

Draft

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety Committee.

Sawyer County Board of Supervisors

February 6, 2020; 8:30 a.m.; Assembly Room; Sawyer County Courthouse

Members present: Helen Dennis, Ron Buckholtz, James Schlender, Dale Schleeter

Others present: Carol Williamson, Tom Hoff, Pat Sanchez, Joe Sajdera, Jeff Johnson, Sherrie Shelton, Craig Faulstich, Mark Kelsey, Terrell Boetcher, Sandy Okamoto, Charles Weidner, Malcolm Haag, JT Wohling, Nick Al-Moghrabi, Dennis Nelson, Jessica Hutchison, Paul Wessel, Jenifer Frank, Lonnie Kennell, Stacey Hessel, Joel Clapero, Dave Biller, Barbara Biller, Frank Zufall, Dave Innerebner

Chair James Schlender called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Motion by Buckholtz, 2nd by Dennis, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried

Motion by Dennis, 2nd by Buckholtz, to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2020 meeting. Motion carried

Chair Schlender asked for comments from the public on Bus Safety. Below are some of the comments.

Jessica Hutchison, Director K thru 12, LCO School. LCO has seven buses transporting students. The School Resource Officer issues citations to offenders. Bus drivers notice that when the yellow flashing lights are on, approaching vehicles speed up rather than slow down. Bus drivers have annual training. The public needs education and more awareness of laws.

Paul Wessel, Hurricane Busing. This is a big problem daily. Twenty-seven bus routes run morning and night. Agrees the yellow lights encourage drivers to speed up to get by the bus. Flashing yellow is on at 100 feet if less than 45 mph speed limit and on at 300 feet if greater than 45 mph. Bus cameras cost from \$2,000 to \$7,000 per bus. Bus routes planned so students do not have to cross the road. Have had drivers pass bus on right side.

Supervisor Ron Buckholtz drives for ICAA and has a monitor riding the bus. The monitor helps get license number and description when a violation occurs. Buses equipped with seat belts. Takes a little more time to buckle students in.

Barb Biller, LCO head start. Four buses, eight routes. Transport 3-5 year olds. Monitors ride the buses.

Sheriff Doug Mrotek. At minimum, need License Plate #. Other info that helps with citation is description of vehicle and driver. Citation is \$326.50

Chief Deputy Joe Sajdera. 2017 ten bus-passing complaints. 2018 four complaints. 2019 four complaints. 2020 one complaint so far. In those years issued three citations.

City of Hayward Chief of Police Joel Clapero. This is a huge problem. Statutory time limit is 48 hours to issue a citation.

Craig Faulstich. Are there grants available for cameras?

Mark Kelsey. Possible County Ordinance vs State statute violation.

Sherrie Shelton, bus driver. There are hot spots. Increased presence of law enforcement could be a deterrent.

Paul Wessel. Sheriff presence helps. Violations are either intentional or not paying attention.

Barb Biller. Agrees there are hot spots.

Craig Faulstich. Requests drivers share hot spots with law enforcement

Joel Clapero. Currently working on traffic grants.

Bus Safety will be on the March agenda for further review and possible action.

Clerk of Court Marge Kelsey provided a written report. Administrator Tom Hoff informed the Committee there was a resignation in the Clerk of Courts office and an employee was out sick causing a staff shortage.

Hoff informed the Committee the hiring process has started for the second assistant District Attorney and plans for office space.

Child Support Director Sandy Okamoto provided a written report. Renovation will start soon for DA office space.

Deputy Nick Al-Moghrabi and Deputy Dennis Nelson reported on the Sawyer County K9 teams. From June 2017 until the end of 2019, both teams were called out 534 times. Dogs are used in more serious offenses to promote safety for the public and the officers.

Motion by Buckholtz, 2nd by Schleeter, to suspend the agenda to hear from an individual on bus safety. Motion carried

Dave Innerebner, LCO Head start bus driver. Drives the Hayward route. Frequent violations. Need more awareness.

Chief Deputy Joe Sajdera provided a written report on calls handled by dispatch. In January there were 4,531 phone calls resulting in 1,338 calls for service.

Sheriff Doug Mrotek presented the Patrol Report from Road Lieutenant Greg Ripczinski. The report breaks down the 900 calls for Sawyer County Sheriff Department response in January 2020.

Jail Administrator Jeff Johnson provided a jail report. As of today, there are 117 inmates, including 2 out on electronic monitor, and 19 housed out of county. Johnson also provided a report on the daily inmate population in January.

Sheriff Mrotek reported five inmates are working on the construction course building a storage shed at New Reflections. Two inmates scheduled for release will continue on the project after their release from jail.

Animal Control Officer Sherrie Shelton provided a written report and reported to the Committee.

Sheriff Mrotek presented two joint powers agreements for the Town of Stone Lake and The Town of Bass Lake, both in Washburn County. These agreements are necessary for fire districts and emergency departments to provide services. Motion by Schleeter, 2nd by Buckholtz, to forward to County Board for approval. Motion carried

Emergency Management Director Pat Sanchez presented a written report.

Communication Specialist John Kruk provided a written report.

The Drug Court Grant is on a five-year cycle. Application in 2021, award in 2022. Sawyer County will start collecting data to be ready for application.

Sawyer County Ambulance Director Nate Dunston provided a report to the Committee.

Chair Schlender updated the Committee on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Schlender met with the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board. LCO considering an additional \$25,000 contribution to the Criminal Justice Coordinating program.

Administrator Hoff will meet with Nate Dunston to arrange a date for an open house at the Ojibwa Ambulance facility. This will be on the February County Board agenda or the March Public Safety agenda depending on the date.

Adjourned 9:46 am

Minutes prepared by Carol Williamson