

**Minutes of the March 4<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: **James Schlender**
- Ron Buckholtz -Vice Chair
- Ed Peters
- Dale Schleeter
- Chuck Van Etten – Virtual

**Others Present:**

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tom Hoff               | Timothy James Carroll |
| Mike Coleson           | Joe Morey             |
| Lynn Fitch             | Tim DeBrot            |
| Rebecca Roeker         | Dianah Ton            |
| Doug Mrotek            | Nate Dunston          |
| Greg Ripczinski        | Sandy Ocomoto         |
| Jeff Johnson           | Pat Sanchez           |
| Joe Sajdera            | Jim Onarheim          |
| Frank Zufall - virtual |                       |

**Call to Order** – Vice Chair Ron Buckholtz called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. Roll Call taken. Quorum was met.

**Certification of Compliance** with the open meeting law was met.

**Meeting Agenda**

**Public Comment** – Public comment was heard.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting** – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021, meeting; second by Dale Schleeter. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Circuit Court Report** – Mr. Hoff updated the Committee on the remodeling status, indicating that the Resolution to fund the construction was passed at the February County Board meeting. The County is now working with Venture contractors to finalize design and submit an RFP to choose the construction manager of the project. The courtroom facility will house other functions of the county staff in addition to courtroom services.

**Clerk of Court Report** – A written report was provided.

**District Attorney's Office Report**

**Child Support Department Report** – A written report was provided; no questions asked of Ms. Ocomoto.

**Coroner's report** -- A written report was provided. Mr. Onarheim reported that a meeting date of March 23<sup>rd</sup> is scheduled between the coroner's staff and Health & Human Services to discuss the issue of addressing hazardous living conditions within the community. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to postpone the discussion of hazardous living conditions to the April Public Safety meeting; second by Mr. Schleeter. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Emergency Management Department Reports** – A written report was provided. Ms. Sanchez advised the committee that their focus has been on providing appropriate PPE supplies to the county and in offering Covid-19 tests at the Winter Fire Hall. The reimbursement funds for providing such services has been received from the State office.

**Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update** – A Memorandum of Understanding between Lac Courte Oreille tribe and Sawyer County to identify contributions for services available to county citizens in the criminal justice system was presented for discussion. The MOU is a renewal of a previous understanding providing representation from the tribe in

addition to a \$50,000/year financial contribution for the next three years to help offset criminal justice service costs. The MOU recognizes the partnership. A motion was made by Mr. Schleeter; second by Mr. Peters to accept the MOU at this Committee level and advance it to the County Board for consideration and possible adoption. Motion carried without negative vote. A second document to amend the MOU was presented for the purpose of recognizing the sitting tribal court judge as a member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC). A motion was made by Mr. Van Etten; second by Mr. Buckholtz, to approve this amendment. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Ambulance Service Department report** – A written report was provided. Mr. Dunston advised that the ambulance service is now seeking only one full-time position to be filled. Mr. Dunston has been getting contacted by the Ashland community to seek information on our services, as much of their area is without an ambulance provider. No formal request has been made to our County representatives. The new paging program is now in service and working well.

**Sheriff's Department Report** – Written reports were provided and reviewed for the Communications Center, Patrol services, Jail services and radio communications. The Joint Power Agreements approved at last meeting are now out for signature and the 911 system is working well. Patrol reports indicate a decrease in call volume from the previous month and from the previous year. Mr. Sajdera reported that the transition in working with JusticePoint staff is going smoothly and the jail is considering opening on-sight visitation soon. A written report from Ms. Shelton regarding animal control calls was provided.

For the purpose of discussing the 2021 Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement between Sawyer County Sheriff's Office and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, a motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Peters to convene to closed session at 9:48 am. Roll Call vote was taken: "Aye" votes include Mr. Schlender, Mr. Buckholtz, Mr. Peters, Mr. Schleeter, Mr. Van Etten. No "nay" votes. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Schleeter to adjourn closed session at 10:04 am. A voice vote was taken and motion carried without negative vote.

In open session, Ms. Tonn presented the Law Enforcement agreement for consideration. Chief DeBrot explained that the agreement enables Sawyer County deputies to write citations into the tribal court, forwarding required information that may result in a tribal court citation. Mr. Van Etten made the motion to accept the amendments as written and to move the Agreement forward to the County Board for consideration and possible adoption; second by Mr. Schleeter. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, April 8, at 9:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 am  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk