The meeting continued at the Public Safety Building.


At 9:48 a.m. Sheriff Carpinelli referenced the many tragic occurrences in schools across the country during the past five years, asserting he does not want any such happening in Lewis County. Legislator Kulzer stated the Committee’s recommendation to create a School Resource Officer (SRO) for the Harrisville School for the 2018-2019 school year, to be financed by the school district and County at the same proportion as the South Lewis School District SRO. Thereafter the school districts will pay inclusive wages and benefits.

Mr. Finster cited Title IV funding of $10,000 to offset the SRO benefits estimated at $28,000.

Ryan Piche clarified the proposal is to assign an SRO to Harrisville from now until 6/30/2019. Thereafter, all schools would be asked to finance benefits and wages. Atty. McNichol stated the South Lewis School acquired a grant to cover training and other costs such as uniforms, etc. of the SRO which the County recovered.

Chairman Larry Dolhof inquired what the SRO deputy would be doing during times when not performing at the school. The SRO is at the school 9.5-10 months. Undersheriff Jason McIntosh reported that South Lewis School SRO Eric Schmitt had been assigned to boat patrol or may be utilized for road patrol to cover for vacations or other time off. Legislator King voiced his favor to allocate non-school portion SRO wages to the Sheriff’s Parks and Recreation account.

The starting salary of a full-time deputy is $55,000, with $28,000 for benefits. Mr. Finster offered that the school would finance the entire amount. However, other costs such as uniforms, badges, etc. were noted.

Undersheriff McIntosh reminded that the State reimburses the County for a large portion of boat patrol expense. So if the school pays for the SRO wages and benefits, it becomes an advantage to the County.

An SRO can be assigned immediately to the Harrisville School. However, the Sheriff would simultaneously request to refill the assigned deputy position, estimated at maximum wage of $58,000, plus benefits.

Mr. Finster impressed the need for the SRO for drug prevention and education efforts. County Atty. Joan McNichol was requested to formulate an agreement with the Harrisville School District for the SRO.

Undersheriff McIntosh invoked that the SRO would not be assigned until the Board of Legislators approves creating and filling a deputy position for road patrol. He reports an experienced deputy has indicated interest for a lateral transfer from another agency, thereby eliminating training cost otherwise required for a new deputy.

HR Director Chris Boulio stated the deputy would be at Grade B-17 and would collaborate with the Undersheriff to define the number of school days the SRO would work.

Legislator Kulzer made a motion to recommend to the full Board to authorize an SRO for Harrisville School and creation of a deputy to backfill the assigned SRO to include budgetary clarification, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

In response to Legislator King, Sheriff Carpinelli reported that he or other personnel make weekly stops at all schools in the County to check in with authorities and provide a law enforcement presence. He will ask that deputies check in more often at the Harrisville School until after the presumed SRO approval on 10/2/18.

County Manager Ryan Piche reiterated his request to the Sheriff and/or Undersheriff to submit an agenda prior to the monthly Courts and Law Committee meeting, to facilitate issues and requested Board actions. Posing requests from the table causes delays that could be avoided, he said.