

**Minutes of the September 5, 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	Doug Mrotek
Nicole Ripczinski	Joe Sajdera
John Froemel-virtual	Mike Woller
Chaz Ann Olson	John Froemel
Marge Kelsey	Monica Isham @ 9:05 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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: August 1, 2024

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

Circuit Court --

Judge's Report – Ms. Isham provided a verbal report. We've had two judges for over a year now, resulting in lower jail numbers. Recovery court is going well as individuals are now moving through phase 2 of the program.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided; Ms. Kelsey advised that the trial jury scheduled for tomorrow is taking place.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – A written report was provided. Lt. Ripczinski advised that volume has increased recently but is equal to last year at this time. They are hopeful in filling their staff vacancy.

Jail Report – A written report was provided. Lt. Woller advised that August population was 61.25 and they have an average of 8 sentence inmates.

Communication Center and Emergency Management – Written reports were provided and reviewed by Ms. Ripczinski. The National Night Out was a success, serving about 350 people. Total call volume is up. Clean Sweep will take place on September 25th at 2pm at the Fair Grounds. Two search and rescue calls ended in positive results.

Communication Systems Specialist Report –

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided and reviewed by Ms. Olson. They continue to work on facility upgrades, currently completing painting.

Animal Control Ordinance – enforcement of Cats/Cat procedures – Sheriff Mrotek advised that cats have not been subject to enforcement in the past. Mr. Ben Kurtzweil presented the problem he had with a nuisance cat. Animal

Control has spoken with the pet owner numerous times and has issued a citation. Our AC Officer will have discretion on handling future incidents.

Radio Network -

The packet of information that was shared at the August County Board meeting was shared again. Mr. Albarado provided a review, reporting that a complete credit analysis was not able to be performed on BugTussel/Hilbert. Administrator Albardo does not recommend moving forward with BugTussel due to this and other factors. The alternative route will cost more with the building of our own towers and leasing existing tower footage. The timeline will remain the same and will be reviewed at tonight's County Board meeting.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided. Total support due for the month of July was \$1,209,882.77 with amount collected of \$870,842.61. The annual child support review will be conducted on September 5th.

Emergency Services -

Public Safety Report – Written reports were shared and reviewed by Mr. Froemel identifying an increase in emergency runs. Narcan use is also increasing. We've had one fentanyl death and one critical incident recently. Drug costs have increased 10% across the board and some drugs are experiencing shortages.

Update/Discussion on Round Lake EMS Station Request – At this time, we do not recommend setting up this new station.

Resolution – Adjusting Medical Examiner Fees – Mr. Albarado presented a resolution adjusting ME fees effective 10/1/2024. A motion was made to approve this resolution and forward it to the County Board by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Hoehne. Motion carried without negative vote.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -

CJCC MOU with LCO – Mr. Albarado reported that we have not yet received any updates from LCO on this renewal that has since expired. He has reached out to the TGB requesting a discussion but has not heard back from them. Without the agreement in place, the County will need to provide the additional \$50,000 for criminal justice programming.

Board Appointed Committee Updates -

Mr. Buckholtz read a letter that was sent to Chair Kinsley regarding litter in the County.

Future Agenda – MOU w/LCO

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, October 3rd at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk