

**Minutes of the October 2, 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
Chaz Ann Olson
Doug Mrotek
Joe Sajdera
Mike Woller

Greg Ripczinski
John Froemel
Sari Torstenson
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- Set

Public Comment – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated:

September 4, 2025

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

Second by: Mr. Hoehne

Clerk of Courts/Register in Probate Reports -

A written report was provided by Ms. Kelse: the department is asking for a per diem raise for jurors, from \$25 per day to \$50 per day/\$25 per half day. Jurors also receive .51 cents per mile. New court security measures being implemented include having lunches brought in to juries.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Patrol Report – A written report was reviewed by Lt. Ripczinski; calls have continued to decrease with 696 received in September. There have been 11 crashes in September, 208 year-to-date, with 3 fatalities year-to-date. The Department has been awarded two grants for Speed Enforcement and Seat Belt Enforcement.

Jail Report – A written jail report for October was reviewed by Sheriff Mrotek: there were 64 avg. inmates incarcerated, with a 69% unemployment rate at the time of booking. The Department received good reviews during the annual jail inspection and no changes were required to be made.

Dispatch and Emergency Management – Written reports were provided with information on staffing, system updates, number and types of calls, and calls per hour. Chief Sajdera updated the committee on a NextGen 911 grant and MABAS deployment in Sawyer County. Dispatch is interviewing for two open positions.

Code Enforcement- Ms. Olson reported on dog pound and Public Health code enforcement for the month of September.

Child Support Department Report – A written report was provided.

Emergency Services—

Mr. Froemel presented and reviewed written reports on ambulance runs; Sawyer County EMS responded to a total of 192 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.

Mr. Froemel is finalizing a contract with Glidden for coverage in the Clam Lake area.

The Department continues to support Hayward and Winter football and will be teaching an EMR class in Hayward and possibly Winter in the coming school year.

The Medical Examiner report showed a single-vehicle car accident resulting in a fatality.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update –

Mr. Markgren reported that CJCC added Lorraine Gouge to the council; she will also be serving on the HHS board.

WOJB Tower Project Update—Mr. Markgren reported that a kickoff meeting was held with GenComm for one of the towers in Exeland; this tower will cost approximately \$2,750 per month to lease but is taller and will offer better coverage for public safety. There is no definitive update on the WOJB tower.

Board Appointed Committee Updates-- None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings— Mr. Buckholtz reported that he, Mr. Markgren, Mr. Evans and Ms. Klein attended the WCA conference in the Dells (also attended- Mr. Magnuson and Mr. Kariainen).

Ms. Klein will send out a special calendar of the upcoming meetings that are moved up due to the November County Board meeting being on November 12th.

Future Agenda Items— Per diem request for jurors

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, October 30, at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 am

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk