



## HAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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## July 2012 Newsletter & Commission Report

### PERSONNEL & TRAINING

**Wayne Ames** tendered his resignation as a full-time deputy sheriff on June 18, 2012. Wayne's resignation includes a request to be retained as a "part-time deputy sheriff" which we call "unscheduled part time". I would like you to accept the resignation as full time deputy sheriff and reclassify him as an "unscheduled part time" deputy sheriff. I placed an ad with job service and the Miller Press

As an informational note, Wayne will start with the Miller Police Department at \$16.00/hour and after six months of probation \$16.50/hour and then advance through their pay scale as do the other employees.

With Wayne's departure, this opens a door of opportunity for Deputy Jim Henson. Jim has asked to be moved off the "COPS GRANT" program to the "regular deputy sheriff" position Wayne Ames held. This is a reasonable request and I ask that you grant the request and make it part of the record to have Jim Henson occupy the non-grant / regular full time deputy sheriff position.

Once approved, Jim Henson then participate in the highway safety overtime grant program as he will not longer be a COPS GRANT funded position.

I also learned that the commission has the authority to pay me hourly to participate in this program. It would require a motion and a setting of base hourly wage. At this time I do not want you to do this. I would rather that the hourly employees receive the benefit of the extra pay provided by this grant program. It will also avoid questions during an auditor at the state or federal level.

**Dani Davis** is a finalist for her career advancement goal of working for the SDHP / DPS State Radio Communications center in Huron. The HP supervisor was in checking references and I expect that they will offer Dani a position as a communications specialist at Huron State Radio. If they don't, I will be very surprised.

On Monday, June 11, 2012 we had annual Taser training for the staff. We all passed! I have one TASER camera that no longer works. I suspect the rechargeable battery is defunct and needs to be repaired. If the camera is completely shot, a replacement is \$499. I would return to the commission for guidance if that is the case.

I also took the recertification (independent study) course for the NCIC / Teletype program and information. I also passed that. Each operator of the system is required to attend a class and then recertify periodically. We are audited every two years to ensure compliance with state and federal use guidelines and federal privacy statutes.

I have completed instruction of the IS-700 training as of June 21. The final session is IS-800b which will be announced in the future.

Nehemia and I attended the Homeland Security Annual Meeting on June 25 in Gettysburg. This was to teach us about the grant program for 2012-2013 grant year. Nehemia will explain that to you.

Evening Clerk position opening: This position remains "open until filled". (Since October 2011)

**Since I am expecting** to be short staffed again I have notified the State Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) and the NECOG staff that my availability is "compromised". Have you considered appointing someone else to be the county NECOG representative? I have considered resigning from both of these volunteer positions because of backed up work here and staffing issues.

**Deputy Jim Henson** is overdue for a step increase in his pay. I checked back through his timesheets and paperwork as follows:

- 2011-01: Hired at \$12.30 / hour
- 2011-08: Completed 6 month "county" probation, pay increased \$0.50 to \$12.80 / hour.
- 2012-01: Pay increased by \$0.25 / hour from \$12.80 to \$13.05 (raise given by Commission).
- 2012-02: Pay increased by \$0.50 / hour from \$13.05 to 13.55 (graduated from the academy).
- 2012-07: Current pay is \$13.55
- Jim was eligible for a 1 year raise in January of 2012 but did not because his "sheriff's office" probation was extended. I asked that Jim be removed from probation but I did not ask that he get his increase / step increase of \$0.50 / hour.
- **I now ask that you increase Jim Henson pay \$0.50 / hour to \$14.05 per hour as a Grade 3 deputy sheriff.** For reference, Deputy Ames was paid \$14.55 / hour (which reflects two annual increases of \$0.25 that Henson did not get).
- The next / last increase and final step is after two years and only after he meets the requirements to be appointed chief deputy or Grade 4, a title / position Deputy Ames did not reach.

**Nehemia Volquardson** has been progressing along through the basic training program I have set for him. He now at a point where I can use him like we did with Brian Duxbury. I would ask that you approve his **appointment as a "county constable"** and authorize me to issue a certificate of appointment to him. **Additionally, I would like** to put him on the sheriff's payroll so that he can be compensated for extra work performed for the sheriff's office, exactly like we did with Brian Duxbury.

### **EQUIPMENT**

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). I have started to look at another vendor.

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. Without the light gear on it, it has gotten as high as 23 mpg.

I informed David Peterman of the decision to not fund the replacement of the center console piece that was missing from the **2002 Chevy pickup**. I explained it was traded "as is". If the console is found, I will give it to Stobbs Sales.

### **GRANTS**

**2010-2011 Highway Safety Grant** program: Prior to Deputy Ames departure, he completed and I submitted the grant package. This included overtime funds and matching money for equipment. That equipment is as follows:

- A replacement RADAR set.
- A replacement PBT / Preliminary Breath Tester
- A "set" of signs and lights for a sobriety check point
- Other items available are in-car camera sets, speed boards and other equipment we don't need presently.

**BVP / Vest Grant:** I have started the process to apply for this grant program. I am hopeful that we can get a 50% match on our purchase of protective vests. Currently, all of our vests have expired under the manufacturer's warranty.

**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. If Deputy Henson is reclassified as a "regular" deputy sheriff, this grant program will suspend until the position is filled. The new employee would be on the program for the remaining 2 1/2 years.

### **ACTIVITY:**

Last month I reported that thefts and burglaries were down, this month we have received some more. In one case an irrigation pivot southwest of Wessington had nearly all of the copper wiring cut from it. This was not small undertaking.

Just like last month, 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 and we have to rely on out-of-state offices for assistance and frankly they don't give this much priority.

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 two NECOG RLF meeting as I was in Sioux Falls and busy (respectively). No activity to report.

More information can be found at [www.necog.org](http://www.necog.org). I encourage you to visit the NECOG website.