

**Minutes of the February 6, 2025, meeting of the Sawyer County
Public Safety 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
- ☐ Vacant

Others Present:

Andy Albarado - virtual	Doug Mrotek
Lynn Fitch	Joe Sajdera
Marge Kelsey	Nicole Ripczinski
Stacey Hessel- Virtual	Mike Woller
Chaz Ann Olson	John Froemel
Gary Pelletier- Virtual	Monica Isham
Aaron Jenneman- 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- Set

Public Comment – Linda Zillmer, Chris Klein

Public Safety Radio Network-

Bug Tussel is not going to be an option. Mr. Pelletier from GenComm spoke to the committee about the proposal for the radio network improvement that has been discussed for many months and stated that the 2023 RFQ project bid numbers are still in effect.

Motion to approve Resolution- Proceeding with Public Safety Radio System Improvement for forwarding to the Sawyer County Board **by: Mr. Helwig Second by: Mr. Hoehne Motion carried without negative vote.**

Mr. Pelletier stated that leasing towers may be faster and cheaper than building them. GenComm is writing a proposal to present to the TGB for discussion on leasing tower space on the WOJB tower.

Motion to amend December, 2024 minutes date and approve January 2, 2025 minutes with amended date made by: Mr. Savitski Second by: Mr. Hoehne. Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court --

Judge Isham gave a verbal report on Recovery Court , Truancy and Diversion and stated that the small claims mediation program is freeing up counter time and moving cases along faster.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

Ms. Kelsey provided a written report and agreed that mediation is a cleaner system for the courts.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report –A written report was provided and reviewed by Lt. Ripczinski.

Jail Report –A written report was provided and reviewed by Lt. Woller. The Huber Officer and Court Services Financial position have been filled.

Communication Center and Emergency Management –

EM Director Ripczinski provided a verbal update. The annual Joint Powers Agreements for municipalities were returned signed. A grant was received for Field Training- 36 seats have been filled. SCESA and school meetings were attended. Call volume is up.

Motion to approve the Joint Powers Agreements by: Mr. Savitski Second by: Mr. Helwig

Motion carried without negative vote.

Sheriff Mrotek met with Birkie stakeholders in preparation for the event later this month. The arson investigation is ongoing.

Code Enforcement Specialist –

Ms. Olson provided a written report showing revenue, shelter admittances, and calls received. Most calls were for dogs running at large. Ms. Olson is becoming more involved in TRH and water code enforcement.

The Animal Control Ordinance amendment includes changes to p. 2 Definitions and p. 12 where cats have been excluded from the running at large enforcement.

Motion to approve the amendment as presented to send to the Sawyer County Board for final consideration by:

Mr. Savitski Second by: Mr. Hoehne

Motion carried without negative vote.

Child Support Department Report--

A written report was provided.

Emergency Services -

Public Safety Report – Mr. Froemel received the new ambulance. He presented a written report of calls broken down by town and crew distribution. Progress will be reviewed in six months. A written EMS report was provided.

Mr. Albarado reported on a meeting with the towns of Round Lake, Hunter, Spider Lake and Town of Hayward to discuss adding a third ambulance garage due to concerns about response times. A building could be provided by Round Lake at a cost of about \$500,00; staffing an ambulance would cost an additional \$750,000. There are not enough EMS personnel in the county to staff a third location at this time.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update –

Mr. Albarado stated that Judge Isham covered it in her report.

Board Appointed Committee Updates - None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings -None

Future Agenda – None

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am

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

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk