

**Minutes of the May 1, 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

Others Present:

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Marge Kelsey
Nicole Ripczinski
Doug Mrotek

John Froemel
Greg Ripczinski
Doug Mrotek
Chaz Ann Olson

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- Set

Public Comment – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated:

April 3, 2025

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig

Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court –

No report. Mr. Buckholtz stated that he would like someone from the courts to give a report at the meetings.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided. The Criminal Clerk position has been filled, the Civil/Small Claims/Probate position is still open.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – A written report was reviewed by Lt. Ripczinski; calls have increased with 680 received in April.

There have been 80 crashes to date with 1 fatality at the time of the report.

Jail Report – Sheriff Mrotek gave a report on the ongoing social media situation with Judge Isham's statement.

Hayward City and State Patrol officers are on standby for public assemblies and a march to the courthouse planned for today. A written jail report for April was reviewed by Sheriff Mrotek; there were 59 inmates incarcerated with a 78% unemployment rate.

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written and verbal report were provided by Ms. Olson. Ms. Olson conducted a rabies clinic with Leading Edge on April 4 and 5; 155 rabies vaccinations and 31 microchips were done. Ms. Olson has started TRH code enforcement.

Emergency Management -- Director Ripczinski gave reports on the National Telecommunications Week events and training. ESINET goes live May 14. Dispatch calls are up since this time in 2024. LEPC meeting was held at the Enbridge facility, towns are working on Emergency Management plans, and ten people attended Skywarn Spotter Training.

Child Support Department Report – A written report was provided.

Emergency Services—

Mr. Froemel presented a report showing average run times per town and will provide that report three times a year going forward. The department is fully staffed. Following the unexpected death of a paramedic recruit, Mr. Froemel plans to address mental health support for the department staff. An EMR course will be offered soon. Mr. Froemel has been working with Dana on the Innovation Planning Grant for EMS and Fire; May 31 is the deadline for the participating towns to provide the requested information.

The Medical Examiner's written report was provided to the committee; 29 cases are being tracked, toxicology results have been delayed due to issues at the state lab. Fentanyl found in bloodwork appears to be declining and Mr. Froemel credited the Fentanyl Awareness and Forever Joy programs for having a positive effect in the county.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update –

Mr. Markgren reported on CJCC meeting highlights; the vaping survey results showed 47% of children ages 11-13 have tried vaping and peer pressure is the main reason. Dave Dixon gave a presentation on the Timber Bay outreach program for at-risk youth. CJCC will be organizing an executive committee to distribute workload. The LCO-SC CJCC MOU will be reviewed by the Tribal Governing Board on Monday.

Board Appointed Committee Updates-- None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings-- None

Future Agenda Items—None

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, June 5, at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 am

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk