MEMBERS PRESENT:
Rick Anderson, Lyon County
Elliot Belgard, Martin County
Karla Bigham, Washington County
Marv Bodie, Carlton County
Graylen Carlson, Lac qui Parle County
Matt Gilbertson, Chippewa County
LaMont Jacobson, Renville County
Jeffrey Jelinski, Morrison County
Cal Johannsen, Hubbard County
Gary Johnson, Yellow Medicine County
Gary Kruggel, Sibley County
Bill LaValley, Grant County
Rachel Leonard, Sherburne County
Donald Linssen, Nobles County
Mary Jo McGuire, Ramsey County
Rollie Nissen, Kandiyohi County

GUESTS:
Tom Adkins, Washington County
Joel Alter, Office of the Legislative Auditor
Shirl Boetter, Fillmore County
Midge Christianson, 6W Community Corrections

I. Call to Order – Joint Public Safety/HHS
Chair Will Purvis Called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. The assembled members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Policy Committee Round Robin
AMC Policy Analysts each tool a few minutes to visit with the committee and share updates on issues on interest in their committee as well as the relevant AMC priority items.

III. Legislative Auditor’s Report on Mental Health in Jails
Joel Alter from the Office of the Legislative Auditor presented to the joint meeting on their newly released report on mental health services in jails. The report indicated support of counties for
wanting to provide a continuum of mental health services for clients while they are incarcerated, but also addressed the costs associated with proving such care. Also included in the report were recommendations related to jail rule revisions to change the approach to caring for the mentally ill in case where the other recommendations to keep those individuals from coming to jail. There was discussion on prevention measures, and crisis intervention to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals with mental illness. A copy of the report can be found HERE.

IV. Call to Order – Public Safety Committee
Vice Chair Karla Bigham called the Public Safety Committee to order at 10:20 a.m. Vice Chair Bigham entertained a motion by Commissioner Schouweiler to approve the minutes of the December 2015 meeting. Commissioner Tusa seconded and the motion carried.

V. Legislative Priorities – Minnesota Sheriffs’ Association and Minnesota County Attorneys’ Association
Bob Small, Executive Director of the MN County Attorneys’ Association briefed the committee on issues of interest and concern for them this session. Two item in particular were the main focus, revisions to drug sentences, where they are concerned about the proposed revisions to the Sentencing Guidelines but willing to talk about alternatives and in child protection where they are seeing a considerable workload increase but no funding to help deal with that.

Also briefing the Committee on behalf of the MN Sheriffs’ Association (MSA) were Dakota County Sheriff Tim Leslie and Washington County Sheriff Bill Hutton. MSA and law enforcement groups generally are watching a long list of issues this session. A handful in particular were the bulk of the presentation. First and foremost the regulation on body cameras. Consistent with the AMC platform position on the issue, MSA would like to see the legislature provide guidance and clarification on data use, storage, etc. Similarly, bill regulating law enforcement use of drones will be watched very closely by MSA. Finally, MSA is looking at using airport style body scan machines in jails facilities instead of the more invasive personal search. They are working with the department of health on specific language.

VI. AMC Issue Update and Emerging Issue Discussion
Vice Chair Bigham turned the meeting over to Ryan Erdmann to talk about an issue related to rail safety. AMC has been asked if they would support SF 918, a bill requiring two person crews on all Class I and II freight trains. Ryan noted that the Joint Fire Safety Council as well as the League of Cities have agreed to support. After some discussion and questions about impact on short lines and small operators at ethanol plants, etc. Commissioner Stenson moved that AMC support with bill. Commissioner Jelinski seconded and the motion carried.

VII. Adjourn
Vice Chair Bigham entertained a motion to adjourn and the committee adjourned at 11:44 a.m.