

**Minutes of the August 7, 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- Excused
- ☒ Jeff Hoehne
- ☒ Marshal Savitski
- ☒ Jim Evans- Virtual

Others Present:

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Marge Kelsey
Nicole Ripczinski
Doug Mrotek
Joe Sajdera
Mike Woller

Greg Ripczinski
John Froemel
Sandy Okamoto
Leslie Strapon
Kristi Kare
John Pinnow- virtual
Julia Lyons- virtual

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:

July 3, 2025

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Evans

Second by: Mr. Savitski

Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court –

No report

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided. Ms. Kelsey recognized her staff for hard work and dedication for covering two unstaffed positions until they were filled.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – A written report was reviewed by Lt. Ripczinski; calls have increased with 861 received in July. There have been 28 crashes in July, 173 year to date, with 2 fatalities at the time of the report.

Deputy Jensen was promoted to Patrol Sergeant and Sgt. Gillis is now a Narcotics Detective.

Jail Report – A written jail report for June was reviewed by Lt. Woller: there were 62 avg. inmates incarcerated with a 73% unemployment rate at the time of booking. Ms. Lyons reported that the jail MAT program that stalled when Building Bridges funding was cut will go forward now under the new Vital Strategies grant the county received; matching funds will be drawn from the Opioid Settlement for two years.

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided for the month of July.

Dispatch and Emergency Management – Written reports were provided. Dir. Ripczinski reported that there are two FT openings in dispatch; National Night Out had a big turnout, Cops and Bobbers is August 9, and there is a Mass Casualty training even scheduled for Jan 17, 2026. The BRIC grant was released so the Hazard Mitigation Plan will go forward; there is a special LEPC stakeholder planning meeting on August 20.

Child Support Department Report – A written report was provided. Ms. Okamoto reported on state changes to child support enforcement methods; a state training will be held here on September 4th.

Emergency Services—

Mr. Froemel presented a written report on ambulance runs; he is currently working on an MOU with Glidden to provide ambulance coverage to Clam Lake. Mr. Froemel discussed highlights from attending the Pinnacle EMS Conference in Phoenix. There was an increase in deaths in July; the Medical Examiner report is on hold waiting for toxicology results to come back.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update –

Mr. Markgren reported that the TGB has signed the MOU with the county.

Radio Tower Project Update- Mr. Markgren reported that the Draper tower will be going up on county property along Hwy 70 and the WOJB tower will be discussed at a meeting with LCO on August 19. Mr. Savitski asked about upgrading radio coverage in the schools.

Preliminary Budget Requests—Mr. Markgren and department heads reviewed 2026 budgets and he stated that they will generally all reflect normal increases in wages and contracted services.

Strategic Plan Areas of Focus—Mr. Markgren gave examples of what some of the services and priorities could look like for each department and asked the department heads to write down three top goals and return them to Admin.

Board Appointed Committee Updates-- None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings-- None

Future Agenda Items—WOJB Tower Update

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, September 4, at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 am

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk