

Sheriff Update

August 4, 2021

10:33 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Sheriff Rob Snaza, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, Special Services Chief Kevin Engelbertson, Chief Chris Sweet

Guests: Nic Scott, The Chronicle

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Undersheriff Wes Rethwill provided the following Field Operations Bureau updates:

- Alerted CRAB that Sheriff's Office provided 2,000-plus county road hours in June
- Averaging 2,100 hours per month for county roads and have devoted 12,500 hours year to date
- Road crews have 3,600 traffic stops
- 1,000 infractions
- 500 criminal citations
- 54 DUI arrests
- 110 property damage
- 50 injury
- Average 200 more calls for service than the previous year
- Two vacancies
- Working on budget process
- Attended memorial for slain Clark County sergeant

Special Services Chief Kevin Engelbertson provided the following Special Services Bureau updates:

- Working with the Civil Service Commission on testing and a new list of applicants
- Bureau has a technician vacancy to fill
- Bureau has been involved in several child exploitation investigations, which take a toll on staff

Sheriff Snaza said child abuse cases have increased countywide in the wake of school shutdowns related to COVID-19.

Undersheriff Rethwill and Sheriff Snaza said Jerry Grill and Joe Mano will retire from the Civil Service Commission. Undersheriff Rethwill said he has reached out to HR about how to determine successors.

Corrections Chief Chris Sweet provided the following Corrections Bureau updates:

- Recently hired a Napavine resident to fill a vacancy

- Bureau has two other vacancies – once those are filled, will be fully staffed
- Working on plans to help mitigate COVID-19 in the jail and juvenile center
- HB 1348 will help improve the process for Medicare / Medicaid reimbursements

Sheriff Snaza thanked BOCC staff for their help and assistance with jail cells, body cameras, etc.

Sheriff Snaza discussed HB 1310 and HB 1054, which change how the Sheriff's Office responds to calls.

Sheriff Snaza said the Pe Ell wants an agreement to have the county provide coverage, but he said the Sheriff's Office faces a staffing shortage, especially regarding extra support tech work linked to body cameras.

Sheriff Snaza discussed cases the Sheriff's Office will no longer respond to, such as overdoses and suicide attempts, in response to the new state laws. He noted that the Sheriff's Office will no longer respond to calls in which a crime is not being committed. He lamented the state's move to change law enforcement's roles without addressing mental health needs and substance abuse disorders.

Meeting ended at 11:29 a.m.