

**Minutes of the January 2, 2025, Joint meeting of the Sawyer County
Public Safety Committee and Economic Development/UWEX Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members Present:

- ☒ Chair: Ron Buckholtz
- ☒ Vice Chair: Marc Helwig
- ☒ Jeff Hoehne
- ☒ Marshal Savitski
- ☐ Jim Evans
- ☒ Econ/UWEX Chair: John Righeimer
- ☒ Vice Chair: Stacey Hessel
- ☒ Tom Duffy
- ☒ Steve Kariainen
- ☐ Randy Neumann

Others Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Andy Albarado - virtual | Doug Mrotek |
| Lynn Fitch | Joe Sajdera |
| Marge Kelsey | Nicole Ripczinski |
| Leslie Strapon | |
| Chaz Ann Olson | |
| John Froemel | |
| Jim Ferguson | |

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, Steve Beining

Public safety radio network discussion with Bug Tussel – Mr. Albarado advised that he had a call with BT and GenComm to review potential sites and tower heights to gather possibilities. Scott Feldt from Bug Tussel joined the meeting at 9:33 am. They are happy to discuss putting up towers, and if so, could they be taller than existing units? Taller towers would allow for fewer towers overall. At this point in time, co-locating on towers with Bug Tussel would not involve additional space rental costs. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Righeimer to have Bug Tussel work with Gen Comm to provide a proposal not to exceed \$16M in borrowing capacity and present it at the February meeting of this joint committee. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously at 8:0.

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: December 5, 2024 (Date amended 2/6/2025 mtg)

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

Circuit Court --

Judge's report – No Update

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

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

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report –A written report was provided and reviewed by Sheriff Mrotek. Traffic enforcement runs about 50 traffic stops/month.

Jail Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Chief Sajdera. The average daily population for 2024 was 60. Two individuals are currently on electronic monitor.

Communication Center and Emergency Management – Ms. Ripczinski provided a verbal update. The joint powers agreements for municipalities were mailed out last week. The Communications Center has received over 4,000 calls this past year.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – no update

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided showing revenue, shelter admittances, and calls received. Ms. Olson advised that there were 17 dogs that came into the pound last month and there were many animal-at-large calls. The highest call volume took place in the month of October 2024 and highest admissions were in December. The 2025 Rabies clinics are scheduled for April. She is becoming more involved in TRH enforcement now.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided.

Emergency Services -

Public Safety Report – Mr. Froemel advised that after January, we should be fully staffed on the paramedic side and EMTs are willing to pick up extra shifts so we should be able to run all of the two-person crews soon. In breaking down the history of calls, he feels that August and September are the busiest months for the department, and the average run-time is approximately three hours, including paperwork time. They will continue to monitor all systems to evaluate where the best locations are for units. He reported having six AED “saves”.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update –

Mr. Albarado advised that the county will be involved in a peer exchange of processes.

Board Appointed Committee Updates -

Future Agenda – Radio Network with Bug Tussel

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings -

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk