

**Minutes of the October 6th 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
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Joe Sajdera
Monica Isham Chase
Brandon Blicharz

Nate Dunston
Greg Ripczinski
Doug Mrotek
Marge Kelsey
Leslie Strapon
John Froemel

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

Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2022, meeting; second by Mr. Savitski. Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court Report – Courthouse Remodel Update – Mr. Albarado advised that there are no significant updates with project or budget.

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 provided an update on staffing.

Patrol Report – A written report was provided. Lt. Ripczinski reported there was an increase in calls for service and the highlights of his report.

Jail Report – A written report was provided showing an average of 90 inmates last month.

Jail staffing and compensation – Mr. Albarado presented an overview of the staffing issues. There are many open shifts for the upcoming months. A short-term, temporary stipend is being considered to fill the open shifts as an incentive for existing staff to accept the open shifts. We are still recruiting for many positions; surveying 14 comparable counties we found that our starting wage is still a little under comparable counties. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the proposed staffing and compensation plan proposed by Mr. Albarado; second by Mr. Savitski and forward to the Finance Committee. Motion carried without negative vote.

Tribal Law Enforcement Grant – Mr. Albarado advised that we need to respond to the State that we want the grant for 2023 and that funds should go directly to the Tribe. This will return to the November meeting.

Communications Systems Specialist Report – Sheriff Mrotek reported the Simulcast system is up and running and in the process of being tweaked. Reception does seem improved throughout the County.

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided. Mr. Blicharz reported that he received full funding for a scholarship for the Animal Control I course. He advised that the license fees will increase from \$8 to \$10 for altered dogs and the daily kennel fee will be increased to \$20/day from \$10/day. He has begun working more with Zoning and Public Health code enforcement.

Child Support Department Report – A written report was provided.

Child Support MOU with DCF & LCO – Monica Chase, LCO attorney, reported on the MOU they have been editing the current MOU and plan to bring it back to the November meeting.

Coroner's report – A written report was provided. Mr. Froemel advised that he has some open investigations ongoing at this time.

Emergency Management Department Reports – Mr. Froemel reported that the department is doing a lot of training, as we are one of the most requested training sites in NW Wisconsin. There are currently no lapses in coverage. The grants that Mr. Dunstan had applied for have had a high award success rate. Some of those funds will be used for training.

2023 Budget Update – Written documentation was provided. Mr. Markgren highlighted the differences between requests and approved budget items. The budget includes two new Sheriff Department positions.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – Mr. Albarado advised the council is focused on the diversion court development. Our grant award could be up to \$300,000. The CJCC committee is expanding the membership to include Public Health staff.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, November 3, at 9:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk