

HAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Public Safety Dispatch & Emergency Management
415 West First Avenue, Suite 102
Miller, South Dakota 57362-1371

Newsletter & Commission Report
August 2015

PERSONNEL:

- Ethan Larson began working as a deputy sheriff on August 24, 2015. Ethan is from Tea and is in his senior year at the University of South Dakota. He is taking his last group of classes online.
- Roxy Peck completed her first month of employment and has discovered that the job is more complex than anyone gives credit. She continues to learn and experience new things every day and will be attending the South Dakota Emergency Management Association conference in Mitchell. I have cancelled my reservation.
- I have no leads on the open office manager position and am currently doing those chores with my own. I will continue to look until it is filled.
- I have been informed by Deputy Koster that he had applied and was called for testing with the South Dakota Highway Patrol (on 08.31.15). I don't expect he'll stay if he is offered a job.
- I have personnel issues to discuss with the board in executive session which is schedule for the end of the meeting. This deals with qualifications and disipline.

TRAINING:

- We were scheduled to host an "Awareness" level hazardous materials class on August 8th but only four people signed up to attend and two of them were from my office. This huge "failure" to recruit students translated into cancelling the class. Now students will have to travel out for the class rather than enjoy the grant funded class we attempted to hold locally.
- We hosted annual firearms training for law enforcement officers on August 12th. We had two from Hyde County, two from the Miller Police and the remainder was from my office. This was the first time we hosted a state sponsored shoot at the county firearms range. This is in part because our embankment was too short (recently fixed by the highway department) and scheduling. We hope to continue this program for years to come. The greatest benefit is that our staff do not have to travel to qualify and the state furnishes the ammuniton if they sponsor the instructor.
- I hope to commute back and forth to the fall conference for the sheriff's association to be held in late September in Aberdeen. I am not sure I can attend all of the days and sessions given the tenure of my staff.

EQUIPMENT:

- The struts were replaced in the white 2008 Trailblazer and will likely need new tires before the snow starts falling.
- The black 2008 Trailblazer suffered about \$2500 in damage when a South Dakota Wheat Growers trucked ran into me while I was sitting at the stop sign on St. Lawrence's mainstreet. The other driver initially stopped, then proceeded further and ran over the corner of my vehicle causing damage as he went forward and then as he backed up. I was not injured.

- The NEW AED (defib) arrived and was put into use.

County Mutual Aid Radio System:

- The main paging repeater (Mutual Aid West) at Ree Heights was put into service on July 11th, 2015. During the last week of August, we experienced skip from another state causing unbearable noise on the system. We hope this is a freak and random event. Otherwise it appears to be working well.
- The Mutual Aid North repeater was installed and made active on August 25th. It is located at the north county highway shop and provided additional coverage to the north central part of the county where we lost signal due to narrow banding of equipment in 2012-2013. This install was partially done through existing equipment and purchasing new antenna and feed line and installing some outlets. Other expenses include the install work by Dakota Electronics. The pole was donated and the City of Miller (Jim Bonebright and Josh Koeck) placed the utility pole. The only part of this project left is to build a rodent resistant stand for the repeater and complete the FCC required documentation.
- The county now owns and operates four repeater sites for public safety and public works communications. The fourth was done by reconfiguring the law enforcement repeater at the courthouse to allow other public safety officials to use it. Our only soft spot is in south central Hand County but an agreement was made with the former South Hand Fire Department chief to use their repeater (west of SBA) if needed during emergencies.
- The county highway department's recent purchase of more radio equipment and the added repeaters will aid them in performing their functions. Jeff Phinney installed the bulk of their new (but used) equipment, another great asset for them.

GRANTS

The 2014-2015 Highway Safety Grant : We have compiled a reimbursement request for work performed so far. We also had our yearly review and received good marks from our state liaison.

The 2015-2016 Highway Safety Grant: The application was submitted and has provisional approval. A training session will be had in the near future on using the EDGAR online system for grant administration.

IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES:

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

- No Report