

**Minutes of the April 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
- Jason Weaver
- Marshal Savitski

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Joe Sajdera
Mike Woller
John Froemel

Doug Mrotek
John Yackel
Kay Wilson - virtual
Linda Zillmer

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 the previous meeting dated: March 2, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Peters Second by: Mr. Savitski
Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court --

Judge's Report – Judge Yackel advised that they are in the process of moving the chambers from the old room to the new. There is a week-long trial set to begin on April 17th that will likely impact the traffic in the building; with an April 24th potential start date in the new room. Monica Isham was elected as Judge Branch 2, and he has contacted her about transition plans.

Courthouse Remodel Update – Mr. Albarado advised that there was a delay in the AV equipment. The anticipated turnover date is the 24th of April. The Sheriff's Department is starting to move in their new offices. A review of security procedures was conducted. The outside area likely won't be turned over until the middle of summer.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided.

Sheriff's Department Report --

Communication Center Report – Sheriff Mrotek reviewed their transition progress into the new offices and staff roles. Chief Sajdera reported that the communications center is still facing staff shortages; one new trainee should transition into place soon. The joint powers agreements have been sent out; he reviewed the call volume.

Patrol Report – Sheriff Mrotek reviewed patrol statistics including 812 calls with the public. A full-time road deputy has been hired.

Jail Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Lt. Woller. All females are still housed in Barron County. Newly arrested individuals had an 82% unemployment rate at the time of arrest. Mr. Albarado reviewed the upcoming legislation change that will allow additional staff to enter the protected status for retirement.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – Sheriff Mrotek met with the Washburn County Sheriff, and they are working together to transition communication systems that will eliminate the patch and go to Law D.

Code Enforcement – A written report was provided.

Emergency Management --

Medical Examiner – Written reports were provided. High water signs are going up now, as we expect fast snow melt starting next week. Some of the emergency cleanup funds are starting to arrive for municipalities, but cleanup continues on roadside.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided.

Child Support MOU – Mr. Albarado advised the agreement is not yet finalized.

Emergency Services --

Ambulance Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Froemel advised they are continuing to recruit and have hired four EMTs but remains more difficult with paramedics. The EMS conference was a success where he included a “move to Sawyer County” video displaying for recruitment. They continue to teach by-stander CPR classes. A new truck is now in service, and it being a licensure renewal year, he and staff are working on training.

Town of Edgewater Request – Mr. Albarado reviewed the Town of Edgewater request that was brought to committee in March. The new request is to use their levy amount pay for their Birchwood contract. This would result in a budget shortage to the County. Mr. Froemel relayed the current process of providing service to this area and his recent discussions with Vince at the Edgewater service to offer alternatives. No action was taken.

Ambulance Billing – A written report was provided. Mr. Froemel reviewed the charts in the presentation that was provided. There is still approximately \$1M outstanding from the old company, and we are currently collecting 40-50% of what is billed with our new service. As some of the ambulances are getting retired, they will be stocking ambulances differently to save costs on supplies.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -

Mr. Albarado advised that the drug treatment court is getting up and running. The diversion program through JusticePoint has full caseloads.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, May 4th at 9:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk