

**Minutes of the April 3, 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
- ☒ Jim Evans- virtual

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Liz Klein
Joe Sajdera
Nicole Ripczinski
Lt. Woller

John Froemel
Greg Ripczinski
Doug Mrotek
Chaz Ann Olson
Marge Kelsey
Kristi Kare

Call to Order – Chair Ron 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- Amended to move Emergency Services Reports up

Public Comment – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated:

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig
Motion carried without negative vote.

March 6, 2025

Second by: Mr. Savitski

Circuit Court –

No report.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided. There are 2 positions open in the department.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – A written report was reviewed by Lt. Ripczinski; calls have increased, truancy citations are now being issued.

Jail Report – A written report was reviewed by Lt. Woller; there are currently 47 inmates with a 71% unemployment rate. A data breakdown was provided showing race by arresting department.

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written and verbal report were provided by Ms. Olson. Revenues have increased at the dog pound; calls for dogs at large continue to be high. Ms. Olson is conducting a rabies clinic with Leading Edge on April 4 and 5.

Emergency Management -- Director Ripczinski gave reports on the Governor's Conference for Emergency Management, and conducted a second training on the role of elected officials. Other upcoming work includes severe weather training and LEPC meeting.

County dispatchers were recognized for National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, the ESINET project goes live in May.

Public Safety Radio Network Project—

Mr. Pelletier of GenComm presented updated design plans and prices for the radio project, which would include additional towers in Meadowbrook, Edgewater, Draper, and the Flambeau DOC tower to achieve maximum coverage on portable radios and pagers. The total proposed cost of the project is \$2,643,969.00, with the western county portion completed in 2025 and the eastern portion potentially by summer 2026. The Draper tower requires cooperation with the town board and the DNR for its proposed site.

Child Support Department Report – A written report was provided.

Emergency Services—

Mr. Froemel presented ambulance runs reports and discussed response times and a proposal for future sites co-located with towns.

The Medical Examiner's 2024 Report was provided to the committee.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – The LCO-SC CJCC MOU has expired and needs to be renewed.

Review of Opioid Funds and 2025 Budget—

The Opioid Funds timeline was reviewed. The committee discussed juvenile justice prevention efforts; Sheriff Mrotek stated that a secured border should help stem the influx of drugs into the community.

Motion to approve the proposed 2025 Opioid Budget for consideration by County Board by: Mr. Hoehne

Second by: Mr. Savitski

Motion carried without negative vote.

Board Appointed Committee Updates-- None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings-- None

Future Agenda Items—CJCC presentation

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, May 1, at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 am

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk