

**Minutes of the September 2nd meeting of the Sawyer County
Public Safety Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members Present:

- ☒ Chair: **James Schlender**
- ☒ Ron Buckholtz -Vice Chair
- ☒ Ed Peters
- ☒ Dale Schleeter
- ☒ Chuck Van Etten – Virtual

Others Present:

Tom Hoff
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Doug Mrotek
Greg Ripczinski
Jeff Johnson
Joe Sajdera

Nate Dunston
Marge Kelsey
Pat Sanchez
Sherry Shelton
Louise Ladenthin

Call to Order –Chair James Schlender called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Roll Call taken. Quorum was met.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met.

Meeting Agenda

Public Comment – Request made to speak during agenda item 14c.

Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Schleeter. Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court Report – Mr. Hoff provided an update regarding the progress of the courthouse remodel. An initial budget for the project has been reviewed and appears to be within projected goals at this time. It is hoped that project bids will start to go out at the end of the year or beginning of 2022. Groundbreaking will be in the spring of 2022.

Clerk of Court Report – Written report was provided. Ms. Kelsey advised that the September 8 jury trials are off the calendar and recognized the great team she works with.

District Attorney's Office Report --

Sheriff's Department Report – Written reports were provided. Mr. Mrotek advised that the community and the jail system continue to struggle with the results of a drug epidemic. Staffing shortages remain an issue. Mr. Van Etten requested a review of the potential purchase of a drug detecting body scanner.

Chief Sajdera reviewed the new applicant screening process underway. Due to reports of aging, faded or damaged address signs, they will be meeting with members of Land Records staff. Lieutenant Ripczinski advised that the call volume is down slightly and there have been no fatal crashes this year. Lieutenant Johnson reported that they have four inmates being housed at Barron County due to being short-staffed locally. The cost to house out-of-county inmates is \$43/day.

A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Peters to advance an evaluation of compensation packages for Sawyer County employees to the Administration Committee for discussion. Motion carried without negative vote.

Ms. Shelton provided a written animal control report and advised she had to attend two recent dog altercation situations but no injuries were sustained.

Coroner's report --

Emergency Management Department Reports – A written report was provided. Ms. Sanchez announced her pending retirement by the end of this year. She will continue to volunteer with the Search and Rescue team.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – Mr. Schlender reported that JusticePoint is planning to submit the TAD grant application within the next few weeks in hopes of securing funding for a drug/problem-solving court.

Ambulance Service Department report – Written reports were provided. Mr. Dunstan reported on interview and hiring status at the department. Concerns were raised in regards to the Aging Funds Balance report in the fund category of 90+ days past-due. A review of the current EMS Medical Guidelines regarding Inter-facility Transports was provided. Public Comment was heard by Louise Ladenthin.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, October 7, at 9:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk