

**Minutes of the April 8th meeting of the Sawyer County
Public Safety Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Tom Hoff
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Doug Mrotek
Greg Ripczinski
Jeff Johnson
Joe Sajdera

Nate Dunston
Sandy Ocomoto
Pat Sanchez
Jim Onarheim
Helen Dennis
Marge Kelsey
Frank Zufall
John Froemel

Call to Order –Chair James Schlender 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

Public Comment – Helen Dennis

Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Peters. Motion passed.

Circuit Court Report – Mr. Hoff reported that the RFP for project construction manager has been sent out and is on our website. Responses are due in April. A selection committee will analyze the proposals and decide which contractor to choose.

Clerk of Court Report – A written report was provided.

District Attorney's Office Report

Child Support Department Report – Child Support Director Sandy Okamoto presented a Resolution that requests for additional funding from state agencies for child service programming. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Schleeter to accept this Resolution and forward it to the April Board of Supervisors meeting for approval. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Department Report – Sheriff Doug Mrotek provide a brief update on the criminal investigation involving Stone Lake area.

A written Communications Center report was provided.

Chief Deputy Joe Saldera reported the dispatch/Communications center remodeling project is nearing completion. The Sheriff and 911 emergency call numbers are down slight this month from last months calls. A contract for services with North Memorial has been finalized to provide pre-arrival medical instructions for the Communications Center.

Lieutenant Greg Ripczinki, Patrol, submitted a written report, he reported to the committee that sheriff response calls had decreased from last month. The Sheriff department conducted a lock-down test at the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital with the assistance of the new emergency preparedness staff person, and the test went well. The Sheriff's

department will be conducting a county-wide school safety ZOOM meeting where all matters of public safety topics will be addressed. There is a plan to continue conducting such meetings.

Lieutenant Jeff Johnson, Jail, submitted a written report, he reported to the committee that the number of inmates currently housed in the jail increased since last report, roughly 85% capacity. There are some transfers being conducted as sentenced inmates are being placed in state facilities, but the number is low at the time. In the interim the state continues to reimburse our jail at the rate of \$52/day which does not cover the actual costs. One-third of the jail population has now opted in for the Covid-19 vaccination. Electronic monitoring has increased with the addition of Justice Point services being available in the jail.

Communications Systems Specialist written report was submitted.

Animal Control submitted a written report.

Coroner's report – Coroner John Froemel reported that their recent focus has been on addressing the hoarding safety concerns as it affects emergency personnel in responding to calls. Mr. Froemel and Deputy Coroner James Onarheim attended a meeting Health and Human Services and Aging/Disability to discuss the concerns. The Committee referred the matter to Corporate counsel review existing ordinances. This will be reviewed at the May Public Safety meeting.

Emergency Management Department Reports – A written report was provided. Director of Emergency Services Pat Sanchez advised that her time continues to remain focused in aiding in vaccinations and Covid-19 PPE dispensation.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – Mr. Schlender advised that JusticePoint staff are now working with county and tribal agencies and jail staff to provide services. The committee approved the formation of an ad hoc work group to assist JusticePoint in preparing for the TAD grant application.

Ambulance Service Department report – A written report was provided. Ambulance Director Nate Dunston advised that two positions remain open; two staff are in the orientation process, and the department remains an active clinical site for EMS students. Call volume has been down and the new dispatch system continues to work well.

Mission Statement – Mr. Schlender provided a draft of a Mission Statement and purpose of the Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Peters to strike item #5 of the document's duties and responsibilities. Motion passed. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Van Etten to send the revised Mission Statement to the April Board of Supervisors meeting for consideration and approval. Motion carried 4-1-0.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, May 6th, at 9:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk