

Safety Committee Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairperson Marvin Kohout.

Present: Marvin Kohout, Kara Burda, Sharon Jelinek, Tim McDermott, Becky Vales, Bruce Filipi, Jenny Hermsmeier, Deb Spanyers, Dan Johnson, and sitting in for Russ Kalkwarf, Rich Zimmerman

Absent: Lyle Weber, Russ Kalkwarf, Rick Korbelik, and John McKee

- In recognition of a quorum, Kohout informed those present of our abidance of the Open Meetings Law.
- Filipi moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Jelinek. Voting aye: all, nays: none, motion carried.
- Members present during the Safety Committee meeting, having received, reviewed and heard the minutes of the August 12, 2020 Safety Committee meeting, Filipi motioned to approve them as presented. The motion was seconded by Hermsmeier. Voting aye: all, nays: none, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATES:

McDermott reported on the progress of the upcoming Health Fair offered by Madonna Fit-for-Work to be held at both the LEC and the Courthouse on February 23rd and 24th respectively. At this time, 35 staff members have registered for the 23rd event, and 43 at the Courthouse on the 24th.

In addition, the Wellness Committee is piecing together a Q&A Document to help answer some of the direct and indirect questions and/or comments relative to the Wellness Program.

COURTHOUSE WATER FOUNTAIN UPDATE:

In brief, Johnson reported that the bottle filler for the mid-building water fountain, while seeing some difficulty in finding a service company to schedule its installation, now reports the task complete. Those in attendance shared much satisfaction with the final outcome.

NEW BUSINESS:

NIRMA I – PROPERTY and LIABILITY CLAIMS: *(As summarized by Kohout...)*

The Committee reviewed and discussed one (1) Property Liability (PL) claim having been reported amidst the last two (2) quarters:

#1: Reported on July 2, 2020, a county vehicle operated by a Saline County Deputy hit a deer with a Sheriff's Department vehicle on June 12th resulting in over \$11,000.00 in physical damage to the vehicle.

COMMITTEE REVIEW FINDINGS: The Safety Committee, while recognizing that deer and/or other animals have the propensity to rush out into the path of vehicle travel, continues to voice the need for operators to maintain awareness of their surroundings while driving, being observant and defensive at all times. Special attention should be paid to areas of the road marked and often expecting deer crossings to occur. Reducing speed in expectance of the need for quick reaction time may also help.

NIRMA II - WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIMS: *(As summarized by Kohout...)*

The Committee reviewed and discussed four (4) WC claims having been reported during the last two (2) quarters:

#1, #2 & #3: Three of the four claims were discussed separately but responded to in similar nature. Each involved injury of leg or arm, with one involving sudden contact/contamination with bodily fluids at the

County Jail. In connection, lost time at work due to the confrontation with a combative inmate was of issue in combined total of \$30,000.00. **COMMITTEE REVIEW FINDINGS:** Law Enforcement present at the meeting helped outline the ongoing training and measures being taken by detention personnel to alert and alleviate such incidents. However, flair-ups such as these happen suddenly and without much warning in this environment. Detention officers are known to take their training seriously and work diligently to minimize confrontations; being as aware as possible to shifting attitudes and the surroundings circumstances. Detention staff will continue self-awareness to these problems.

#4: As reported on October 28, 2020, having occurred a couple days prior, a Sheriff's Deputy was exiting a County vehicle, slipped, and fell on the ice causing personal injury in excess of \$8,000.00. **COMMITTEE REVIEW FINDINGS:** The Committee continues to remind all staff members of the dangers of ice, or other such slippery surfaces, when exiting vehicles and/or traveling on foot within, to and from job locations. The Committee reminds all employees to be cognizant of their surroundings and secure their footing prior to stepping out of a vehicle, maintaining three-points of contact as those situations dictate.

COURTHOUSE PANDEMIC RELATED DISCUSSION:

A general discussion was held on the limiting of Courthouse hours, closing at 4:00 p.m. during the pandemic. Most of those in attendance voiced positively that reducing public access to county services an hour earlier each day was helpful to their offices. Expression of ongoing attention to social distancing, masks and temperature monitoring not be overlooked; thereby not dropping our guard.

2020 TRAINING DISCUSSION:

It was understood that given the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, planning classroom training opportunities may somewhat be limited. Cyber Security is hoped to be a primary topic when prospects for training open up. We will continue to monitor and plan ahead as things begin to improve.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, AEDS & FIRST AID SUPPLIES:

Maintenance shared the upcoming need to test/refill/retag all Fire Extinguishers in the possession of Saline County. This will happen in the upcoming month or two. In addition, the topic of reviewing the status of all AED batteries/pads will be examined. First Aid Kits will also be examined for replacement of items reaching an expiration date. The AED's and Kits are likely to be funded by the 2021-22 fiscal year budget and will be included in that budget for next year.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION BANQUET

It was shared that the Employee Recognition Committee is moving forward with the planning of the event as conditions provide. The date of the event is planned for Friday, April 23, 2021.

IN CONCLUSION:

- The next meeting of the Saline County Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Courthouse Assembly Room, or Conference Room if the Pandemic situation provides.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim McDermott – Secretary