

**Minutes of the December 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:
- ☒ Ron Buckholtz -Vice Chair
- ☒ Ed Peters
- ☒ Dale Schleeter
- ☒ Chuck Van Etten

Others Present:

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

Nate Dunston
Lonnie Kennell
Pat Sanchez - Virtual
Sherry Shelton
Tweed Shuman
John Froemel - Virtual
Linda Zillmer

Call to Order – Vice Chair Ron Buckholtz called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Roll Call taken. Quorum was met.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met.

Clerk Fitch called for nominations for the position of Committee Chair. Mr. Schleeter nominated Ron Buckholtz for the position; there being no other nominations, the nomination passed without negative vote. Chair Buckholtz nominated Dale Schleeter for the position of Vice Chair; there being no other nominations the nomination passed without negative vote.

Meeting Agenda

Public Comment –

Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Peters to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Schleeter. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Mr. Peters to approve the minutes of the special meeting of November 2, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Schleeter. Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court Report – Mr. Hoff presented an update on the courthouse remodeling. Bids for steel and roofing have come in and will go to the Public Works Committee and County Board for approval. The remaining bids will go out late January or in February, 2022.

Clerk of Court Report – Written report was provided.

District Attorney's Office Report – Board Chair Shuman and Clerk Fitch will contact the DA's office requesting reports.

Sheriff's Department Report – Written reports were provided. Sheriff Mrotek advised that some of the open positions are being filled. Deputy Ryan Schick is filling the K-9 officer position. Deputy Schick and K-9 Foundation president Lonnie Kennell were introduced. Chief Sajdera advised that the 911 mobile command post is still back-ordered and expected to arrive in late January. The grant to fund the program has been extended for these circumstances.

Lt. Ripczinski reported that they are finalizing patrol candidates now and body cameras for officers will be instituted soon.

Lt. Johnson advised that they are currently housing 17 inmates in Barron County and are bringing some back to our county next week. All full-time positions are now full but they are still in need of part-time officers.

Joint Powers 911 Emergency System Agreements are due for annual renewal with our municipalities. A motion was made by Mr. Van Etten; second by Mr. Peters to accept these agreements. Motion carried without negative vote.

County/Tribal Law Enforcement Assistance 2022 Grant – Our request for an extension on the grant funds was approved until December 17, 2021. Funds can be used to fund special law enforcement details and traffic enforcement on the reservation. A draft resolution will go to the Tribal Governing Board on Monday. Legal counsel from both entities will review the documentation. A motion was made by Mr. Van Etten; second by Mr. Peters to forward the agreement and resolution to the County Board for consideration. Motion passed without negative vote.

Animal Control Report – written report was provided. Ms. Shelton reported that license reminders will be in the mail with tax bills and she is waiting to see if a vaccination clinic can be held in 2022.

Child Support – A written report was provided.

Coroner's report – A written report was provided. Coroner Froemel advised that there has been an increase in suicides and it is getting more difficult to find next of kin.

Emergency Management Department Reports – A written report was provided. Ms. Sanchez thanked the Committee for the support provided her in the past nine years.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – Mr. Hoff reported that the new Committee Chair is Kathy McCoy and Vice Chair is Gary Hilgendorf. There was one resignation in the staff at JusticePoint.

Ambulance Service Department report – A written report was provided. Mr. Dunston advised that open positions remain in full-time staffing. They assisted in the November 11th call to the Spooner School system and have posted an RFP for a new billing coming. Bids are due back on January 4th.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, January 6, at 3:00 pm in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk