



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wise at 6:00 p.m. at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, Richard Meyer Room.

PRESENT: Chairman Jim Wise, Supervisor Bryan Stafford, Supervisor Conley Hanson, Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke, and Supervisor James Ponzer

ALSO PRESENT: John Matz, Sheriff; Todd Christopherson, Chief Deputy; Nathan Struensee, Public Safety Application Administrator/GIS; Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel; Catherine Scherer, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Eric Sparr, District Attorney; Christian Gossett, Assistant District Attorney; Cheryl Brehmer, Medical Examiner; Bryan Keberlein, Circuit Court Judge; Jon Doemel, County Executive; Eric Rasmussen, Emergency Management Director; Deb Martin, Oshkosh; Mike Bonertz, Menasha; and Christopher Blake, Oshkosh

B. Approval of Minutes

1. July 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to approve the meeting minutes for July 1, 2024. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. 5-0.

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

Deb Martin, Oshkosh - Voiced concerns about two new ordinances regarding camping and loitering. There is regional transportation for this area, but it does not operate during second and third shifts of employment. This means some people have no way to get to their jobs.

Mike Bonertz, Menasha - He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Balance of State Continuation of Care who monitors funding provided by HUD for homeless programs. He is strongly opposed to the criminalization of homelessness. He feels the ordinances meet these criteria. He asked to please remove these ordinances from implementation.

Christopher Blake, Oshkosh - Voiced concerns with two ordinances being represented at this meeting. He is involved with ESTHER. He is a Board member for Homelessness Advocacy for ESTHER. Circles of Support is another organization that he is involved with that provides services for the homeless.

Christian Gossett, Assistant District Attorney - Speaking in favor of ordinances. Two different groups of people in this conversation. You should trust the people that protect you and use these ordinances to enforce the law.

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Hanson noted that the Rules committee will be meeting at 4:30 on September 10, 2024. He would like to avoid items going back and forth from committee to committee. (Ad-Hoc Committee and JPS)

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Wise asked County Executive Jon Doemel to speak regarding the budget meetings coming up.

Executive Doemel stated that this is the first year using Priority Based Budgeting. They will be taking a deep dive into the programs and noting what it costs and what the expenses and revenues are. Some will be easy, some not so much. The Judiciary and Public Safety Committee will hear budget items at their meeting in October.

Executive Doemel was asked to report on the Orin King building camping zoning ordinance in the City of Oshkosh that does not allow tents to go up. He expressed his feelings regarding this situation and still be able to abide by the laws.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Update from the District Attorney's Office - District Attorney Eric Sparr
District Attorney, Eric Sparr updated the committee on current trials. He noted that currently there are no sexual assault cases.
 - *One trial involved operating while intoxicated. It was their 6th offense. This was observed by a citizen, not an officer. There are statutory mandates as to how long one will be confined. Sentencing will be in October.*
 - *Another trial for a stabbing case in Oshkosh which included non-life-threatening injuries. The defendant was sentenced to an 8-year prison sentence.*
 - *Another trial where a defendant strangled and killed his girlfriend. He was sentenced to 50 years in prison, 30 years in confinement, and 20 years of supervision.*

Drug Court Graduation - There were several County board supervisors in attendance.

November 7th will be the next graduation day for the Drug Court.

Training - The DA's office is providing training with Aurora Saint Nurses who deal with sexual assault victims.

Staffing - Currently the office is fully staffed with attorneys. There is a receptionist leaving, an intern will be filling that position. A part-time investigator position needs to be filled yet.

Attorney Sparr then took questions from the committee.

2. Update from the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office - Sheriff John Matz

- 2025 Budget (Non Specific)

Sheriff Matz provided a budget update to the committee. The large increase is reflected by the labor increases for 2025. Changes to the Sheriff's Budget include a new Information Technology inter-fund budget. There will be operational increases, which include the jail medical contract and Solutions Recovery. Some of this can be offset by grants. They will be replacing cameras in the squad cars. They will be replacing the Controller in the Jail that controls the doors and cameras and everything electronic in the jail.

- Ice Boat Update

Ice Boat Updates - The Sheriff's Department received \$990,000 to be applied to the new ice boats. Two will be completed by Christmas, and the third one after the first of the year. These will replace the Neenah-Menasha, the Oshkosh, and the Winneconne-Poygan ice boats.

- 988 Program

988 calls - This is software that benefits the Sheriff's Department Dispatch calls. The Dispatcher talks to the caller to determine what help is needed and who will be responding to that call.

- EAA After Action Review

After action review for EAA - Event lasts 10 days. The Sheriff's Department provided 11 deputies, 7 reserves and 3 Dive and Rescue team members. This cost is fully reimbursed by EAA. EAA had 686,000 attendees. The Sheriff's Department issued 2 citations, 2 custodial arrests, and had one fatal airplane crash.

- Other Items As They Arise

Jail Count - There are 242 in jail; 62 males and 18 females currently in the STAR program. The Sheriff's Department is applying for more grants for this program.

Jail Washing Machine Purchase - The cost is less than \$40,000 for a commercial-sized heavy-duty washing machine. It would cost \$6,000 to fix, and the machine is due for rotation.

CrossRoads 41 - No issues with Crossroads. The Sheriff feels that it was extremely well run. He was impressed with the new management group. There were approximately 18,000 in attendance.

Sheriff Matz then took questions from the Committee.

3. Update from the Medical Examiner's Office - Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer

- Suicide and Overdose Data Updates

Overdoses - The current overdose cases is 15, with 8 pending cases. She believes that not all of these cases will be overdoses. In previous years, Fentanyl was between 60 & 70% of the cause of overdoses. Currently, the rate is at 30%. Cocaine overdoses are roughly the same with Methamphetamine overdoses going up a little.

Suicides - There are 19 currently recorded suicides. Normally, this number is around 14. Cheryl is working with someone from New Mental Health Connection. She reported that of the 19 recorded suicides - 26% were by firearm; and 42% were by hanging or asphyxiation.

- Progress of the Morgue Project/Operations

Morgue - They have broken ground, and the stick is forming up. They should have been in the second week of February, hoping for spring.

Her 2024 budget is looking good for this year compared to other years. On Friday there will be a resolution going to the ARPA commission for two new vans for transportation.

Medical Examiner Brehmer then took questions from the Committee.

4. Update from the Winnebago County Emergency Management Office - Director Eric Rasmussen

Eric Rasmussen, Emergency Management Director noted that his office is always open for conversation and questions. He has 2.8 people in his office, and they are a 24/7-hour response agency. His office is responsible for operating the Emergency Operations Center, supporting all first responders in their fields, and helping them to get the job done. His office is heavily grant funded.

They surveyed 75 members of the community to ask what they felt were the weaknesses in Winnebago County for emergencies. From these surveys, they can plan their training exercises.

They are in constant communication with the National Weather Service to be able to report severe weather and response for that type of weather.

They have attended numerous training sessions and provided training sessions that include Joint Information Center with Calumet County, Event Security Planning Training, a Mass Casualty Incident Class training, and a Measles-based exercise in Outagamie County.

They do a lot of planning and coordinating response efforts for large events which include EAA and CrossRoads 41.

Upcoming Event that Emergency Management will be attending: Wisconsin Emergency Management conference in Stevens Point

This spring, they were awarded an Exercise Grant for training on the Homeless Shelter and the Day-by-Day Warming Shelter. He will be working with Public Health and Human Services to do some training on working with the shelters.

His office is working on facilitating some recovery-focused exercises with the City of Oshkosh. They work with the municipalities to help them with some emergency operation center training and work with their department heads on how they would manage and respond to an incident.

Director Rasmussen noted that his new employee, John Jones, is taking a lot of classes to become a Wisconsin Certified Emergency Manager.

Director Rasmussen then took questions from the committee.

5. Update from the Corporation Counsel Office - Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller
Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel, is happy to report Liam Kinderman was born on September 4th.
For staffing, her office is down 2/3 of paralegal support. Andrew Kasper started his paternity leave right after Labor Day. She has been able to obtain some additional part-time help. One of her attorneys, Kirsten Navarette, became a Court Commissioner. They will be trying to fill this position.
Updates - Mental commitments continue to increase. As of August 23rd, 183 new mental health cases have been opened.
Jury Trial for an Extension - found need for extension
Guardian Cases - As of August 26th, they have 105 cases
CHIPS Cases - As of the end of August, they have 36 new cases
Briefs - They have 6 responses for petitions to review
Appellate Briefs - They have 2 cases filed with the Supreme Court
Corporation Counsel, Mary Anne Mueller feels that her 2024 budget is in good shape. Revenue in excess of \$200,000 for mental commitments from out of county cases that Winnebago County can charge for.
Drafted 132 pieces of legislation.
Attended 234 meetings, that does not include committee, commission and county board meetings.
Reviewed 419 contracts.
Chapter 51 Cases - County has to file a petition to prove that the individual is mentally ill, what the proper treatment will be, and whether or not the individual is dangerous.
980 meeting will be held in 2 weeks. There is one person to be released soon. The County does have sufficient housing for this person.

Corporation Counsel Mueller then took questions from the committee.

6. Introduction of the new director, Kate Zurn, from the Conflict Resolution Center.
Kate Zurn, newly appointed Conflict Resolution Center Executive Director, introduced herself.
Kate explained what her department does and is responsible for. They help people overcome big, difficult conflicts that are consuming their lives and help them restore a peaceful, better path moving forward.
For the first six months of the year, they have conducted 297 mediation cases, with 203 agreements. This represents 68% of the mediation cases resulting in agreements.
They had 137 eviction cases with 105 agreements. There have been 77% of the eviction cases resulting in agreements which meant that the Tenant paid the landlord the money that was due, and the Tenant was able to stay in their household. So far, 47 families have been able to stay in their homes.
Family Court case mediation mostly involves property division. They have had 20 cases, with 19 agreements. This represents 95% of the family court cases ending with agreements.
Conflict Resolution is focusing on continuity and improvement, and staffing stabilization.
They are here to help and are open to answering questions. They are thankful for the support from the county to allow them to give this service to the community.

Conflict Resolution Executive Director Zurn then took questions from the Committee.

7. Amend Winnebago County General Code Chapter 9 to Create Section 9.42 Governing Loitering in Winnebago County
Supervisor Hanson made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to approve the amendment to the Winnebago County General Code Chapter 9 to Create Section 9.42 Governing Loitering in Winnebago County.
Supervisor Hanson does not wish to bring this forward. He wishes that there was no addiction, homelessness, or mental health in Winnebago County. He expressed the reason why he is bringing this forward.
Corporation Counsel is concerned about the jurisdiction in this amendment, she feels this is overreach. The County can't impose its will on what others want to do.

Corporation Counsel would like to have Line 69 read as follows: "Be It Further Ordained by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that Section 9.42 of the Winnebago County General Code shall apply to all Winnebago County property." Strike "in and outside the jurisdiction of municipalities, villages and towns." She would not give her blessings on how it is currently worded.

Executive Doemel commented on the execution of the ordinance. He feels the loitering ordinance is the harder of the two ordinances. He touched on situations that he has had to deal with in the County owned buildings. Executive Doemel feels that he cannot support the ordinance as currently written, but with some changes, he might be able to support it.

Sheriff Matz has seen a three times increase in homelessness in the last couple of years. He commented about the incidents that have taken place, and he feels that the ordinances should be put in place for Winnebago County owned property. There are services provided by the County that are being affected by the actions that have been taking place.

District Attorney Eric Sparr commented on instances that he has seen and noted his feelings about the ordinances. He noted incidents that have taken place right outside his building.

Chairman Wise voiced his concerns regarding this ordinance.

Corporation Counsel, Mary Anne Mueller, noted that this will have to be vetted by the Facilities and Property Management Committee.

Supervisor Stafford moved to amend the resolution to remove part of line 69 to read as follows; "Be It Further Ordained by Winnebago County Board Supervisors that Section 9.42 of the Winnebago County General Code shall apply to all Winnebago County owned property only. Seconded by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke. CARRIED BY Voice Vote. ABSTAIN 1 - Hanson.

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, 2nd by Supervisor Ponzer to Call the Question. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE.

Vote on Ordinance as Amended - AYES: 2 - Hanson and Stafford; NAYES: 3 - Wise, Hancock-Cooke and Ponzer. FAILED. 2 - 3

8. Amend Winnebago County General Code Chapter 9 to Create Section 9.43 Governing Camping in Winnebago County

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke to approve this Ordinance - Amending Winnebago County General Code Chapter 9 to Create 9.43 Governing Camping in Winnebago County. Friendly amendment by Supervisor Hanson to amend Line 15 to read as follows: "to address camping on Winnebago County property." Line 71 to read as follows: "...shall apply to Winnebago County property." Line 70 should read section 9.43. Supervisor Hancock-Cooke asked for clarification about line 37, should line 37 and 38 be stricken. It was decided to have Line 37 read as follows: "Camping prohibited on Winnebago County property except as follows". Supervisor Hanson agreed to include this with his friendly amendment.

Chairman Wise questioned Line 25, 26 & 27 regarding campers. He asked about a motorhome in a driveway. This would only involve situations on Winnebago County owned property.

Supervisor Hancock-Cooke asked if this ordinance would need to be presented to the Facilities and Property Management committee. The committee agreed that it would need to go to the Facilities' committee for consideration.

Friendly amendment on Line 4 in the title of the ordinance to include "Camping on Winnebago County property".

Supervisor Ponzer questioned Line 32 regarding right of way. Another friendly amendment to strike lines 30-34 by Supervisor Hanson. Item F would now be item E.

Vote on Resolution with Friendly Amendments – Ayes: 4 – Nays: 1 - Ponzer.

This item will be forwarded to the Facilities and Property Management Committee.

9. Amend Winnebago County General Code Chapter 12 to adopt Wisconsin Public Records Board Retention Schedules and other changes recommended in recodification meetings
Assistant Corporation Counsel, Cathy Scherer, explained the process that has taken place during the recodification process for public records retention. The benefit is to update and to be comprehensive. This item should be updated every ten years. Department heads have expressed the need for this to be updated and passed.

Discussion and questions were asked to determine the length that a record (video) must be kept and matters on confidential records. Personal matters in records would have to be redacted. Departments would need to discuss with Corporation Counsel. Discussion was held regarding how to forward this on to the County Board, possibly send it as a link and let the Supervisors determine if they need it printed. Motion by Supervisor Stafford and seconded to approve. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE.

G. Presentations

There were no presentations.

H. Next Meeting Date

Monday, October 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. *Deadline for agenda items will be Monday, September 23, 2024. Please forward those requests to Chairman Jim Wise for approval. Thank you.

I. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to adjourn.

CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.