



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

A. Call to Order

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

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

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, Lieutenant Amber Rozek, Lieutenant Ross Johnson, District Attorney Eric Sparr, Interim Medical Examiner McKenzie Repinski, Supervisor Tim Macho, Supervisor KristL Laux, Supervisor Steve Binder, Supervisor Morris Cox, Supervisor Lucas Reinke,

B. Approval of Minutes

1. January 5th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to approve the minutes for the January 5, 2026, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

2. January 20th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke to approve the minutes for the January 20, 2026, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

Public comments will be heard by the Committee at an appropriate time in the agenda. The Chair, within his or her discretion, may set a time limit on speakers when necessary.

Public comments will be heard by the Committee on any matter over which this body has jurisdiction, including, but not restricted to, those Resolutions and Ordinances on the adopted agenda for that meeting. If a member of the public raises a subject that does not appear on the meeting agenda, however, no substantive discussion of that subject shall take place by the Committee, and any extensive deliberation regarding that subject shall be deferred to a later meeting so that more specific notice may be given by placing the subject on the agenda. In addition, the Committee shall not take any formal action on a subject raised in the public comment period, unless that subject is also identified in the meeting agenda.

22 people spoke in person, and 2 people via Teams, about the Sheriff's Office update relating to ICE statistics.

2 people spoke in person about automatic license plate reader systems.

1 person spoke in person about the proposed line-item budget transfer from the Sheriff's Office.

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke spoke on the PFAS Agreement and informed everyone of the front line special on Public Television at 8:00 p.m.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Wise thanked the concerned residents for attending this meeting.

He explained that he is working with the County Board Chairman to clarify some of the rules that were voted on.

F. Department Reports

1. Corporation Counsel Office Update:

- Employee additions
- Court of Appeals filings
- Tyler v. Hennepin update

Corporation Counsel is fully staffed, having added Aimee Busse and Stephanie Sauter as new paralegals. Aimee will be working with CHIP cases and Stephanie will be working on the recodification for the County.

Court of Appeals filings have slowed down. They have filed one brief for a mental commitment and another mental commitment brief is coming forward.

Tyler vs. Hennepin stated that property taken by the county for failure to pay taxes and sold for a surplus, the county would owe the property owner the balance above what was owed. PUNG vs. Isabella County, MI is scheduled oral arguments in front of the United States Supreme Court for February 25th 2026. PUNG vs. Isabella County, MI impacts states and various counties nationwide are filing amicus briefs. WCA is filing an amicus brief for Wisconsin counties. The government would have to compensate the former property owner for the fair market value. If the US Supreme Court agrees, the Wisconsin legislature relating to tax foreclosures. WCA's position is that there is no violation of the takings clause if the county sells a tax-foreclosed property and returns the surplus proceeds of the sale to the former property owner even if the former property owner alleges the fair market value exceeds the price obtained in the sale.

2. Sheriff's Office Update:

- ICE statistics
- Staffing updates
- Jail pod daily operations

Sheriff Matz gave a presentation on the 287(g) program with ICE and explained this has been standard procedure since 1996. Winnebago County participates in the Warrant Service Officer (WSO) model, meaning deputies are trained in serving detainees while people are already in custody in the Winnebago County Jail on criminal charges.

The Sheriff's Office is looking at how staff members are utilized and are trying to be more efficient with duty distribution. There are 6 paid intern positions and 3 traditional interns this semester.

The current jail population is 271 people as of February 2, 2026.

3. DA's Office Update:

- Recent significant trials
- Recent sentencings potentially of interest to the committee
- Non-case related activities and any other updates

There were 3 recent jury trials. The first was for discharging a firearm near a bar. 8 shots were fired, 2 of those hit vehicles and nobody was injured. The defendant was convicted and will be sentenced in March. The second trial involved the defendant repeatedly violating a restraining order. He was convicted and sentenced to 60 days jail and probation. The third case involved retail theft of approximately \$1,000. The defendant was convicted and sentence to jail.

A man was recently sentence following an attack on a man servicing ATM machines. The defendant was sentenced to 7 years in prison and 7 years extended supervision.

Drug Court Graduation was on January 8th, and another one is not yet scheduled.

G. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Amend Chapter 5.08 of the Winnebago County General Code
Motion by Conley Hanson, seconded by Bryan Stafford to Approve Amending Chapter 5.08 of the Winnebago County General Code. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE (5-0)
2. Supporting Disaster Assistance Legislation AB 580/AB 581/SB 557/SB 558
Motion by Bryan Stafford, seconded by Conley Hanson to Approve Supporting Disaster Assistance Legislation AB 580/AB 581/SB 557/SB 558. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE (5-0)
3. **Line-item budget transfer request to purchase a mixer and a warming cabinet for the jail.**
Motion by Kate Hancock-Cooke, seconded by Bryan Stafford to Approve Line-item budget transfer request to purchase a mixer and a warming cabinet for the jail. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE (5-0)

H. Next Meeting Date

Monday, March 2nd, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. *Deadline for agenda items will be Monday, February 23, 2026. Please forward those requests to Chairman Jim Wise for approval. Thank you.

The next meeting will take place on March 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Richard Meyer Community Resource Room, at the Sheriff's Office.

I. Adjourn

The committee adjourned the February 2, 2026, Judiciary and Public Safety meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Submitted by:

Tori Kinderman

Winnebago County Deputy Clerk

The video portion of this meeting is available on the County website: <https://winnebago.cowi.portal.civicclerk.com>

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