

**Minutes of the August 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
- Vice Chair: Marc Helwig
- Ed Peters
- Jason Weaver - virtual
- Marshal Savitski

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Joe Sajdera
Julia Lyons
John Kruk - virtual

Greg Ripczinski
John Froemel
Nicole Ripczinski
Marge Kelsey
Joyce Knowlton

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 –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: July 6, 2023

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

Circuit Court --

Judge's Report –

Courthouse Remodel Update – Mr. Albarado advised that the remodeled courtroom is nearly finished; the staff and new judge will be able to move into their quarters on Monday. August 13th the room will be turned over.

Clerk of Court's Office Reports -

A written report was provided. The July jury trial was cancelled but there are ten scheduled for August. Revenue collected through the SDC and TRIP/DOR sites is \$13,994.03. Wage income assignment receipted \$246.91. Ms. Kelsey reported that the office has taken on the duty of Probate and is working with a retired Register of Probate for transition assistance. They will need to replace one staff member who is leaving.

Sheriff's Department Report –

Communication Center Report – Ms. Ripczinski provided an overview. There are three full-time positions open in dispatch; applications are coming in. Communication with the Sawyer County Ambulance Service regarding Edgewater Township are continuing and efforts are being made to provide the most reliable and effective response as possible. As of 6/28/23, there have been 10,410 total calls in dispatch. New dispatch headsets have arrived and will be installed soon.

Patrol Report – A written report was provided identifying total CAD calls and the breakout of calls by nature of call. A breakout of calls by month/nature was also included. Lt. Ripczinski advised there have been a total of 30 crashes with four fatalities to date this year.

Jail Report – A written report was provided. The average daily population total for July was 83.41 with 1 individual on Huber privileges. The inmate unemployment rate is 82.6%. Chief Sajdera advised that female inmates have returned to the Sawyer County Jail last week.

Communication Systems Specialist Report – Mr. Kruk provided an update of system progress. Equipment damaged during the lightning strike has been delivered and one additional receiver site at the Loretta/Draper area has been turned on. They are still awaiting equipment to interface into the computer counsel and will begin testing these systems next week. He provided an update of equipment and plans for the Loretta/Draper area; he had a meeting with the Town of Draper Fire Chief and Municipal Clerk to discuss.

Town of Draper Emergency Services Communications Issues – An email from the Town of Draper and a Resolution #12-2023 Resolve Emergency Communications Issues were presented for review. This item will return on the September agenda.

Code Enforcement Specialist – A written report was provided identifying calls received, revenue collected and shelter occupancy rates. In June there were 21 dogs admitted to the pound and \$980 revenue collected.

Emergency Management --

A written report was provided. The Winter School active shooter event will be held August 22nd, and a HazMat full scale exercise is scheduled for the end of October-November.

Child Support Department Report --

A written report was provided identifying 1,132 open cases and total June support due at \$1,121,602.59; total June support collected was \$802, 408.84.

Emergency Services --

Ambulance Report and Ambulance Billing – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Froemel. The July run total to-date is 1,158 compared to 1,089 in 2022. Crews rendered aid to 33 emergency calls over the 4-day July 4th weekend. Coverage over the Musky Fest and LWC went smoothly and without incident. A Calls by Towns and chart of calls were also provided. They now have a method to track Narcan use and will provide a report sometime in the future. The department is almost at full staff and community CPR training has been conducted. Hayward High School is starting an EMR class this year. Mr. Albarado reviewed the highlights of the ambulance billing report; the same report that goes to Finance Committee each month.

Town Ambulance Contract Update – Mr. Albarado advised that they have visited with the town of Birchwood and Bass Lake; no decisions have been made yet. They will meet with the town of Stone Lake next week.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update -

Review/Approve Draft Budget for Use of Funds – Joyce Knowlton reported that Sawyer County is second in the State (2nd to Milwaukee) for overdose deaths. The cooperative team that has been formed has been meeting and trying to educate the community on steps to reduce this statistic. More than 200 people have taken Narcan training since the end of May. Newspaper interviews are in process; they have goals to meet with youth clubs. Julia Lyons provided a 2023 Substance Misuse proposed budget using Opioid Settlement and grant funds, totaling \$169,552 with funds yet to be received in 2023/2024. They are also developing a website and will be able to receive donations through their program. A motion was made to approve this proposed budget use for opioid settlement funds and move it through committees by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Savitski. A voice vote was taken and passed 4-1; with “nay” vote from Mr. Weaver.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, September 7th at 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk