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June 2012 Newsletter & Commission Report

PERSONNEL & TRAINING

Nehemia Volquardsen continues in his orientation as Emergency Manager. To date, it appears that having Emergency Management as a division within the sheriff's office is working well. Nehemia has started to take overnight calls and working by himself for short periods of time. I have been trying to minimize his exposure to unpaid overtime hours but using FLEX time which is allowed in my office.

Nehemia has a considerable amount of training, both classroom and online, to take in the coming months. His end goal should be / will be to become a certified emergency manager. There are many projects which are due / will be due and it will become difficult for him to find enough time to manage them all. This will be a good experience in the event a real situation unfolds and many things must be done quickly but correctly.

My sworn staff attended the Domestic Violence training (May 2nd) which was hosted by the Miller Police Department. As always, this is excellent training provided by a family violence advocate, a States Attorney and an experienced law enforcement officer

I completed the IS-200 (Incident Command) instructions in May. This month I will host two training sessions on IS-700 (NIMS-National Incident Management System). The first is June 7 beginning at 7 P.M. All of these sessions are open to the public safety and public works community. The sessions are placed on the FACEBOOK accounts for the County, Sheriff's Office and Miller Fire Department. We send out NIXLE notifications and it is broadcast across the Mutual Aid Radio system. Even with all that, we have poor (less than 12) attendees.

This is the last time I will offer this training for free because the online sessions are available.

Evening Clerk position opening: This position remains "open until filled". (six months running)

Wayne Ames has informed me that he has recruited to go from part-time to full time as a police officer for the city. He will be paid better, have a fixed schedule, no call time, rarely called back and have more / better vacation opportunities and a smaller work environment.

Dani Davis has informed me that she has applied for and will interview for a position with the State's Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol & State Radio Communications. Dani will be paid several dollars more an hour for doing a job with less variety.

I would like permission to advertise these positions.

Margaret Steensen is our present "green thumb" / Experience Works employee in the courthouse. We are teaching her basic computer skills and eventually she will pick up where Ida Moser left off, i.e.: helping to archive old data. Once Margaret is better trained, I will have her help Nehemia with archiving old / unused E.M. files and information.

EQUIPMENT

I was finally able to purchase a replacement computer for the office through Wal-mart.com. The first issue was to record/register our tax exempt status with the company and have it validated by the state's department of Revenue / tax division. The second issue was the computer I ordered was shipped but never arrived. From my inspection of the issue I could see where it was assigned a shipping number but never entered the shipper's system. So, at the advice of Wal-mart.com I cancelled the first computer and later ordered a refurbished desktop which arrived quickly and is in use. It is too bad no one sell computers locally.

The defibrillator I had requested three month was unavailable, the vendor will notify me when one is available. I will purchase it at that time. (Same status for two months).

The 2008 GMC Envoy arrived. It has been licensed and insured. Deputy Keeter has not put the equipment in it yet but I expect he will soon.

The pickup we traded off was delivered to Stobbs. I was not able to find a "console" piece which Stobbs wants us to furnish. Stobbs would like us to reimburse them for the lost item.

GRANTS

2010-2011 Highway Safety Grant program: I attended the annual grant application meeting (required) in Aberdeen. If everything plays out right, we will again receive a grant for officer overtime to dedicate toward HIGHWAY SAFETY programming. These efforts are to reduce the number and severity of accidents / crashes, and to reduce / discourage drunk driving.

I learned at the annual meeting that Jim Henson is a non-eligible participant because his position is funded through federal funds. I am a non-eligible participant for two reasons, one I am an elected official and secondly I am the grant recipient. Only Wayne and Dani are eligible full time employees and any of the part time staff can participate. This will change our mechanism for doing this grant. It will also bring us into compliance before we are audited. Since Deputy Henson had only a few hours of grant time spent, this is not a big financial issue because I built overtime into his COPS grant budget.

Now that we have been in the grant program a couple years and shown some success, we can apply for matching funds to cover the replacement of aging equipment, like PBT (portable/preliminary breath testers), RADAR units or In car camera systems (which currently our previous "freebees" are all broken down) with new units.

Additionally, I will be applying for a "BVP" or Bulletproof Vest Partnership grant. This grant, if we are eligible, will help to cover the costs of replacing our bullet resistant vests. Vest typically are good for only five years and should not be swapped from user to user (the fabric breaks down). The last vests we

purchased were 6 years ago. In the past, the grant paid 50% of the grant. A typical vest costs between \$300 and \$600 depending on the level of protection.

2009-2014 COPS GRANT program: I submitted a request for repayment in May in the amount of \$14,105.19. On June 4, 2012 that amount was receipted into the treasurer's office. As of this receipt there was \$120,790.18 left in my fund.

ACTIVITY:

We have seen a sharp decrease in the number of burglaries and thefts reported, however, we continue to receive a lot of complaints regarding mail fraud, internet fraud or generalized "get rich quick" schemes. These are time consuming and usually have no result because the offenders hide themselves very effectively.

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

I missed the last NECOG RLF meeting as I was in Sioux Falls. No activity to report.

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