

**Minutes of the January 5<sup>th</sup> 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 @ 9:27 am
- Vice Chair: Marc Helwig
- Ed Peters
- Jason Weaver
- Marshal Savitski

**Others Present:**

Andy Albarado @ 9:21 am  
Lynn Fitch  
Joe Sajdera  
Mike Woller  
Mike Coleson

John Froemel-virtual

Greg Ripczinski

Doug Mrotek

Brandon Blicharz

John Kruk-virtual

**Call to Order** – Vice Chair Marc Helwig 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** –Tish Keahna

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

**Circuit Court Report** – Courthouse Remodel Update – Mr. Albarado advised that the project is still tracking on schedule.

**Clerk of Court Report** – A written report was provided. Ms. Kelsey advised that the funds that have been collected for victims has reached \$70,000, and that amount was paid out to victims.

**District Attorney's Office Report**

**Sheriff's Department Report** – Written reports were provided. Sheriff Mrotek advised that he has sworn in all staff once he was sworn in on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chief Sajdera reported a very busy call week during the winter storm. They finalized a maintenance agreement for the 911 system with Lumen which will now renew annually, and are currently interviewing for two dispatch positions.

**Patrol Report** - Lt. Ripczinski also reported high call volume in the patrol report.

**Jail Report** - Mr. Woller reviewed the highlights of the jail report; a comparison with year ending 2021 was provided showing a slight increase in average daily population and female incarcerations.

**Communication Systems Specialist Report** -- A written communications specialist report was provided. Mr. Albarado presented the Communications Specialist Annual Contract for renewal. Mr. Kruk reviewed the current radio system and conversion plans. A motion was made by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Savitski to approve the renewal. A roll call vote was taken and passed 5-0 with "yes" votes from Peters, Savitski, Helwig, Buckholtz and Weaver.

**Code Enforcement Specialist** – Mr. Blicharz reported a lot of calls on dogs left outside without shelter but upon further investigation, he found many do already have shelter available. A written report was provided. A rabies clinic is planned for 2023.

**Emergency Management Department Reports** – Appointment of Emergency Management Director Nicole Ripczinski – Mr. Albarado presented the appointment of Nicole Ripczinski as the Emergency Management Director. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Weaver to approve this appointment. A roll call vote was taken and passed 5-0; with “yes” votes from Weaver, Buckholtz, Helwig, Savitski and Peters. Internal postings are underway to replace Nicole’s current position in the court.

**Child Support Department Report** – Child Support MOU – Mr. Albarado advised that they are working on the document and discussions are still underway. This will return to the February agenda.

**Emergency Services** -- Ambulance Billing – A written report was provided. Mr. Froemel has a meeting scheduled with LifeQuest to review the process. They were able to provide oxygen to individuals without power during the winter storm.

Medical Examiner Report – A written report was provided.

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update** – Mr. Albarado advised they are working on by-laws and have brought in additional attendees from public health. We are funded for the drug court and diversion court which should be functioning in February. Discussion on use of opioid funds is still underway.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk