

**Minutes of the September 1st 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
- Jason Weaver
- Marshal Savitski

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Joe Sajdera
Doug Mrotek

Sandy Okamoto
Greg Ripczinski
Marge Kelsey
Jim Onarheim-virtual
Linda Zillmer-virtual
Mark Gritzmacher-virtual

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 August 4th meeting; second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court Report – Courthouse Remodel Update – Mr. Albarado advised there have been no major changes to the scope of the work and the project is on schedule as expected.

Clerk of Court Report – A written report was provided.

District Attorney's Office Report

Sheriff's Department Report – Communication Center Report – A written report was provided. Chief Sajdera reported they are two full-time positions short in dispatching. They are working on tuning the new radio systems. Calls for service were reviewed.

Patrol Report – A written report was provided. Lt. Ripczinski reviewed the call volume, citations, and department activities. The Cops & Bobbers fishing event was successful.

Jail Report – A written report was provided. Sheriff Mrotek advised that Lt. Johnson resigned and advised that they are struggling in staffing at the jail.

Communications Systems Specialist Report –

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided. Mr. Blicharz reported that a newer vehicle has been procured. August was a busy animal control month. He has started working with zoning and public health duties. He has applied for funding from National Animal Training for training purposes and was approved.

Child Support Department Report – A written report was provided. Child Support MOU with DCF & LCO – Mr. Albarado reported that an MOU has been in place for quite a while and updates have been considered to bring it current. It covers cases that start in the County and then get transferred to the Tribe, and tracks the costs that the County incurs. The agreement is still under review and will be brought back to a future meeting.

Coroner's report – A written report was provided. Review and Consider Switch to Medical Examiner Position – Mr. Albarado advised that there is one registered write-in candidate for the November election. We have been researching how we can pay for the ME position and whether these duties can be integrated into the Ambulance department positions. A Resolution to Create Medical Examiner Position was presented and a motion was made by Marshal Savitski; second by Mr. Weaver to eliminate the Coroner position and transition to a Medical Examiner. Medical Examiners fall under the authority of the Sheriff which is different than an elected official. The Resolution will be forwarded to County Board.

Emergency Management Department Reports – Written reports were provided. Mr. Albarado reported that new staff have been hired in the department. EMS Director, Nate Dunston, has given his notice of resignation.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – Mr. Albarado reported on progress of the TAD grant. Public Health staff are now involved with the CJCC meetings. The committee is leaning toward receiving the opioid settlement in increments.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, October 6, at 9:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

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