

MASON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING TEAM
March 21, 2012
MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Harris Haertel called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. in the Mason County Commission Chambers, Shelton, WA. An attendance roster was circulated. A quorum was present.

Adoption of Minutes

Laura/Pat moved and seconded to accept the February 15, 2012 minutes as published. Motion carried.

Jail Population Report

Chief Tom Haugen reported the jail is full at 104. The average daily population for February was 111, and it was as high as 120 at times. 16 female; 95 male; 71 felons; 41 misdemeanants; holding cells are permanently full of either handicap or mentally handicap individuals who cannot go into the general population. He encouraged the judges to use the alternatives, such as litter crew.

Department of Correction's County of Origin Notification Form

None

Education about Public Disclosure requirements - Dawn Twiddy

Dawn Twiddy, Risk Manager, distributed information on Public Records and reviewed the requirements for county records. Dawn pointed out the risk of using personal computers and phones that can expose the contents to public records.

There was discussion of the workload that is caused from frivolous records request.

There are certain exemptions and an exemption log is important to keep.

Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records training will be conducted on May 3 and Dawn encouraged members of the CJWT to attend.

Mason County's Public Records Policy is being updated.

Collection Agency status update from Superior Court - Pat Swartos

Pat Swartos stated she is not in favor of using a collection agency and she noted that Judge Sheldon does support using a collection agency. Pat prefers to continue with her in-house collector.

Judge Meadows noted that an in-house collector in their office doesn't have the ability to investigate the person's finances and a collection agency does.

Pat stated the Clerk's system is different than other agencies.

Laura asked about using a collection agency for those that the in-house collector has not had luck at collecting.

Pat stated that would be for a small number of cases.

Draft committee by-laws for consideration - Diane Zoren

By-laws were included with the meeting information. After discussion, it was suggested changing the purpose to say ...The members "identify issues, questions and concerns".

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Marty Best noted that his office is not listed in membership. Diane used the definition in the RCW and will check with the Prosecuting Attorney on the ability to change that.

The by-laws will be placed on the April agenda for consideration.

Agency/Department Updates

Sheriff Salisbury thanked the Superior Court judges for attending the Sheriff breakfast. Jail population is still an issue and a decision will be made after the budget hearing on April 3. Grays Harbor is in the process of developing courtroom security and they are modeling it after Mason County's policy.

Municipal Court – Shelby Conklin stated they plan to have video arraignment equipment up by the end of June.

Clerk – Pat Swartos reported she has lost an employee. She was able to hire back a past employee but she is not a court clerk. She will continue to try to get additional staff.

City of Shelton Police – Chief Eklund reported on staff promotions.

Emergency Management – Marty Best - January storm declaration has been received. He is working with Homeland Security on grants for bulletproof window film.

DOC – Laura Cole – waiting on budget results to know impact to their office. Their office received, in the mail, a baggy of white powder, which ended up being meth and they had to close their office for a time. She noted the difficulty of dealing with the mentally ill.

Commissioner Bloomfield talked about the importance of changing the public records laws.

Mayor Cronce – the City Police have visited jewelry stores and pawn shops to remind them of the law on dealing with gold.

Denny Temple appreciates the release notice for Gary Cherry and acknowledged the restraints on staff.

Judge Meadows – frustrated with inability to get people in jail and noted the judges do use alternatives to incarceration.

Future Agenda Topics

The following items were brought up as future agenda topics:

By-laws

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Zoren
Assistant to County Commissioners