Minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety Committee.
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
September 3, 2020; 8:30 a.m.; Assembly Room; Sawyer County Courthouse

Members present: Helen Dennis, Ron Buckholtz, James Schlender, Dale Schleeter, Chuck Van Etten-Virtual

Others present: Carol Williamson, Tom Hoff, Pat Sanchez-V, Jeff Johnson, Doug Mrotek, Greg Ripczinski, Marge Kelsey, Mike Coleson, John Yackel, Terrell Boetcher-V, Linda Zillmer-V, Jesse Boetcher, Rebecca Roeker-V, Mike Keefe, Rose Lillyroot-V, Bruce Poquette, Nate Dunston

Chair James Schlender called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Motion by Buckholtz, 2nd by Dennis, to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting. Motion carried

Chair Schlender presented a Proclamation honoring the life of Richard Charles Welsch. Motion by Dennis, 2nd by Buckholtz, to forward to the full County Board. Motion carried

Judge Yackel reported to the Committee. Concerned with equal application of the law regarding masking orders throughout the state. This will need review.

Clerk of Court Marge Kelsey provided a written report to the Committee. Kelsey updated the Committee on the need for additional space for jury trials. The Committee received the Clerk of Court 2021 Budget.

District Attorney Bruce Poquette reported to the Committee. The District Attorney’s office is at full staff; a ½ FTE is added in the 2021 budget.

Child Support Director Sandy Okamoto provided a written report to the Committee. The Committee received a copy of the Governors Proclamation. Ms. Okamoto has served Sawyer County as Child Support Director for 25 years.

Sheriff Doug Mrotek reported to the Committee. Sawyer County averages two traffic fatalities per year. There have been nine fatalities already in 2020. Sherriff Mrotek and Emergency Manager Pat Sanchez will report to the County Board on September 17 regarding the search and rescue of a three year old in Winter.

Chief Deputy Joe Sajdera provided a written report to the Committee. Dispatch received 5008 calls in August and 1929 calls for service. Hired a new employee, Danielle Church. Have access to the Hayward Schools camera system in the event of an emergency. Will share annual maintenance fee with the Ambulance and fire departments for the Spillman Module Rip & Run and Active 911 programs. This Phone Ap allows information to be disseminated via email or phone.

Lieutenant Greg Ripczinski provided the patrol report. Responded to 1159 calls in July. Cranberry Festival is canceled; there will be two officers in the Stone Lake area patrolling on October 3. Will receive $35,000 from a traffic safety grant. Supervisors Dennis and Buckholtz thanked law enforcement for their service.

Jail Administrator Jeff Johnson provided a jail report. August 2020 average daily population was 84.08 inmates; 15.67 females and 68.40 males. 5 inmates on electronic monitoring. 1 inmate housed out of county. Jail inspection went very well.

Animal Control Officer Sherrie Shelton provided a written report to the Committee.

Accounting Manager Mike Keefe provided the 2021 Sheriff budget to the Committee. Budget includes an increase in contracted medical services.
The Committee discussed Chapter 3 of the Public Health Ordinance. A local ordinance is required in order for a local Public Health Officer to enforce an order. The Committee and Corp Council Rebecca Roeker discussed various changes to language in the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance requires County Board approval of an order issued by the Public Health Officer. Currently the PHO can issue an order without County Board approval. The Ordinance is also on the Health and Human Services agenda September 8. Motion by Buckholtz, 2nd by Dennis, to send Chapter 3 Public Health Ordinance back to Corp Council for revisions. Motion carried. Roeker may confer with Administrator Hoff, Public Safety Chair Schlender, Health and Human Services Chair Schleeter, and County Board Chair Shuman on changes to the ordinance.

Emergency Management Director Pat Sanchez presented a written report.

Communication Specialist John Kruk provided a written report.

There is a decrease in the Emergency Management budget due to health insurance. The Communication budget is being moved under the Sheriff’s Department.

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council will meet September 15. Kathy McCoy and Gary Hilgendorf were appointed as citizens to the CJCC. The budget presented is based on 2020. The 2021 budget will include services provided by Justice Point.

Ambulance Director Nate Dunston provided a written report to the Committee. Supplies are getting harder to get. The billing company that does the ambulance billing sold. Call volume is up.

The Committee discussed EMS services to neighboring communities and the methodology used to determine a per diem per resident.

Ms Dennis left the meeting at 10:22.

Adjourned 10:38 am

Minutes prepared by Carol Williamson