

**Minutes of the August 1, 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 - virtual
- ☒ Jeff Hoehne
- ☒ Marshal Savitski
- ☒ John Suralski

Others Present:

Andy Albarado	Greg Ripczinski
Lynn Fitch	Aaron Jenneman-virtual
Nicole Ripczinski	Mitchel Olson - virtual
John Froemel-virtual	Gary Pellatier-virtual
Chaz Ann Olson	Doug Mrotek
Sandy Okamoto	Joe Sajdera
Leslie Strapon left @ 9:05 am	John Yackel @ 9:07 am & left @ 9:15 am

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: July 3, 2024

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Suralski Second by: Mr. Savitski

Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court --

Judge's Report – Judge Yackel advised that they are continuing to work on the back log of court hearings. Justice Point is working well, and their efforts along with staff is reducing the jail population. These are signs of a healthier justice system in the County.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided. Revenue collected through the State Debt Collection and Tax Intercept was \$13,058.90 for this last period.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – A written report was provided and reviewed. Sheriff Mrotek provided an update regarding a small plane crash in the County this past weekend; the pilot was uninjured. Patrol volume calls increased to 770 last month but less than this time last year. A full-time deputy was recently hired for the day shift position. Upcoming is the August 6th National Night Out in support of law enforcement.

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%. Department staff participated in a three-part generational training and assisted the Village of Winter in their July celebration.

Communication Center and Emergency Management – Ms. Ripczinski reported two new hires in the communication center. Their call volume remains up from last year. Sawyer County will host an emergency planning course and they are assisting with the HHS Sheltering exercise.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – Mr. Albarado provided an update on the project identifying two different options. The LCO tower has been studied for viability. The cost of the project is estimated to be between \$1.75M and \$2.75M. Due diligence investigations are ongoing and both options now provide full coverage for the County.

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided. There has been an increase in the number of dogs in the pound and they continue to see animals at large being their top number of calls. Improvements to the facility continue and some donations have been received. She is starting to draft letters for Public Health and working more with zoning calls.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided. Total support due for the month of June was \$783,775.83 with amount collected of \$1,091,180.09. An infographic for 2023 state data was included.

Emergency Services -

Written reports were provided and reviewed by Mr. Froemel. The high number of calls in the Town/City of Hayward is due in large to the number of calls to the nursing home and back. They are also getting a sudden increase in young people having anxiety and breathing issues, potentially due to Delta 8 vape pen and gummy access. He is going to begin an awareness program on these issues.

Ambulance Service Review – A review of calls by area is ongoing.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -

Memorandum of Understanding 3-year Renewal between LCO and Sawyer County for Criminal Justice Coordinating Council – We have not received communication from LCO regarding where this item stands.

Outside Committee Updates -

Future Agenda – Ambulance Service Area Review

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, September 5th at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk