**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Date: July 10, 2018

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**Sheriff’s Office Committed to Working with the City of Beaver Dam**

On Tuesday, July 10, 2018 the Beaver Dam Police and Fire Commission (PFC) held its regular meeting and as part of that meeting discussed Dodge County’s Records Management System (RMS). As part of the meeting Chairman Jeff Kohman made many negative statements about the sheriff, the sheriff’s office and the implementation of the software following a survey that was put together by the Beaver Dam Police Department (BDPD) staff. The survey discusses issues regarding the implementation of the software by BDPD. After his comments, Chairman Kohman refused to allow the sheriff an opportunity to respond to any of the allegations or present any documents prepared by sheriff’s office staff regarding the concerns raised. To provide further information for an accurate assessment of the facts, this press release is being provided.

Within the last 2 weeks the above mentioned survey was presented to the Sheriff and he requested a meeting with the mayor, the police chief and Sheriff’s Office Lt Christine Churchill (implementation director) in hopes of addressing issues that were raised and improving lines of communication. After that request was made by the sheriff, the police chief responded as follows in an email:

“The PFC will be discussing the Spillman survey results on Tuesday night. They feel Spillman does not involve the Mayor. On Tuesday night a decision will be made on what the city is going to do from here. I will taking advice from the City Attorney and the PFC on whether to have a meeting.”

Unfortunately, no direction was given by the PFC for anyone to meet with the sheriff’s office regarding BDPD’s issues in order to find solutions, but rather direction was given to instead look at the contract for options. This was after the Chief admitted that he hasn’t had an opportunity to meet with the sheriff’s office to try and resolve the issues. It is the intent of the sheriff to identify why BDPD seems to be the only agency having such difficultly. Dodge County is one of 33 Counties and 180 law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin that utilize Spillman. The sheriff is committed to forming an action plan to address BDPD’s concerns. In fact, the Chairman and the Police Chief acknowledged that Spillman is a good program, it was simply set up wrong for BDPD. With cooperation from BDPD and our continued commitment to provide resources from the county, a resolution can certainly be found if given the opportunity.

Furthermore, as Sheriff Schmidt was not permitted to give any type of response to the inaccurate statements made at the meeting, it is important for the community to know all the facts as to how we got here.

One of the statements made by the chair of the PFC was that the sheriff shoved the RMS “down the throats of the city” and the city had no input into the selection and set up of the program. This statement is simply not accurate and we will provide a timeline supported mainly by time stamped emails.

1. Spring 2015 – December 2017 (Not an email but relevant) – Conversation took place at Monthly Dodge County Executive Law Enforcement Association (Police Chief) Meetings regarding plans to address stability plagued New World Software and implementation of Spillman RMS. Requests for participation were made regularly to involve all agencies in the selection process and build. There was little interest and participation if any from BDPD leadership.
2. April 30, 2015 – An email was sent to all Police Chiefs advising that a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new RMS system had been prepared. Input was requested from all agencies to ensure everyone’s concerns were addressed. – No input was received from BDPD.
3. June 10, 2015 – An email was sent from Sheriff Schmidt to all the police chiefs inviting their agencies to participate in vendor demonstrations in Juneau to allow feedback in the decision making process. In fairness, documentation is not currently available regarding if BDPD was present at those demonstrations.
4. June 10, 2015 (Same Email) and July 20, 2015 (Additional Email) – Vendor site visits at other law enforcement agencies was offered to all police chiefs so their agencies could attend and further be part of the decision making process. BDPD did not attend or show interest.
5. August 24, 2015 – An email was sent to all police chiefs providing further information and updates on progress. All agencies were asked to participate and they were asked to delegate someone to be on the transition committee or provide input to that committee. It was stressed that we needed to build a cohesive team so that after implementation we could have continued success into the future. BDPD did not participate with this team.
6. September 9, 2015 – Discussion took place at the monthly police chief meeting held at BDPD and explanation was given as far as proposed future costs to agencies. This was followed up with a promise of more detailed figures coming in late spring of 2016 so that discussion could begin with respective municipalities.
7. September 30, 2015 – An email was sent to all police chiefs laying out a proposal to the county board. In this email it is stressed that if agencies decided to opt in, we wanted to give them plenty of time to plan for the 2017 budget.
8. November 5, 2015 – An email was sent to all Police Chiefs and other staff which included a “Business Case” providing an overview of the proposed system. Again the email mentioned a timeline for proposed costs so discussion could begin on the project with decision makers. As much information as possible was sent out to allow for the best information possible to make an educated decision.
9. May 24, 2016 – A cost proposal was sent to all police chiefs via email as promised so that preparation could begin in determining whether or not they want to be part of the Spillman project. While many of the other law enforcement agencies in the county proceeded to plan and make it part of their budget process in 2017 there was no response from BDPD.
10. September 16, 2016 – An email was sent to Chief Kreuziger checking the status of negotiations with the city as I had not received a response from emails sent to city officials. The sheriff was told that they would be discussing it in the near future.
11. February/March 2017 – This was the first opportunity provided to the sheriff to begin discussions with the elected and appointed officials regarding Spillman RMS. Statements made at these meetings led the sheriff to believe that information had not been presented about Spillman until these meetings.
12. April 2017-December 2017 – All agencies were asked to be part of the build process, however, while BDPD is a larger agency, they chose to have very limited involvement in the development and very little buy in to making the project successful.

It is disheartening that while the sheriff’s office has documentation of these communications, it seems that none of this information was relayed to those that required it so that adequate preparation could begin over this nearly 2 year process. Furthermore, it is unfortunate that the PFC believes that no input by BDPD was sought when that was clearly not the case as they invited in from the outset of the project. The conversations and emails documented above only include communications from the Sheriff to BDPD and do not include the many emails from Lt Christine Churchill (director of the project). We did our best to over communicate during this entire process to ensure nothing was missed.

There were also other statements made at the PFC meeting Tuesday night. The statements made were based off the surveys and included references to poor training offered by Dodge County. Had the PFC allowed for information to be presented at this meeting, they would have been presented with facts that several BDPD officers failed to complete the training that was required. In fact, there are still several officers to date that have not started the online training. Furthermore, we provided our staff to BDPD in addition to regular training since go-live for the purpose of helping BDPD through their struggles, however, the assistance was either not attended or we were told the additional training was not needed.

Over the last week, the sheriff’s office has compiled data into a document for the purpose of explaining struggles at BDPD related to Spillman. That document was not prepared by the sheriff, but rather by those who have been on the development team. It is still the intent of the sheriff to forward that document to the PFC for their information as no feedback was accepted at the meeting. There is a great deal of information in this document that clears up many of the issues. This document is also included with this press release.

Finally, prior to this meeting, Sheriff Schmidt reached out to chiefs from other Dodge County agencies to ensure they were not having similar issues (Horicon/Mayville). The feedback from those chiefs was as follows:

1. Our Street Cops seem to like it.
2. There are still things to work out such as processes as it is still new to us, but it is proving to be a very beneficial program.
3. It has been really good so far.
4. It has made us a paperless agency which is great.
5. The system has changed the way we do business and our processes are much better.
6. The system has gotten us up to speed with the times and we are better off as a result.

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Office still offers to meet with the BDPD to identify issues and come up with an action plan, but we are unable to do so without cooperation from them. It is one thing to complain about the problems, but quite another to sit down and identify solutions to those problems for the betterment of everyone involved. I certainly invite the PFC to contact me for additional information as communication is key to accomplishing the goals of both of our organizations.

See attached documents for further information.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J Schmidt.

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