

**Minutes of the June 1st 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 - virtual
- Marshal Savitski

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Joe Sajdera
Mike Woller
Nicole Ripczinski
Sandy Okamoto

John Froemel
Greg Ripczinski
Doug Mrotek
Brandon Blicharz
Marge Kelsey
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: May 4, 2023

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

Circuit Court --

Judge's Report –

Courthouse Remodel Update – Mr. Albarado advised that the east parking lot is making progress and may be in use at the end of the month.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided. Ms. Kelsey advised that two jury trials have been completed in the new courtroom.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Communication Center Report – A written report was provided. The comms center recently moved one of the four training dispatchers to regular part-time to begin picking up shifts; three of the four are still in training phases. Patrol is still assisting in filling the voids and training in dispatch. Plans are moving forward with ESI/NextGen 911 services.

Patrol Report – A written report was provided. Patrol call volume increased from last month's report to 852; citation and warnings statistics were provided. Area LEO participated in a local softball event with the Hayward Community School District to benefit and raise awareness for ALS and it was well-received. Firearms and emergency vehicle operations training will take place soon. Lt. Ripczinski advised that schools are preparing for summer break and the department is preparing for summer events in the area.

Jail Report – A written report was provided. The current 2023 average daily population is 70.84 with the month of May being 67.25. Current inmate unemployment rate is 77%. Lt. Woller reviewed the statistics for the committee.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – Sheriff Mrotek advised that they have been continuing to work with Mr. Kruk on improvements in the radio system; they are still working with the State on WisComm.

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided. Late fees have started for dog licenses so revenue has begun to decrease. Admissions to the shelter remained steady, with most being returned to owners. Mr. Blicharz advised that there has been a rise in the number of calls for dogs needing vet care. The shelter building has received some improvements. Complaints for zoning and public health are increasing with the summer month activity.

Emergency Management --

A written report was provided. Ms. Ripczinski advised that local flooding did not meet county-wide disaster amount to apply for any grant funds, and local towns/villages were provided with information in regards to the DDA and monies possibly available through the DOT. They continue to work on winter storm cleanup efforts, and will conduct a tabletop exercise with the Sawyer County HazMat Team in the near future.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided and shows that there are currently 1130 open cases; April support due is in the amount of \$864,022.24 and amount collected is \$615,035.16. A Child Support MOU with LCO was presented by Mr. Albarado, and a motion was made by Mr. Peters to approve this MOU; second by Mr. Helwig. An electronic vote was taken and passed 4-0 without negative vote.

Emergency Services --

Ambulance Report and Ambulance Billing – A written report was provided. Mr. Froemel reviewed the transfer stats and open positions in the department. Interviews are pending. Training requirements for staff are complete and they have been heavily recruiting for EMR positions. LCO will soon be offering the EMT Basic course at the college. Billing collections were reviewed.

Town of Edgewater Request – This item was brought forward from last month. No additional update; may need to be addressed at budget time.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -

Mr. Albarado advised that activities are somewhat limited until the second judge is in place in August. There is a waitlist yet on cases in JusticePoint due to high volume.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, July 6th at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk