

**Minutes of the September 4, 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
Joe Sajdera
Mike Woller

Greg Ripczinski
John Froemel- Virtual
Sandy Okamoto
Leslie Strapon
Kristi Kare
Sari Torstenson
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:

August 7, 2025

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

Second by: Mr. Savitski

Circuit Court –

Written reports will be provided every other month.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided with information on jury trials, new cases filed, and revenues collected.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – A written report was reviewed by Lt. Ripczinski; calls have decreased with 742 received in August. There have been 15 crashes in August, 192 year-to-date, with 0 additional fatalities at the time of the report. The Department will assist with the Cheq 40 Fat Tire Race on September 13 and Stone Lake Cranberry Festival on October 4.

Jail Report – A written jail report for August was reviewed by Lt. Woller: there were 60 avg. inmates incarcerated with a 66 % unemployment rate at the time of booking.

Code Enforcement- A written report was provided for the month of August. In addition to animal calls, TRH inspections and data collection on unlicensed rentals are underway.

Dispatch and Emergency Management – Written reports were provided with information on staffing, system updates, number and types of calls, and calls per hour. Dir. Ripczinski reported that call numbers are down for

August; dispatch has received 11,147 calls year-to-date. The implementation of RapidSOS Unite technology in conjunction with AXON body cams is proving to be very useful in pinpointing callers and responding to scenes. A meeting was held with TGB on the WOJB Tower and LEPC held a special meeting for the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Child Support Department Report – A written report was provided showing 1075 open cases in July, court orders, paternity establishment, and collections statistics. Ms. Okamoto is hosting several counties for fiscal training at the time of this meeting.

Emergency Services—

Mr. Froemel presented and reviewed written reports on ambulance runs; Sawyer County EMS responded to a total of 1,294 calls during this reporting period, with an average response time of 10.6 minutes. City and Town of Hayward continue to have the most calls, followed by Bass Lake.

The Department provided a Stop the Bleed Class for Hayward High School teachers, and is covering Hayward HS and Winter HS football games and other high risk events in the region as part of their outreach and recruitment efforts. The Medical Examiner report shows 49 death investigations conducted this year and over 300 interactions with cremation permits, death verification, insurance and police requests, law firm requests, family and caretaker support, and hospice follow-ups.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update –

No updates to report

WOJB Tower Project Update- Mr. Markgren reported that the WOJB tower was discussed at a meeting with LCO on August 19 and the next steps involve GenComm providing the specifications for review by the TGB.

Board Appointed Committee Updates-- None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings-- None

Future Agenda Items—

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, October 2, at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk