

Minutes of the October 7th 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
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Doug Mrotek
Greg Ripczinski
Joe Sajdera

Nate Dunston
Marge Kelsey
Sandy Ocomoto
Sherry Shelton
Rebecca Roeker
Louise Ladenthin

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 – A written public comment from Louise Ladenthin was read into record.

Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court Report – Mr. Hoff provided an update on the construction meeting progress, indicating that security measures/equipment and interior finishes have been reviewed. Bids are expected to go out by the end of 2021.

Clerk of Court Report – Written report was provided. Ms. Kelsey advised that there is only one trial court left on the October schedule and a new Family Court Commissioner has been appointed. TJ Duffy has filled this position.

District Attorney's Office Report

Child Support Department Report – A written report was provided.

Sheriff's Department Report – Written reports were provided. Sheriff Mrotek advised that the bear hunting season is coming to an end soon and calls over the season were within the range considered normal. Chief Sajdera reported that a meeting was held with CenturyLink on final grant plans and the department has been working with the Clerk of Courts staff to implement a new electronic reporting system. The system provides a work flow tracker which should help in court case management.

Lieutenant Ripczinski advised that the County had its first fatal accident of the year, though numbers remain low. Chief Sajdera presented an RFP for Jail food service providing three different bids, including the current service. Mr. Van Etten made a motion to accept the RFP; no second followed and motion failed. The current food service at this time appears to be the one being retained for next year. The RFP follows the County protocols.

Sheriff Mrotek presented a copy of the last Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement between the County and LCO. The agreement's statistics will be reviewed by both entities before being presented next month for approval at committee and board levels.

Coroner's report – A written report was provided.

Emergency Management Department Reports – No report this month.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – Chair Schlender reported that the diversion program is going to be implemented on a slower scale than originally anticipated. JusticePoint is still running above capacity and may reallocate some of its resources. A TAD grant has been submitted for planning purposes.

Ambulance Service Department report – A written report was provided. Mr. Dunston advised that three open positions remain in the department and he is awaiting vaccine mandate ruling from CMS. The DOT completed equipment and facility inspections. Ms. Roeker reviewed the ambulance coverage policy and advised that it appears to meet statutory requirements at this time. Mr. Hoff relayed that according to other counties reporting out at the September WCA conference, Sawyer is in a better position in staffing and providing ambulance coverage for the county than other areas are at this point in time.

Department Budget Update – Mr. Keefe provided an explanation of the budget layout documents for departments that fall within the purview of the Public Safety Committee. Changes and recommendations can still be made before bringing it back to Committee and Board level next month. At this time, it appears that there will be an increase in levy limit to meet budget.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, October 28, at 9:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk