

**Minutes of the May 4<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 Present:**

- Chair: Ron Buckholtz
- Vice Chair: Marc Helwig
- Ed Peters - virtual
- Jason Weaver - virtual
- Marshal Savitski

**Others Present:**

Andy Albarado  
Lynn Fitch  
Joe Sajdera  
Mike Woller  
Sandy Okamoto

John Froemel  
Greg Ripczinski  
Doug Mrotek  
Brandon Blicharz  
Marge Kelsey  
Tish Keahnu

**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**

**Public Comment – Linda Zillmer, Tish Keahna**

**Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 6, 2023**

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Savitski      Second by: Mr. Helwig  
Motion carried without negative vote.

**Circuit Court --**

Judge's Report –

Courthouse Remodel Update – Mr. Albarado advised the new courtroom is in use but the AV setup in the new Board Room is not complete. A temporary system is being developed in that room. The contingency fund is depleted. Additional expenses will be incurred for the remodel.

**Clerk of Court's Office Reports -**

A written report was provided. One Jury trial that was scheduled will need to be rescheduled due to AV problems in the courtroom.

**Sheriff's Department Report –**

Communication Center Report – Chief Sajdera provided an update on hiring and department progress.

Patrol Report – A written report was provided. Lt. Ripczinski reviewed the highlights of the report, including citations issued. Total crashes to date is at its lowest point in recent history. Staff has been completing leadership training and other additional training through Northwoods Technical College.

Jail Report – A written report was provided. Lt. Woller reported that average daily population in April was 72 ½; fourteen inmates are currently housed in Barron County. Inmate unemployment rates remain the same.

**Communication Systems Specialist Report -**

Code Enforcement – A written report was provided and reviewed the highlights, including the volume at the rabies clinic. The clinic will return next year. There has been an increase in at-large and barking complaints. Complaints on increases in trash dumping have started to come in.

**Emergency Management --**

Medical Examiner -- Written reports were provided. Ms. Ripczinski attended a regional meeting where flood outlooks were discussed. The Winter Dam road area had excess water, some roads in the county did get washed out. An LEPC meeting was held in April. Training for the communications center has begun with new staff. They are seeking quotes for updating radio comm equipment.

**Child Support Department Report --**

Child Support MOU – Mr. Albarado advised the essential components of the MOU have been settled; the last remaining piece is the charges for transfer of files. Once that is determined, the MOU will be back for consideration.

**Emergency Services --**

Ambulance Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Froemel reported that there were 135 runs in April, up from 120 last year. Billing contracts will be reviewed and possibly revised. There are several new hires in process; training continues and a new mannequin has been ordered to assist in advanced training.

Town of Edgewater Request – This item was brought forward from last month. No update at this time.

Ambulance Billing – A written report was provided. The reports determine that we have collected approximately the same amount of payments from less calls as last year; indicating a better return. We should receive additional Flex grant funds this year.

Medical Examiner Report – There are two staff people willing to work as Medical Examiners and they start in May. Training is underway at this time.

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -**

Mr. Albarado advised that treatment court is getting closer to launch. The diversion program appears to have some success.

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk