

**Minutes of the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sawyer County  
Public Safety Committee  
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors  
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



**Voting Committee Members (X) Present:**

- Chair: **James Schlender**
- Ron Buckholtz
- Ed Peters
- Dale Schleeter
- Chuck Van Etten – Virtual

**Others Present:**

Tom Hoff -- Virtual  
Mike Coleson  
Lynn Fitch  
Doug Mrotek  
Greg Ripczinski  
Jo Sajdera  
Marge Kelsey  
Nate Dunston  
Pat Sanchez -- Virtual  
Rebecca Roeker -- Virtual  
Jim Onarheim

**Call to Order** – Chair James Schlender called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Roll Call was taken.

**Certification of Compliance** with the open meeting law was met.

**Public Comment** – None

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Ron Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020, meeting; second by Ed Peters. Motion carried.

**Judge's Report** – None

**Clerk of Court Report** – Marge Kelsey provided a written report and advised that Jill Tonn is moving to the DA office soon leaving a vacancy in the department.

**Sheriff's Report** – Sheriff Mrotek reported on the various causes of traffic fatalities in 2020 and discussed the purpose of the Traffic Safety subcommittee. He mentioned that fatalities were up throughout the State. Chief Deputy Joe Sajdera provided a written report and discussed the progress of new dispatcher training completions; he advised that the 2020 call intake was up from last year. Lieutenant Greg Ripczinski provided a written report and stated that there was a 25% increase of calls over 2019. Jail Administrator Jeff Johnson provided a written report and added that jail intake numbers were down in 2020 from the previous year. Animal Control Officer Sherri Shelton provided a written report to the Committee.

**Coroner's Report** -- A written report was provided to the Committee and Deputy Coroner Onarheim elaborated on the types of deaths by category seen within the County this past year. Committee members requested a return of the more detailed written report in the future.

**Emergency Management Department Reports** – Emergency Management Director Pat Sanchez provided a written report and stated that FEMA has approved the Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan that allows for grant planning. She reminded the Committee that Covid testing is still taking place on Wednesdays at the Winter Firehall through March 7<sup>th</sup>. Communication Specialist John Kruk provided a written report. Sheriff Mrotek advised that the new radio system, transitioning from two towers to five towers, is underway and working well. Full transition is hoped to take place in February.

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update** – The draft form of the MOU between the County and JusticePoint is under review and should be moving to this Committee in February for further review. A brief overview of the discussion at the February 6<sup>th</sup> CJCC meeting was provided by Chair Schlender.

**Ambulance Service Department Report** – A written report was provided and Ambulance Director Nate Dunston reported on the status of staff receiving the Covid vaccine. A 2020 budget deficit will be largely attributed to the cost of Covid supplies.

**Fire Protection Services Discussion** – A brief discussion took place regarding a question that arose at a previous meeting about potential County assistance for fire protection in our smaller municipalities. Legal Counsel Rebecca Roeker explained the legal restrictions prohibiting the County from directly assisting. Jim Onarheim offered to meet with concerned Board members to discuss how the State might potentially assist.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk