

**Minutes of the August 5th 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
Alex Butterfiled
Lynn Fitch
Doug Mrotek
Greg Ripczinski
Jeff Johnson
Joe Sajdera

Nate Dunston
Marge Kelsey
Louise Ladenthin
Sherry Shelton

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 – Louise Ladenthin

Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Schleeter noting a correction be made to read “Mr” Schleeter instead of “Ed” Schleeter in the motion to approve the June minutes. Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court Report – Mr. Hoff presented an update regarding ongoing meetings with Venture Architects and Miron Construction on the courthouse remodeling project. A design schematic was presented to the Courthouse Construction Ad Hoc Committee on the morning of August 5th. The Ad Hoc committee approved the schematic to move forward to the Public Works Committee and County Board meeting. This will allow the drawings to go to the next phase which is developing the budget for the plan.

Clerk of Court Report – A written report was provided. Ms. Kelsey advised that the yearly restitution report showed that the County was able to send out over \$49,000 in victim restitution this year, significantly more than the \$22,000 sent out the previous year. The increase is accredited to dedicated collections within the office.

District Attorney’s Office Report –

Sheriff’s Department Report – Sheriff Mrotek stated that the County has not experienced a single fatal car crash to date, despite the busy summer. The office continues to have lots of communication with hound and bear hunting groups to try to reduce nuisance calls.

Communication Center Report – Chief Sajdera reported that dispatch is short one full-time employee, and they have had an influx of 911 hang-up calls, representing approximately 6% of total calls.

Patrol Report – Lieutenant Ripczinski advised that there were 1356 calls this month, up by 300 calls over last month. A large number of the calls were the 911 hang-ups. They are seeking applicants for a part-time patrol position.

Jail Report – Lieutenant Johnson advised that jail numbers have been increasing and pre-sentence incarcerations are the highest they’ve been in a while. The Dodge Correctional facility is now taking inmates and we transported inmates to that facility last week. The jail staff is short one full-time male position and are looking for part-time help, as well.

Animal Control Report – A written report was provided. Ms. Shelton reported having responded to a rising number of wild life calls, as the DNR hasn't been available or appear to no longer be responding to these types of calls.

Jail Tour – A county board member tour of the jail will be available at 6:00 pm on August 19th prior to County Board meeting.

Coroner's report – A written report was provided.

Emergency Management Department Reports – A written report was provided.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – The CJCC committee did not meet in July and the next meeting is August 11, 2021, at 12:00 pm.

Ambulance Service Department report – A written report was provided. Mr. Hoff will refer the ambulance stationing concern brought up in public comment to corporate counsel to begin reviewing policy on coverage options.

Fire Protection Services Report – Ambulance coverage policy

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, September 2, at 9:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk