

**Minutes of the March 7, 2024 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 - excused
- ☒ Marshal Savitski

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Joe Sajdera
Leah Zesiger
Anna Amparo

Greg Ripczinski
Doug Mrotek
Marge Kelsey
John Froemel
Nicole Ripczinski
Aaron Jenneman

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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: February 1, 2024

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Peters

Second by: Mr. Savitski

Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court --

Judge's Report – Ms. Amparo advised that we are able to bring many of the out-of-county caseloads back. Judge Isham arrived at approximately 9:30 am. Diversion court assessments are beginning and they are getting more buy-in from defense attorneys on the program; the program is going well so far. They are getting through backlogged cases.

Courthouse Remodel Update – Mr. Albarado advised that the projects are being closed out; the open house will likely be May 16th, but that is still a tentative date.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided. There are 11 jury trials scheduled for March at this time; revenue collected through SDC and TRIP/DOR for the period 1/23-2/27 is \$25,653.70. Collections are up a bit; lots of criminal court cases taking place with having two judges

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – A written report was provided and reviewed. Sheriff Mrotek said we had a very successful Birkie despite not having snow; traffic was heavy but flowed well. He commended Mr. Albarado on his work with developing safety measures. Patrol volume increased from last month's report to 827. Statistics were highlighted by Lt. Ripczinski. Deputies Ryan Krummel and Paige Woller have now officially started their patrol shifts as our newest full-time members; these were both sponsored by Sawyer County in the Academy. Deputy Mike Mayer has cleared field training and is currently working as our primary part time deputy, and jailer.

Jail Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Chief Sajdera. There are seven on electronic monitoring and 1 with Huber privileges. Total population was 68, and they are still short two full-time positions in the jail, but have prospects who are finishing various training.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – A report from the new provider, GenComm, was provided and reviewed by Aaron Jenneman. There are a few items that should be addressed right away such as a bad antenna at the Hayward water tank. Our original goal was to have 80-90% total coverage in the County but Sheriff Mrotek believes we need to work toward 95+% of total coverage. New infrastructure will come at a cost estimate of \$1.3M, and Mr. Albarado is reviewing options.

Code Enforcement Specialist – Mr. Albarado advised that interviews have been conducted and an offer has been made.

Emergency Management --

Written reports were provided and reviewed by Ms. Ripczinski. Call volume is up from last year, two part-time staff have accepted full-time positions, and the 50th American Birkebeiner went smoothly. She continues working with Towns and Villages to discuss their Emergency Operations Plans. Sawyer County will host an Emergency Planning Course, designed for emergency management personnel who are involved in developing an effective emergency planning system. New recording software will be installed this month.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided. Total November support due was \$497,775.62 and collected was \$351,788.37.

Emergency Services --

Written reports were provided. To date there have been 314 ambulance runs. They are working towards getting a 2nd 24-hour crew set up in Hayward. Ambulance billing and payment reports were reviewed. Staff AED training on March 6th had good attendance. Our billing company has been purchased by a bigger billing company.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, April 4th at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk