

**Minutes of the November 2, 2023 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: Marc Helwig
- ☒ Ed Peters
- ☒ Jason Weaver
- ☐ Marshal Savitski

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Joe Sajdera
Marge Kelsey
Stacey Hessel

Sandy Okamoto
Doug Mrotek
John Froemel
Brandon Blicharz
Anna Amparo

Call to Order – Chair Ron Buckholtz 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 – Stacey Hessel

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: October 5, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig

Second by: Mr. Peters

Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court --

Judge's Report—

Courthouse Remodel Update – Mr. Albarado advised that the punch list of final fixes is underway.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided and reviewed. Ms. Kelsey advised that the criminal clerk vacancy has been filled. Probate duties are being distributed. They are requesting that the half-time position becomes full-time.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Communication Center Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Lt. Ripczinski. Call volume has increased; call volume and event security activities were highlighted.

Patrol Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Lt. Ripczinski.

Jail Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Sheriff Mrotek. The daily population remains lower than last year's YTD volume; current inmate unemployment rate is 70%.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – A written report was provided.

Cooperative Tribal Law Enforcement Grant and Agreement – A resolution for the 2024 Tribal Law Enforcement Grant was presented for annual renewal by Mr. Albarado. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote.

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Blicharz. Admissions to the pound remain high and revenues are low due to the time of year. The 2024 dog licensing period begins December 1st.

Sale of K9 Squad – Mr. Albarado advised that the K9 operation is downsizing to one dog and other agencies are reaching out to us to potentially purchase the 2nd canine squad. Burnett County has made an offer. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Weaver. Motion carried without negative vote.

Emergency Management --

Written reports were provided. Sheriff Mrotek advised that the Haz-Mat training was held last week at the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital. This training involved a chemical spill exercise. Chief Sajdera reported that the latest FT hire in dispatch is now working solo; a second interviewee has accepted a vacant position. There are 14,872 calls YTD.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided detailing department statistics.

Emergency Services --

Ambulance Report and Ambulance Billing – Written reports were provided and reviewed by Mr. Froemel. Calls are up from last year with 129 in October; a breakout by town was listed. EMS staff will be undertaking Dementia Care training. We are at 39% for ambulance fee collection. Mr. Albarado provided an update of township contracts with Town of Birchwood and Town of Stone Lake choosing to opt out.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -

Mr. Albarado provided a verbal update of activities. Discussions are underway with the new homeless shelter initiative.

Future items – Out-of-County Deputy Squad Usage

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk