

CITIZENS AUXILIARY ADVISORY SHERIFF'S MEETING

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

DATE: 02/02/2023

LOCATION: SPENCER LAKE BAR and GRILL (SHELTON)

Sheriff Spurling spoke fondly about Under Sheriff Travis. His supervision of office staff, handling 70% of all public disclosure requests, and support of the Officer Patrol Division. Senior Jail Supervisor with 32 years of service, Randy Knowl, spoke about the new jail current process. The original jail was established in the 1980's and housed 45 folks, single bunked, 1 room, 1 person. Then in the 1990's double bunked, 1 room 2 people. Currently accommodations, such as they are, house 165 folks within the same walls of 1980 for 45 folks. Inmates are bunking in what is known as "boats" on the floor of the day room. If inmates are not treated "humanly" they have the right to sue if not housed appropriately. 1/3 to 1/2 of arrested folks are mentally ill and must be housed separate for other inmates. An attendee asked where will the new jail be located? A strong consideration is the west side of HWY 101 close to the on ramp southwest of Wall Mart. The MC Commissioners need to consider attaching a mental health facility to the new jail building plans. Attendee asked if he, Randy, has ever been attacked within the jail? Answer was YES. He was punched in the face. Every day there are physical confrontations with the staff. The female deputies are handling all situations very well. Approximate current estimate of build is 30 million dollars. If a mental health attachment is included there is Federal money available to ease the cost. Sheriff's Department does not have much to say regarding the jail. The commissioners are in complete control. Deputy training for jail duty takes 10 weeks to get prepared for all issues they will face.

Guest asked if the Sheriff's Department needs a portable Command Vehicle? A command bus has been considered, but because of some rural locations maybe a trailer would work better and/or the public would need to fund. A request was made for the attendees and Mason County residents to constantly contact the County Commissioners regarding a new jail.

Meeting ended at 9:33 a.m.

CITIZENS AUXILIARY ADVISORY SHERIFF'S MEETING

TIME: 7:30 a.m.

DATE: 2/9/2023

LOCATION: BURGER CLAIM RESTAURANT (BELFAIR)

Sheriff Spurling asked if the 7:30a.m. meeting start time was too early as he had heard that it might be too early. The consensus was to keep the 7:30a.m. start time. Currently there are 1.3 million residents in Mason County. The Sheriff Department is happy as booking restrictions are "off" if beds are available. Last night 2/8/23 the Burger Claim was broken into. The safe and almost all liquor was stolen.

Guest, Deputy Brad McQuade with 10 years of experience spoke about more jail information. He's in charge of home monitoring (leg bracelets), rehabilitation is the main goal. Folks displaying good behavior are assigned to community outreach. Mostly county road garbage detail. My comment is it appears that there are not many good behavior inmates because if you drive almost anywhere there is nothing but trash lining most roadways in Mason County. Lots of conversation from attendees regarding witnessing folks dumping trash, then some folks stopping and rummaging thru trash for whatever. Chemical Dependency Counselor should be able to interface with the jail residents. Sheriff said that there has been discussion regarding that topic. Olympia is considering the lowering of drunk alcohol levels to 1.05. If it happens, he said that most bars would have to shut down!!!

Lots of discussion regarding Fentanyl and drug usage and crime. Dogs are now being trained to find Fentanyl. Because of drugs, communities are suffering with upticks of crime. Law enforcement would like to see a 72 Hour crisis center established. 72% of all arrests are addicts and suffering from mental health issues. Representatives in the 35th District are trying to get laws corrected and/or changed and agree with Sheriff to give drug offenders a choice of either mandatory drug treatment or jail. Alcohol treatment takes 90 days to get over addiction and if shortened addiction continues. Narcan application and limited length of recovery before relapse was discussed. Numerous officers and dogs have died from exposure. Contact MC Health Department for personal distribution of Narcan. Speeding complaints cannot be handled because there are not enough officers to cover. In 6 months there will be 4 physician assistants stationed at the Mason County Fire Department as co-responders. Which specific location within Mason County was not stated. Maybe rotating locations are in the plan.

An attendee stated that personal homes should be installing more bright lights and mounting them as high as possible. The increased PUD fee will be of little impact. Also, do not install cameras in dark areas as the visual surveillance is impaired,

Chaplain Gary Shirbish, who is associated with the Sheriff's Department, announced that he is not only supporting the officers of Law Enforcement, but he can also offer his services, if needed, to the residents of Mason County.

Belfair Sheriff's Office is occupied by Mason County Volunteers who work 4 hour rotating shifts. If interested, contact the office and volunteer.

Around the room introductions occurred.

It was announced that an open house is being planned for the new Belfair Fire Station. The old station is planned for a Public Safety Building and Health Department.

Meeting ended at 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by Maureen Allen, PSA Public relations