

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

Others Present:

Tom Hoff
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Doug Mrotek
Joe Sajdera

Nate Dunston
Pat Sanchez
John Yackel
Marge Kelsey
Mark Kelsey

Call to Order –Chair James Schlender 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 – Mark Kelsey

Minutes from Previous Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Schleeter. Motion carried without negative vote.

Circuit Court Report – Honorable Judge Yackel advised that due to the State lifting the mandated mask order, the order was lifted for Sawyer County Courtroom, as well. The court system staff are getting ready to meet with Venture Architects on June 23rd for the next phase of planning the construction/remodel project. He reported that drug use/trafficking seems to be on the rise in Sawyer County.

Courthouse Remodel Update -- Mr. Hoff reported that the ad hoc committee will be meeting next week to review the Venture Architects contract and Miron Construction contract, if available, and stated that work on California Avenue will be delayed approximately two weeks.

Clerk of Court Report – A written report was provided. Ms. Kelsey advised that since the mask mandate has been lifted, the reserving of additional meeting rooms to accommodate overflow courtroom capacity is also lifted and the rooms are available again.

District Attorney's Office Report

Sheriff's Department Report – Written reports were provided. Chief Sajdera reported that the work for the final details on the 911 answering system is being completed. One full-time officer resigned and is being filled with a part-time patrol deputy, leaving a part-time position open.

Jail Report - Chief Sajdera stated that the jail population is currently at 85 inmates with 14 of them being held for state facilities.

Sawyer County Communications Specialist – A written report was provided.

Patrol Report – Sheriff Mrotek stated that 2020 was a record number of traffic fatalities, and as of May 25, 2021, the county has had 88 traffic crashes with zero fatalities year-to-date. A Covid testing system is now in place for any incoming bookings to help isolate exposure prior to entering the jail. Sheriff Mrotek read a letter of commendation for the service Chief Sajdera has provided to the County for performance above and beyond expectations. He also commended all staff for working short-handed. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Schleeter to advance this letter to the June Board meeting, including recognition of entire Sheriff's Department staff. Motion carried without negative vote.

Coroner's report --

Emergency Management Department Reports – A written report was provided. Ms. Sanchez reported on the heavy rain washing out several county roads in May; the DOT will reimburse the County for 75% of the repair work costs. Covid testing at the Winter Fire Hall has now ended, and all hazmat plans have been completed.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update – Mr. Schlender advised that JusticePoint is running at full capacity.

Ambulance Service Department report – A written report was provided. Mr. Dunston stated that three offers have been extended for full-time positions leaving one full-time paramedic position open. The department is getting requests to service local events again, and there were 1,212 patient contacts in the month of May. Volume is picking up.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be July 1, at 9:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk