

**MINUTES OF
PINE COUNTY BOARD MEETING
Special Meeting – Committee of the Whole
(Squad and Body-Worn Cameras for the Pine County Sheriff's Office)
Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 10:30 a.m.
Pine County Courthouse, Pine City, Minnesota**

Commissioner Mohr called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Present were Commissioners Steve Chaffee, Steve Hallan, Matt Ludwig, and John Mikrot, Jr. Also present were County Administrator David Minke, County Sheriff Jeff Nelson, County Auditor/Treasurer Kelly Schroeder, Assistant County Attorney Sydney Silko, and County IT Manager Ryan Findell.

Others present: Traci LeBrun, media.

The pledge of allegiance was said.

Commissioner Mohr welcomed everyone and those present introduced themselves.

Commissioner Mohr called for a moment of silence for Conservation Officer Eugene Wynn, who passed away on April 19, 2019.

Motion by Commissioner Hallan to approve the agenda. Second by Commissioner Chaffee. Motion carried 5-0.

County Administrator Minke reviewed the background and provided information on the process to implement a body-worn camera system. This meeting is intended to allow commissioners an opportunity to learn more about how the camera system work and the data storage/data management issues that need to be considered. Prior to implementing a body worn camera system, the county board is required to have a public meeting to accept public input and the Sheriff need to accept public comment.

Sheriff Nelson presented an overview of the squad and body camera systems. The county has received a price quote from Watch Guard for equipment to supply 30 squads and deputies with cameras and the related equipment for \$205,000.

The county is considering a system which integrates squad and body cameras. Nelson stated that in-car and body-worn cameras provide one piece of evidence, which may assist during the legal process.

Nelson addressed potential safety and liability concerns that were raised. Assistant County Attorney Silko offered her support of squad and body-worn cameras noting that audio and video evidence is often helpful in evaluating a case.

The plan is to evaluate systems in 2019 and consideration implementation in 2020. Nelson noted there is a federal grant program with an application deadline of June 5, 2019. The grant may require the equipment be purchased before the end of the year. If a grant is awarded, the purchase schedule could be adjusted to accommodate the grant.

IT Manager Findell provided information on "Watch Guard" technology, ease of access and storage of data.

It was the consensus of the board to continue discussion and explore policy development of in-squad and body-worn cameras. Commissioners request a life-cycle cost of the system and will seek public input on this topic.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Joshua Mohr, Chair
Pine County Board of Commissioners
David J. Minke, County Administrator
Clerk to the Pine County Board of Commissioners

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