

MASON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING TEAM
February 20, 2013
MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Sergiojan called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. in the Mason County Commission Chambers, Shelton, WA. Introductions were made and an attendance roster was circulated. A quorum was present.

Adoption of Minutes

The January 16, 2013 minutes were accepted as published.

Jail Population Report

Tom Haugen reported the January jail's average daily population (ADP) was 123, with 21 females and 102 males. For February the ADP was 114 with 20 females and 94 males.

Department of Correction's County of Origin Notification Form

Laura Cole was unable to attend and asked this be moved to March.

Driving with a Suspended Driver's License 3rd Degree – Susan Sergiojan

Susan Sergiojan explained she is trying to control the number of court cases and she brought up those cases for driving on a suspended driver's license. She asked if on the first offense, what is the opinion if it is filed as an infraction to save court time.

Sheriff Salisbury stated he feels it's a bad idea because it takes away from the reporting accuracy of the offense. If the courts want to release them, that's up to them. It could be a huge problem with DUI's and driving while suspended, accuracy is a big thing.

Chief Ecklund has discussed it with the city prosecutor, and they are not happy with it.

Sgt. Conley stated he hasn't heard anything officially through the State Patrol, so can't speak to it, but they are doing business as usual.

Susan talked about filing with the Prosecuting Attorney's office, rather than directly with court.

Judge Meadows stated it needs a legislative fix. It is inappropriate for her to apply her personal latitude when it needs to be fixed by legislation.

The current policy with the Prosecuting Attorney is that it can be amended to an infraction and reduced fine.

Sheriff Salisbury will talk with Prosecutor Dorcy.

Cmmr. Neatherlin state he has talked to the Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney.

City Arrests

Susan Sergiojan then brought up the issue of when an arrest is made within the city limits and filed in District Court, it was dismissed and sent to Municipal Court. This is no longer the case and asked why.

Chief Ecklund has discussed with Prosecutor Dorcy and basically if we write the case, we keep the case.

Susan would like to shift the City cases back to Municipal Court or maybe the City could pay the County for City cases.

Harris Haertel recommended a sub-committee be formed to study the issue and come back with a recommendation.

Agency/Department Updates

Mayor Cronce talked about a bank robbery, the robber had medical issues and the City ended up with a large medical bill. The City has placed a moratorium on sexual oriented businesses.

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DOC – Steve Demars - waiting to see what the legislative outcome is for the reception center. The department is trying to change how to handle gangs.

District Court – Judge Meadows - trials have increased immensely and that has increased costs.

Municipal Court – Shelby - trials are down. Talked about the change that is effective in June and licenses will no longer be suspended for non-moving violations.

Commissioner Neatherlin - trying to balance lay offs with keeping everything else running. PERC ruling has had a financial impact. They are asking departments to work together and do the most they can with what they have.

Sheriff Salisbury - working on two grants for the jail panel and evidence facility. He has been in the legislature trying to get money. They are working to split staff between the north and south ends of the County. Talked about a business in north end that installed security cameras and with the help of the dog, they made an arrest. They received money for canine unit. Talked about the 3/10 of 1% tax - 48% of county budget on is criminal justice, which is on the low end compared to other counties. The County could go for 2/10 of 1% tax (city has their 1/10 of 1%). This tax is for all criminal justice - not just law enforcement. He noted that other counties have been successful in passing the tax.

Jail - Chief Haugen, jail is at capacity, they have to do something with the control panel.

Public Defense - Susan Sergoian – brought up an offender who was furloughed instead of jail time due to a medical problem. She is concerned because when he came back to serve his time, there was no room in the jail.

Emergency Management – Marty Best – Homeland Security grants are drying up. CERT classes are being conducted.

Probation Services - Harris Haertel- have 47th Drug Court graduate. There was a discussion of drug court, capacity is about 12 and they have six.

St Patrol - Sgt. Conley - has full staff, one is transferring out. Authorized to fill the canine spot.

District Court - Judge Meadows – talked about community service that used to be offered, but had to cut due to budget cuts, need to pay L&I and for supervisor.

Sheriff Salisbury presented information on the FBI National Academy he attended in 2012 at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, VA. MCSO received an award for excellence. The Academy is for professional law enforcement development for law enforcement agencies all over the world.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Zoren
Assistant to County Commissioners