

**Minutes of the June 2nd 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 - virtual
- Ed Peters
- Jason Weaver - virtual
- Marshal Savitski

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Joe Sajdera
Doug Mrotek

Sandy Ocomoto

Jeff Johnson
Marge Kelsey
Brandon Blicharz
Liz Klein
Chris Klein

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 –

Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Savitski to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2022, meeting; second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court Report – Courthouse Remodel Update – Mr. Albarado advised that meetings are held every two weeks; project remains on schedule, and footing forms are going up. Demolition of veterans building will be happening soon. Utility relocation fees came in at twice what was anticipated at \$40,000.

Clerk of Court Report – A written report was provided. A Resolution Authorizing Clerk of Circuit Court to Write Off Small Debts, Uncollectible Debts and Contract with a Debt Collector was presented by Ms. Kelsey. A motion was made by Mr. Weaver; second by Mr. Savitski to approve the Resolution. Motion carried without negative vote. Leslie Strapon was introduced as Chief Deputy.

District Attorney's Office Report

Town of Draper ARPA Request – Mr. Buckholtz requested that the ARPA request be put back on the table for consideration. The location is adjacent to the Fire Department. Public Comment was made by Liz Klein and Chris Cline. Total project cost of approximately \$60,000. A motion was made to forward to Finance by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Savitski. A roll call vote was taken and five "aye" votes from Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Weaver and Helwig.

Sheriff's Department Report – Communication Center Report – A written report was provided. Sheriff Mrotek reported that this weekend an accident.

Chief Sajdera reported having two FL vacancies in Dispatch Center. Total calls for service YTD is 8,841.

Patrol Report – A written report was provided.

Jail Report – Lt. Johnson advised calls and arrests have risen since May. They have two full-time vacancies. Additional short-term vacancies are expected in the near future.

Body Cam Demonstration – Deputy Logan and Ripczinski provided a presentation on the AB3 body cameras now in use in Patrol, Court Services and Jail staff.

Communications Specialist System – Sheriff Mrotek advised that we are very close to completing the power to the fire tower on B for the new radio system; hope to be up by the end of July.

Animal Control – Appointment of County Humane Officer – Mr. Albarado introduced Brandon Blicharz. A motion was made by Mr. Savitski; second by Mr. Peters to approve appointment of Mr. Blicharz as County Humane Officer. Motion carried without negative vote. A written report was provided. Mr. Blicharz advised he is working on standardizing procedures. Marc Helwig left the meeting at 9:54 am.

Child Support Department Report – A written report was provided.

Coroner's report – Mr. Albarado provided an overview of materials that could assist in making the decision to switch from Coroner position to a Medical Examiner position. If Sawyer County has no Coroner as of January 1, 2023, the Judge can appoint someone. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to direct Mr. Albarado to put a proposal together to move from Coroner to ME; second by Mr. Savitski. Motion carried without negative vote.

Emergency Management Department Reports – A written report was provided.

NIXLE Contract – Mr. Albarado advised that the current contract is up for renewal; taking no action would allow it to renew. A motion was made by Mr. Peters; second by Savitski to renew the contract with NIXLE. Motion carried without negative vote.

Township Ambulance Service Contracts and Rates – Mr. Albarado explained that \$40/capita is the current billing amount for the Town of Bass Lake, Birchwood, and Stone Lake ambulance fees. New contracts should be developed and rates confirmed. The actual cost is \$71/capita. Mr. Albarado would like to meet with the towns involved and bring back proposal. A motion was made by Mr. Weaver; second by Mr. Peters to have the County Administrator meet with towns to discuss contracts and rates and bring results back to Committee.

5 minute recess at 10:09 am. Resumed at 10:12 am.

Ambulance Personnel Compensation – Mr. Albarado advised we continue to struggle in filling vacancies in EMS. This growing number of vacancies is a concern; our compensation has fallen significantly out of the market. An increase of \$2 - \$3 depending on position is being considered with an annual impact of \$210,000. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Savitski to approve the Resolution to adjust ambulance personnel wages and forward to Finance Committee then on to County Board. Motion carried without negative vote.

Resolution PSAP GrantFunding -- Mr. Albarado provided an overview of the Public Safety Answering Point Resolution used to apply for grants. A motion was made by Mr. Savitski; second by Mr. Peters to approve the Resolution and forward to County Board. Motion carried without negative vote.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – Mr. Albarado reported that the division program is up and running and decisions on how to use the Opioid funds is under review.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk