

**Minutes of the December 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
- ☒ Jeff Hoehne
- ☒ Marshal Savitski
- ☐ John Suralski-resigned 12/24; vacant

Others Present:

Andy Albarado	Greg Ripczinski
Lynn Fitch	Joe Sajdera
Chaz Ann Olson	Nicole Ripczinski
Marge Kelsey	Mike Woller
Leslie Strapon	John Froemel
TJ Duffy	Sandy Okamoto
Monica Isham @ 9:04 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: October 31, 2024

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

Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court --

Judge's report – Ms. Isham reported that recovery court is going well.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided; a list new cases filed was included.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – Sheriff provided an update regarding the arson fires that have occurred in the County. A written report was provided and summarized by Lt. Ripczinski; patrol volume increased from last month to 757. There have been 312 crashes to date with 3 fatalities. They are continuing training with the pagers.

Jail Report – A written report was provided and reviewed showing the average daily population being 60 YTD and the unemployment rate at 71% (no change from last month). There are 5 individuals on electronic monitor.

Communication Center and Emergency Management – Written reports were provided and reviewed. Sawyer County EM and Washburn County Emergency Management along with NW Regional Director are working to coordinate and plan a training and workshop for elected officials within county municipalities. The Sawyer County Communications Center was awarded grant funds for FY25 PSAP Grant Program. Call volume from this time last year is up slightly. Mr. Albarado provided an update on the communications project.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – no update

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided showing revenue, shelter admittances, and calls received. Ms. Olson reported that the dog licenses will be available for sale in December and beyond.

Attorney Duffy spoke regarding the Animal Control Ordinance relaying that historically cats have not been governed under the County Ordinance. If a cat causes physical harm or destroys property, citations would likely be given. If the County chooses to govern cats in at large determinations, then he stated they should be licensed which is currently not being done. Ms. Zillmer and Mr. Ben Kurtzweil spoke to the issue stating that cat citations are “complaint driven” and request that citations be enforced. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to have Attorney Duffy edit the ordinance to not include cats and bring it back to committee for any further action; second by Mr. Hoehne. Motion carried without negative vote.

Ms. Ripczinski, Ms. Kelsey and Ms. Strapon left the meeting at 9:48 am.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided. Total support due for the month of October was \$118,237.22 with amount collected of \$83,195.54. Ms. Okamoto reported that they are getting more calls in paternity cases involving undocumented migrants.

Emergency Services -

Public Safety Report – Written reports were shared. Run volume is up from last year and coverage has been sufficient. Calls for anxiety are increasing, including younger individuals. Mr. Froemel feels that the increase in vaping activity in youth is one major cause. Training in AED use has increased “saves” in calls. They may conduct an EMR course in the Winter area as well as another in Hayward. The fourth overnight room in Hayward is complete and can be staffed.

Ms. Okamoto and Ms. Isham left the meeting at 10:00 am.

Round Lake Ambulance Station – Mr. Albarado advised that they have looked at response times, call volumes of all calls to gather data. He will talk to Board members Righeimer and Wilson on this topic, as well. At this time, the plan to have two full-time crews out of Hayward would provide quicker response times for most of our call scenarios.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – Mr. Albarado advised that HHS has received three grants to focus on truancy. The TAD grant was also submitted, and Justice Point has received an award for the “Reaching Rural Program”.

Board Appointed Committee Updates -

Future Agenda –

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, January 2nd at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk