

**Minutes of the July 3, 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
- ☒ Marshal Savitski
- ☒ John Suralski

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Nicole Ripczinski
Marge Kelsey
John Froemel-virtual
Liz Klein
Sandy Okamoto
Chaz Ann Olson

Greg Ripczinski
Aaron Jenneman-virtual
Mitchel Olson - virtual
Gary Pellatier-virtual

Call to Order – Chair 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 –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: June 6, 2024

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

Circuit Court --

Judge's Report -

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided. Revenue collected through the State Debt Collection and Tax Intercept was \$14,178.72 for the period 5-28-24 through 6-25-24 with \$957.65 in wage income assignment receipted. Ms. Kelsey advised that a new staff member has been hired and training is going well.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – A written report was provided and reviewed. Patrol volume calls decreased in June for a total of 687. Citations, warnings and crash statistics were listed. Deputy Nate Frey was selected as the new Recreational Deputy, he is a 10-year veteran with the Sheriff's Office and will be working with local DNR wardens and Deputy Darin Jensen to bring enforcement and education to our area. Efforts to hire continue, though qualified applicants are few.

Jail Report – A written report was provided and reviewed. Average daily population is 75 with one having Huber work hours and three on electronic monitoring; the unemployment rate is 73%.

Communication Center and Emergency Management --

Written reports were provided. Director Ripczinski advised that the 911 hang-ups decreased from last year though remains the highest volume of call area. They continue to train new staff and have two full-time vacancies remaining. They continue to work with towns on the Emergency Operations Plans.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – Written reports were provided and reviewed by Mr. Albarado. Discussions have started regarding using WOJB towers. Additional towers are being reviewed through the zoning

department to provide additional options for a new system. He reviewed options regarding a BugTussel partnership including a tower in a neighboring county. Building and/or leasing towers each comes with its own financial risks and benefits. It will be at least a year out before any plan begins to take physical action. Next steps include reaching out to other tower owners to begin creating the financial impact options.

Communication Specialist Report – Mr. Jenneman advised they are waiting on more information which has been delayed by rain.

Code Enforcement Specialist – Ms. Olson reported an increase in dog pound activity and they are getting many calls on dogs-at-large. She is starting to work more with public health and zoning visits.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided. Total May support due is \$976,877.22 and amount collected is \$700,883.53. They have been noticing more of what appears to be fraudulent information provided to the economic support agency by participants in our cases. The department works very closely with economic support and share many of the same case participants. All suspicions of fraud activity are sent to the economic support supervisor, Shawna White. Shawna goes above and beyond when handling fraud referrals to keep everything anonymous and discreet. Money is recouped when fraud is proven. Ms. Okamoto was recognized by the State of Wisconsin for the exceptional work she has performed.

Emergency Services -

Written reports were provided and reviewed by Mr. Froemel. He attended a Wisconsin Coroner's and Med convention. The state reporting system for death certificates are updating their online service but will need to change case reporting software programs. They are having a county-wide debriefing session on a recent accident. The paramedic student that we are sponsoring is nearing the end of training by mid-January. One ambulance unit will be moved to the Exeland area when it is ready.

Round Lake for Ambulance Building Site Update – Mr. Albarado reported that call distribution is being gathered for the entire County so they have a visual record of where the call volume is before making a decision. This will allow us to review the coverage for the entire county.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -

Memorandum of Understanding 3-year Renewal between LCO and Sawyer County for Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – We have not yet received updated language from LCO for this document.

Outside Committee Updates -

No updates

Future Agenda – MOU Renewal, radio communications, Round Lake Ambulance

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, August 1st at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk