

**Minutes of the May 2, 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
- ☐ Jeff Hoehne - excused
- ☒ Marshal Savitski
- ☒ John Suralski

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Joe Sajdera
Mike Woller
Anna Amparo
Marge Kelsey

Greg Ripczinski
Doug Mrotek
John Froemel
Nicole Ripczinski
Chaz Ann Olson
Aaron Jenneman

Call to Order – County Clerk Fitch 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.

Elections – Clerk Fitch read the rules of the election for Chair and Vice Chair and opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Helwig nominated Mr. Buckholtz for position of Chair; there being no further nominations a voice vote was called and Mr. Buckholtz was appointed unanimously as Chair. Nominations were opened for Vice Chair. Mr. Buckholtz nominated Mr. Helwig for the position of Vice Chair; there being no further nominations, a voice vote was called and Mr. Helwig was appointed unanimously as Vice Chair.

Meeting Agenda

Public Comment –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 4, 2024

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig Second by: Mr. Savitski
Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court --
Judge's Report –

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided. A list of May jury trials was included as well as a list of new cases filed for the period March 26th through April 23rd. Revenue collected for the same period was \$35,979.99; wage income assignment receipted totaled \$1,318.99.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – Sheriff Mrotek congratulated supervisors on the recent elections. Next week is National Corrections Officer Week and then National Patrol Officers' Week. Lt. Ripczinski reviewed the patrol report statistics. Patrol call volume decreased from last month to 718; citation statistics were shared, and there have been auto crashes to date with 0 fatalities. Lt. Ripczinski advised that they will be hosting training in April focusing on Medication Assisted Therapy and Dementia, and they have been awarded a short-term Speed Enforcement Grant in the amount of \$11,844.

Jail Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Lt. Woller. Total population at this time was 56 with 2 on electronic monitoring and 1 on working Huber privileges. The unemployment rate is 72%

Communication Center Report - A written report was provided. Director Ripczinski advised that three individuals have been interviewed for dispatch with one beginning training soon. Dispatchers attended Dementia training recently. They have been working with GenComm and WisCom with the radios.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – A written report was provided and was introduced by Mr. Albarado. He advised that the areas needing to be addressed include the assessment of the current radio system and then determine what could be improved to increase coverage. The current equipment cannot be greatly improved. Portable coverage we want to move toward 95% coverage throughout the county so improvement is needed. We need to boost towers to improve service and add a new site access in Meteor, LCO, Loretta and Birchwood which will likely involve building two new towers. We will get an estimate for these new services at an estimated cost of \$2M at the next meeting. Mr. Jenneman shared photos of existing facilities that could be improved.

Emergency Management Report – A written report was provided. Director Ripczinski continues to work with municipalities on improvements of services and plans. She will be hosting an emergency planning course in October. Mr. Albarado presented the MOU between the County and the Search and Rescue Team to align with the County objectives. This would formalize roles and responsibilities of both parties and allow our insurance company to cover them. This will also formalize that SAR is directed by the County with the 30+ volunteers in the organization.

Code Enforcement Specialist – Ms. Olson introduced herself as the new Code Enforcement Specialist. She continues to get many calls for dogs at large.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided showing that there are 1123 open cases. For the month of March there was \$732,932.02 in support due and \$525,427.17 collected.

Emergency Management --

Written reports were provided and reviewed. To date there has been 28 doses of Narcan given within the community which indicates an increase in overdoses. Mr. Froemel and Mr. Onarheim are attending the WCMEA conference in June and will be guest speakers; EMS week is May 19-25th and they will host a picnic at Hay Creek for staff. He shared photos of the new counterfeit prescription pills which contain high levels of fentanyl, and they are coming from the southern part of the state.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -

Mr. Albarado reported that the CJCC committee signed off on the TAD grant letter of support last month and discussed options for legal aide resources. There are an increased number of youth justice referrals and placements creating higher costs and issues in staff shortages. The Sawyer County/LCO MOU for CJCC financial support is due for renewal and we have received word from LCO that they do not want to renew their financial support.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, June 6th at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9: 55 am.

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk