition fee of \$195. The Miller Police Department agreed to share the cost and receive services from Deputy Keeter’s training. This training will certify Deputy Keeter to make repairs and adjustments to our handguns and remain within our policy and procedures guidelines. This will also help lengthen the lifespan of the firearms.

Evening Clerk position opening: The only applications I have received were grossly incomplete. This position remains “open until filled”. It is listed with the SD Career Center but I am going to pull it from the Miller Press due to the expense.

Experience Works (Formerly Green Thumb) program: Ida Moser remains in our office as the Experience Works employee. She is archiving old recorders like sheriff’s returns, accident reports, grant files and other documents from the last ten years. These files are being scanned onto the computer and will be “burnt” to CD-ROM.

EQUIPMENT

I purchased a 2008 Chevy Trailblazer LS (White) from Stobbs as stated last month. Deputy Keeter did the installation work on the vehicle in his shop and it is ready for the road. We recycled the light bar which was on the 2001 Tahoe. This will probably be the last time we can use this light as it is becoming old and parts are no longer available from the manufacturer.

2002 Chevy 1500 pickup: I have not had time to pursue anything related to the Emergency Management vehicle this past month.

Narrow Banding: This past month I purchased the last two mobile radios for our vehicles to bring them in compliance with the narrow banding requirement set out by the F.C.C. I have four mobiles which will not work on the narrow band system to surplus at a later date. I will have some hand-held radios also that will not meet the new law.

GRANTS

2010-2011 Highway Safety Grant Program: No new activity.

2009-2014 COPS GRANT program: The last reimbursement I requested arrived and was receipted on February 2nd. It was in the amount of \$11,965.55 which when added to the \$24,518.26 equals a total draw down of \$36,483.81.

ACTIVITY:

My YEAR TO DATE activity report is attached to this newsletter. This information is also uploaded to the sheriff's page on the Hand County Website. It can be reviewed at any time.

NECOG

On January 25, 2012 I attended the NECOG Development Corporation meeting, the NECOG executive board meeting and the NECOG council meeting. The Development Corporation reviewed normal business transactions, loan status and heard information on three applications. The executive board conducted a business meeting which led right into the regular council meeting. At the council meeting the directors were re-elected but shifted positions. I am no longer the "chairman" but rather a member "at large". There were two presenters the council meeting.

The annual meeting may be in May this year.

More information can be found at www.necog.org. I encourage you to visit the NECOG website.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2011 Homeland Security Grant program: In response to the question of what a 30kw generator would cost compared to the 40kw generator, Interstate power provided a proposal of \$15,450.00 delivered. The total grant funds awarded are \$15,682.00 The difference in going to the 40kw generator is about another \$1557 based on figures previously provided. The 30kw is the smallest unit provided.

On Wednesday January 4, 2012 I attended a regional Emergency Managers meeting in Pierre. The meeting was to discuss flooding potentials based on past, current and forecasted weather. At the time of the meeting, the upper Missouri basin was short of moisture so flooding (all things being the same) is unlikely unless considerable moisture comes in the next several weeks. The state is, however, doing considerable flood preparation work in the event there is significant moisture this year or in the future.

On February 7, 2012 I will attend a Pipeline Safety Training program in Huron. While we do not have any pipelines in the county (yet) it was "strongly encouraged" that I attend.

I attended the St. Lawrence town board meeting on January 17th. My Q&A session lasted about an hour and half. I was surprised and I believe they were too. We discussed many items which rose from the "table top exercise" held on December 15. I left many of my materials there for them to photo copy.

Items discussed included:

- Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Shelter
- Back-up generators for the city hall / fire hall and sewage lift station
- Community Communications
 - NIXLE alerts
 - Facebook
 - Website
 - Television / Radio announcements
- Hazard Mitigation Identification and planning
- General Emergency Management items.

I will be helping St. Lawrence to set up a communications plan to help them "get the word out" when needed.

I attended the Miller City Council meeting on February 6 and discussed:

- Community Communications (notification alerts)
- Hazard Mitigation Identification and Planning
- 911 communications
- Local Emergency Planning Committee

I currently plan to return to the Miller City Council meeting on February 21 to finish this discussion.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team): I received an email from Bob VanWinsen at the Office of Emergency Management. Bob asked whether our CERT coordinator wanted to attend training to get the program back up and running. Elaine Cary was the CERT coordinator and when I asked her if she was interested, she said she was no longer with the program. This program has merit

and we have use for this program. It is the volunteer based program, much like the old "civil defense" program used to be.

With Elaine out of the program, we have two choices, bring an instructor

1989 40' pull-type camper: Dave Peterman indicated that he would give "scrap value" for this camper in trade for a smaller / different camper. His offer was \$500. His interest is in selling off parts of it.

I suggest that we declare the unit as surplus and advertise it for sealed bids and then decide on what to replace it with.

From last month:

On the topic of salaries for the E.M. position, I want you to consider the following. The present, post probationary pay for the E.M. is \$25,000 per year or roughly \$12.01/hour, 2,088.33 / week, \$480/week or \$96/day. In a recent conversation with two local farmer / ranchers I discovered this is what they pay their non-professional ranch hands. A trained mechanic at Titan makes \$25/hour plus commission on sales. Since the county's investment in this position is 50%, that means the county pays \$6.005 per hour for this position plus 50% of benefits. Even if county's portion was raised to minimum wage or \$7.25 per hour, this would pay this "professional" position at \$14.50 per hour or \$30,160 / year plus 50% of benefits. This might attract a better field of applicants. This is a little over a 20% increase in pay.

I suggest that we (you and I) have a serious conversation about increasing the pay for this position to a more marketable rate where we can start an employee at the this base and work them up to the \$30,160 range over the course of 2 years like I do with my staff.