



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Wise at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard Meyer Room, Sheriff's Department, 4311 Jackson Street, Oshkosh.

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

Also Present: Sheriff John Matz, Lieutenant Amber Rozek, Sergeant Megan Kamien, Judge Michael Rust, District Attorney Eric Sparr, Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, Child Support Director Julie Mabry, Human Services Interim Director Renee Soroko, Human Services Janet Rohloff, Human Services Heather Foust, County Board Supervisor Morris Cox, Residents - Deb Martin and Rev. Ellen Rasmussen, and County Clerk Julie Barthels

Via TEAMS: Chief Deputy Tim Eichman and Public Health Director Doug Gieryn

B. Approval of Minutes

1. December 1, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to approve the minutes for the December 1, 2025, Judiciary & Public Safety Committee meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

There were no public comments.

Chairman Wise noted that he will be adding Winnebago County Board of Supervisors Rules 6.4 and 6.5 that pertain to public comments to the agenda in the future.

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

There were no communications to be shared from committee members.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Wise had no comments for his report.

F. Department Reports

1. Office of Corporation Counsel

- PFAS Litigation

Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller provided an update on PFAS (Fluoropolymers) Litigation.

- *This product is used to control and extinguish aviation fuel.*
- *Andy Phillips, Attolles Law, reached out to all 72 counties in Wisconsin to see if they would be interested in pursuing the litigation regarding the usage of PFAS. Attolles Law has hooked up with National Counsel to prosecute PFAS Litigation.*
- *The feeling is that many companies used this product knowing there were risks and dangers involved with this product. That it was harmful to humans and the*

environment. The use of this product started showing signs in the early 1980s that exposure to PFAS was linked to health issues.

- This topic will be presented to the county board as an opportunity to enter into litigation with the PFAS companies.
- Two law firms, Barron & Budd, out of Texas, and Cossich and Sumich, out of Louisiana, are pursuing litigation against manufacturers of PFAS. The County would need to file a claim, have the soil tested to prove that it is contaminated, and then they could join as a party to the complaint. The County would sign off on a retainer letter that states the firms representing them would get 25% of the gross recovery. The firms would cover the cost of expert witnesses and the deposition costs.

Corporation Counsel, Mary Anne Mueller, took questions from the committee members.

2. Sheriff's Report

- Staffing Updates
- DHS MOU
- DOC reimbursement

Sheriff Matz provided the committee with an update from his department.

- *Staffing Updates:* The Sheriff's Department has had a number of retirements; those positions have been filled by promotions within the department. There are ten vacancies in the corrections division. There will be six deputies starting between January 19th and March 2nd. They have interviews scheduled on January 8th to fill the remaining four positions. Three corrections officers were moved from patrol to cover overtime. Three interns have completed their training, with 6 more in the program. There are 277 inmates currently incarcerated. The Department has had to open and close the C Pod. There are three vacancies in Dispatch. They have interviews scheduled for January 2nd.
- *DHS MOU* — Sheriff Matz noted that they have a jail-based competency restoration memorandum of understanding (MOU) that he has signed for many years. This is for people who are waiting to go to Mendota or the Resource Center. The people start receiving treatment while still in the jail as they wait for an open spot at the other facilities. The County is not reimbursed for the time that these people are in jail while receiving treatment. They should be receiving \$60.00 per day for services provided.
- *Lieutenant Amber Rozek* provided information regarding the MOU. As of November 21, 2025, they had five inmates awaiting a bed at Mendota or Winnebago Mental Health. There are three inmates remaining to be placed. They have been in the county jail for a total of 369 days. Lt. Rozek calculated the money that could have been reimbursed by the state.
- *DOC reimbursement* — During COVID-19, the Sheriff's Department saw wait times to get inmates that were sentenced to prison, into prison. There were wait times of sixty days plus because of not enough room in the prisons. Normally, it would be within ten days when an inmate can be transported. The Sheriff's Department will be charging the State to cover expenses incurred during this wait time.

Sheriff Matz took questions from the committee members.

G. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. CY26 State County Child Support Contract for Winnebago County

Child Support Director, Julie Mabry, brought forward a contract for State County Child Support to the committee. All contracts will need to go through the Corporation Counsel office for approval. This is a \$1.5 million dollar contract to reimburse work that is being performed by the Child Support office. There are State and Federal matches.

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to approve the resolution for the Current Year 2026 County Child Support Contract for Winnebago County. Vote: CARRIED. (5-0)

2. **Departmental Realignment of CONNECT Program from the Winnebago County Department of Human Services to the District Attorney's Office**

District Attorney, Eric Sparr, presented the realignment of the Connect program from the Winnebago County Department of Human Services to the District Attorney's office.

- *The District Attorney's office has a position description for the supervisor that will be overseeing the Connect Program.*
- *The DA's office is working with the Information Technology Department to figure out case management software. Currently, test results are only accessible by Human Services. They are working with IT to come up with a program for integration with Human Services.*

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to approve the Departmental Realignment of CONNECT Program from the Winnebago County Department of Human Services to the District Attorney's Office. Vote: CARRIED. (5-0)

H. Presentations

1. **Sheriff Presentation on ICE Statistics**

Sheriff Matz provided a presentation on ICE statistics.

- *Delegation of Immigration Authority Section 287(g) Immigration and Nationality Act — The 287(g) program allows ICE, through the delegation of specified immigration officer duties, to enhance collaboration with state and local law enforcement partners to protect the homeland through the arrest and removal of aliens who undermine the safety of our nation's communities and the integrity of U.S. immigration laws.*
- *There are three program models: Jail Enforcement Model (JEM); Task Force Model (TFM); and Warrant Service Officer (WSO). Winnebago County only has a Warrant Service Officer.*
- *Lieutenant Amber Rozek explained the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office Warrant Service Officers Program. Sixteen deputies have completed the seven-hour online training course and were credentialed as Warrant Service Officers during 2025. These deputies are authorized under federal authority and a MOU to serve the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Warrant for Arrest of Alien Form I-200 when local charges or sentences have been resolved. There are no financial incentives for this program, and the training was free and completed on duty time.*
- *Sheriff Matz provided 2025 annual ICE statistics for Winnebago County. He noted the municipalities where the arrests took place.*
- *Sargeant Megan Kamien explained the 17 ICE detainees that were placed in 2025. She noted that being transported by ICE doesn't automatically result in deportation.*
- *SCAAP Grant - State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. The Bureau of Justice Assistance administers the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) in conjunction with the U.S. Immigrant and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security. SCAAP provides federal payments to states and localities that incurred correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions for violations of state or local law and incarcerated for at least four consecutive days during the reporting*

period. The Sheriff's office has participated in this program for over twenty-five years. Several members of the Sheriff's office have to compile requested information. The Sheriff's office contracts with Justice Benefits Inc. to process the data for this grant reporting. It is \$2,500 a year. The grant funds received are placed into the jail assessment fund to be used for items for the inmate population.

- Sheriff Matz summarized this presentation noting that while community opinions on this program are mixed, their commitment is unwavering. They ensure that deputies are thoroughly trained to handle immigration matters with professionalism and care, by maintaining transparency throughout the process, reinforcing accountability and upholding the values of lawful responsible enforcement. Even with a divided landscape, they feel that this approach helps build trust between law enforcement and the community that they serve.*

Sheriff Matz noted that his main concern is for the residents of Winnebago County and what is happening in our County.

Sheriff Matz took questions from the committee members.

I. Next Meeting Date

*Monday, February 2nd, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. *Deadline for agenda items will be Monday, January 19th, 2026. Please forward those requests to Chairman Jim Wise for approval. Thank you.*

The next Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on February 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard Meyer room of the Sheriff's Department, 4311 Jackson Street, Oshkosh. The deadline for agenda items will be Monday, January 19, 2026. These items should be forwarded to Chairman Jim Wise for approval.

J. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to adjourn the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting.

Vote: CARRIED. (5-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie A. Barthels

Winnebago County Clerk

The video portion of this meeting is available on the County website:

<https://winnebago.cowi.portal.civicclerk.com>

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