

**Minutes of the February 3rd 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
- Dale Schleeter -Vice Chair
- Ed Peters
- Jason Weaver
- Chuck Van Etten - Virtual

Others Present:

Tom Hoff
Alex Butterfield
Lynn Fitch
Doug Mrotek
Greg Ripczinski
Jeff Johnson
Joe Sajdera

Nate Dunston
Sherry Shelton
Anna Amparo
John Yackel
Steve Beining - virtual
Linda Zillmer - virtual

Call to Order – Vice 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 – Steve Beining

Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Peters to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2022, meeting; second by Mr. Van Etten. Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court Report – Honorable Judge Yackel presented information on two bills that are currently going through Wisconsin Senate committees. He advised that Mendota is currently unable to process individuals deemed with mental health issues so these individuals are housed in jails longer than they should be.

Mr. Hoff presented an update on the courthouse remodel. Bonds will be issued in March with April close dates. Construction bids are due back by February 14th. He also provided a brief update on recent newspaper articles written about a potential LCO tribal Retrocession from Public Law 280 which governs who would have jurisdiction over tribal policing and court procedures.

Clerk of Court Report – A written report was provided.

District Attorney's Office Report

Sheriff's Department Report – Written reports were provided. Sheriff Mrotek mentioned that the jail population continues to increase and could be a concern in the future. Chief Sajdera advised that they have an opening for a full-time position but have a good number of applications to consider. The Lumen Command Post system is finally getting software and hardware access so they expect the process to be completed within grant requirements. Lt. Ripczinski reported that call volume is down from this point last year but did increase since last December. Fourteen crashes were reported with one fatality to date. Lt. Johnson advised that the County is currently sending inmates to Barron County due to our overcrowding in the jail. Ms. Shelton provided a written report for Animal Control and explained that revenues are not yet fully realized and should increase by the March 31st due date for dog licenses.

Child Support – A written report was provided.

Coroner's report --

Emergency Management/Ambulance Department Reports – A written report was provided. Mr. Dunston reported that they are busy with Birkie preparations, they have four open EMT positions to fill, and the ambulance billing service has been chosen with LifeQuest becoming the new biller. Local blood banks are reporting a need for blood donations.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – Mr. Hoff reported on the progress being made at CJCC Committee level; JusicePoint is hiring another staff member who will share time between the County and LCO. Diversion and pre-trial processes are continuing to improve and though the format of the new drug court hasn't yet been determined, there are several models to consider. Judge Yackel and Sheriff Mrotek reported on two success stories of local drug rehabilitation efforts.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

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