

**Minutes of the July 6<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 Buckholz~~-Exc Tweed Shuman
- Vice Chair: Marc Helwig - Exc
- Ed Peters
- Jason Weaver
- Marshal Savitski

**Others Present:**

Andy Albarado  
Lynn Fitch  
Joe Sajdera  
Mike Woller

John Froemel  
Doug Mrotek  
Marge Kelsey  
Linda Zillmer

**Call to Order** – Chair Pro-tem Tweed Shuman 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**

**Minutes from the previous meeting dated: June 1, 2023**

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

**Circuit Court --**

Judge's Report –

Courthouse Remodel Update – Our east parking lot is operational; they'll be starting on the blacktopping of the west side of the building next week. Sheetrocking and painting is being completed in the remodel now.

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

A written report was provided. At this time there is one jury trial scheduled for July. They continue with the discussion on staffing with the new court facility beginning.

**Consider Court Staffing -**

Mr. Albarado provided a review of a Resolution authorizing increased funding for new court staff and a breakout of how the expenses would fund a net 1.5 FTE and cover operations. The Clerk of Court has requested a FT position beginning 2024. There is a projected increase for the remainder of 2023 of approximately \$22,000. Some court state aid will offset the new expenses. A motion was made by Mr. Savitski; second by Mr. Peters to approve the Resolution for Increased Courtroom Staffing and forward to the Admin Committee and full Board. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Sheriff's Department Report –**

Communication Center Report – Chief Sajdera indicated that dispatch has been inundated with 911 calls; many being accidental and hang-ups. He reviewed staffing, indicating three vacancies in the dispatch center. Two patrol deputies have been pulled into dispatch to cover shift shortages.

Patrol Report – A written report was provided and reviewed. Sheriff Mrotek reviewed the highlights. Total crashes to date is 120, 28 personal injury and 2 fatalities. There has been a dramatic increase in 911 calls, accounting for nearly 26% of call volume. There was a motorcycle fatality over the July holiday weekend. Two part-time staff are going through the recruit academy that we are sponsoring.

Jail Report – A written report was provided. Sgt. Woller reviewed the highlights of the statistics. There are two Huber inmates, once has since been released.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – Sheriff Mrotek provided a verbal update of the improvements made on communications systems. They are now better able to communicate with EMS.

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided and reviewed. The animal barrier in the car has been installed and there is an increase in dogs admitted to the pound, at-large calls and possible abandonments. Zoning site visits from complains have been underway and Public Health related complaints have not been as heavy.

#### **Emergency Management --**

A written report was provided and reviewed. An extension for the WDF Winter Ice Storm was requested and has been approved. Work continues on the Sawyer County Emergency Operations Plans and requests for training disaster recovery and warning coordination have been submitted.

#### **Child Support Department Report --**

A written report was provided; there are 1,128 open cases. Total May current support due is \$994,398.07 and \$710,102.14 collected.

#### **Emergency Services --**

Ambulance Report and Ambulance Billing – A written report was provided. Mr. Froemel advised that there are now two paramedics that are near completion of training so they should fill vacancies soon. On the billing side, we are collecting more than we did last year when compared run to run. A breakout of calls by towns was provided. There has been an increase in EMS overdose calls again with fentanyl being primary cause. They continue to try to build the EMR base.

Town Ambulance Contract Draft 2024 – Mr. Albarado presented a draft ambulance contract with towns; he and Mr. Froemel will present to the towns. Mr. Albarado reviewed the formulas for the charges and the historical per capita rates. A comparison of costs/charges was also reviewed. Public comment provided by Linda Zillmer. A motion was made by Mr. Savitski to present an \$80 per capita rate (our cost) in their upcoming discussions with towns; second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote. They are not proposing any changes in the contract language. Mr. Helwig was admitted to the Zoom meeting.

#### **Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -**

Mr. Albarado provided a review of the JusticePoint statistics. The homeless taskforce is working on several projects to provide shelter.

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk