

January 23, 2017

## **BY-LAWS OF BECKER COUNTY SHERIFF POSSE**

### **ARTICLE 1**

#### **BECKER COUNTY SHERIFF POSSE**

Section 1. The members do hereby voluntarily join themselves together for the purpose of organizing a non-profit, incorporated organization, the name of which shall be the BECKER COUNTY SHERIFF POSSE. (Hereafter throughout these by-laws known as Becker County Sheriff Posse.)

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Section 1. To help maintain peace, order, and the law in our community; to be public spirited; to promote good fellowship, to cooperate with and assist peace officers with search and rescue operations and to promote the use of horses.

Section 2. To participate in parades, to assist law enforcement as needed or requested and to help support youth activities in Becker County.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **MEMBERS**

Section 1. Qualifications of Active Members. Membership can be either Ground Support or Mounted Members. Membership shall be confined to persons 18 years of age or over, with a high school diploma or equivalent, of good moral character, and in good physical condition, able to satisfy required testing. Members must have a suitable horse available and transportation for the horse at all times. Uniforms are to be clean and pressed. Uniform clothing shall be buttoned. Horses are to be groomed and equipment is to be clean and in good condition. No public use of alcohol is permitted when wearing official Posse uniform.

Section 2. Application. Application for membership can be viewed online and submitted to a BCSP Board member. Upon recommendation from the Board, the Sheriff will then conduct the appropriate background checks. Upon Sheriff's approval, the application will be returned to the BCSP Board for review.

Upon acceptance by the BCSP Board, a Probationary Status (not less than 12 months) may be initiated. A Probationary Member will be issued a uniform and allowed to participate in Posse trainings. During this time period all Probationary members are required to complete designated trainings, as well as, Probationary Mounted Members submit a current negative Coggins test. Probationary Members may participate in call outs when approved by the Squad Leader. Full active membership will begin with a majority vote after the probationary status ends.

Section 3. Probationary Members. All Probationary members are expected to attend all meetings and participate in all trainings and activities. Members are required to complete First Aid and CPR training during the first year of membership in the BCSP.

Section 4. Active Members. All members must remain in good standing and may not (depending upon circumstances) exceed four (4) absences in a 12-month period. More than four (4) absences in a 12-month period may result in dismissal. All membership dues are payable at the Annual Meeting held in January of each year in the amount set by the Executive Board. Any member of the BCSP delinquent sixty (60) days in dues or assessments shall be suspended from membership in the BCSP and if such dues or assessments are not paid within ninety (90) days from the date when due, such a member may be dropped from membership in the BCSP after review by the Executive Board. Members are required to have First Aid and CPR training during the first year of membership in the BCSP. Members are required to maintain their First Aid and CPR card. Horses used by the BCSP Mounted members must have current negative Coggins test, thus keeping with Minnesota state law requirements.

Active Mounted Members are considered fit for duty and able to complete all required tasks. Ground Support or Mounted Members will be required to complete testing and or be reviewed by the BCSP Board.

Section 5. Upon written request, a leave of absence may be granted up to 12 months for members in good standing by action of the Board.

Section 6. All badges, horse and rider uniforms, and Posse issued items must be returned upon resignation or termination of membership. Members are financially responsible for any items not returned within 30 days of termination or resignation.

Section 7. Membership shall not exceed 30 mounted members in addition to the Sheriff. Support status shall not exceed a 12-person unit.

Section 8. The BCSP shall be organized into squads with a leader in charge of each squad. The Squad Leaders will be appointed by the Board in conjunction with the Sheriff's approval. There is no term limit on Squad Leaders. Squad Leaders have the authority to designate group leaders.

Section 9. The BCSP membership year shall consist of January thru December of each calendar year.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **OFFICERS**

Section 1. The Officers of the BCSP shall be the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. The President shall serve for a three year term with the Vice President serving for a three year term and then moving into the position of President. Secretary/Treasurer shall serve for a three year term.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the BCSP. In his/her absence, the Vice President shall perform those duties. Unless otherwise provided, the President shall appoint all standing and special committees.

Section 2. The President shall have the power to call special meetings of the BCSP.

Section 3. The President shall execute all contracts, if there may be any required as authorized by the Board.

Section 4. The Vice President performs the duties in the absence of the President.

Section 5. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep and maintain an account of all monies received and disbursed. The Bookkeeper will submit financial records and documents to the Secretary/Treasurer, who will submit to the Board for review, upon request, at least annually.

Section 6. The Secretary/Treasurer shall record all activities of meetings.

Section 7. The Board shall be responsible for scheduling and coordinating all Posse training activities.

Section 8. The Sheriff of Becker County and or liaison, shall serve as a member of the Board and shall have the authority to call meetings, or members, as required in the event of an emergency.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MEETINGS**

Section 1. Regular meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month, unless otherwise announced, with location to be set. The January meeting will be declared the Annual Meeting. Any member unable to attend any meeting, must notify the President prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Squad Leaders shall notify their respective members of any special meeting in a timely manner.

Section 3. Quorum - 51% of the active members of the BCSP shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **THE BOARD**

Section 1. The Board of the BCSP shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Squad Leaders, and the Sheriff of Becker County and/or liaison.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **POWER AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD**

Section 1. To prescribe and pass upon the qualifications and requirements for membership and cause to be issued appropriate certification of membership.

Section 2. To select, appoint, and remove at will agents of the BCSP and to prescribe the duties and delegate such powers to the officers and agents as may be necessary or required in the transaction of the business of the BCSP, not consistent with these by-laws.

Section 3. To recommend and rescind, such equitable, just and uniform rules and regulations as they may deem necessary and desirable for the proper control of the business and affairs of the BCSP and the breach of such rules and regulations and present them to the membership for vote.

Section 4. The Board shall issue all uniforms and equipment and appropriate paperwork (Coggins tests, CPR, First Aid, etc.) for horses and members.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **VOTING POWERS AND ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE**

Section 1. Every active member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote. Members may vote by mail as directed in Roberts Rules of Order, as revised.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Section 1. Roberts Rules of Order, as revised shall govern the order of business at meetings of the BCSP.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members as needed. Amendments shall be drafted and presented to all members at least thirty-five (35) days prior to the vote. Any active member may submit a proposed amendment.

### **AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS:**

Original By-Laws created and approved: March 3, 2006

1<sup>st</sup> Amendment approved: January 18, 2010

2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment approved: January 21, 2013

3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment approved: January 19, 2015

4<sup>th</sup> Amendment approved: January 25, 2016

5<sup>th</sup> Amendment approved; January 23, 2017