



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wise at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard Meyer room at the Sheriff's Department.

Roll Call: Chairman Jim Wise, Supervisor Conley Hanson, Supervisor Brian Stafford, Supervisor Jim Ponzer and Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke

Also Present: Sheriff John Matz, Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, Communications Captain Lara Vendola, Chief Deputy Todd Christopherson, Medical Examiner, Cheryl Brehmer, Director of Emergency Management Eric Rasmussen, Judge Scott Woldt, Deputy Clerk of Courts Leigh Anne Kohls, Deputy County Clerk Cassie Smith-Gregor and County Clerk Julie Barthels

B. Approval of Minutes

1. December 02, 2024, meeting minutes

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to approve the minutes for December 2, 2024. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

No public comments.

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Hanson noted that he would like to present resolutions from the Ad-Hoc Task Force on County Board Rules at the April meeting of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. County Board Chairman Egan has given him permission to give a presentation on this at the County Board Special Orders meeting on March 4, 2025.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Wise had nothing to report.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Resolution to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with municipal police agencies to staff the Marine Unit.

Motion made by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to discuss the resolution to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Municipal Police Agencies to staff the Marine Unit.

Sheriff Matz reported there has been interest shown from the Neenah and Oshkosh Police Departments to aid in staffing the Sheriff's Department's boat. There will be a primary and a secondary driver on the boat. Overtime increases when officers have to operate the boats during the summer months. There will be planned patrols for special events. An inter-governmental agreement will be set up and the officers will be reimbursed from monies from the DNR. The reimbursement includes overtime and part of the benefits. The remainder of the liability will remain with Winnebago County. The officers will be required to go through

training. Sheriff Matz took questions from the committee.

Vote on Resolution: To enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Municipal Police Agencies to staff the Marine Unit. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (5-0) This resolution is not required to be forwarded to the Personnel and Finance Committee.

G. Presentations

1. Emergency Management System Report:

- Overview of the Winnebago County response system for weather-related emergencies

Eric Rasmussen, Emergency Management Director, gave a presentation on how to prepare for a disaster. Emergency management provides a structure for anticipating and dealing with emergency incidents. Emergency management involves participants from all governmental levels and the private sector. Activities are geared according to phases before, during, and after emergency events. He noted the partners that his department is involved with. There are four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Director Rasmussen explained the four phases.

Emergency Management has shifted to all-hazards planning. All-hazards planning and training is a way to prepare for a range of emergencies and disasters. It involves developing the skills and resources to respond to a variety of threats, including natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and man-made emergencies.

A hazard vulnerability analysis is a systematic process that identifies and assesses potential hazards and vulnerabilities. Sixty-nine members from varying agencies helped to determine the most likely threats to Winnebago County. This study has helped to plan efforts for the next three to five years in case of disasters or threats.

Director Rasmussen discussed Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) Priorities:

- 1. Municipality Preparedness - Severe Weather Focused*
- 2. Community Outreach, Education and Communication*
- 3. Active Threat Preparedness and Resilience*

He provided IPP Efforts that have been done in the last year.

Director Rasmussen answered questions from the Committee.

2. Sheriff's Report:

- Budget carry overs
- Staffing update
- Agency update
- Overview of the Winnebago County weather-related safety and security response system

Sheriff John Matz reported on his budget carry-overs. Some of the carryovers include labor and projects or grants. He came in under budget this year.

Staffing Update: Dispatch Center is full; Patrol is full; Booking Security Associates in the Jail is full; Corrections Deputies - 4 vacancies and 4 background checks; Detective - 1 vacancy; Evidence Custodian Deputy is vacant, Jail Financial Associate is vacant.

Agency Update: Sheriff Matz provided the Annual Report of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department to all members. Citizen complaint reviews were not included in the report, they have all been handled by the Sheriff's Department through informal inquiries or internal investigations and appropriate discipline was issued.

Immigration - 287G is an Immigration Nationality Act. This is a federal act to identify a process to remove aliens with criminal or pending criminal charges from the United States. State legislation LRB0779 is a bill that require the sheriff to request proof of legal status for individuals held in the jail. Under this bill the county could be reimbursed for medical expenses incurred.

Sheriff Matz provided a video regarding a traffic stop that ended in a horrific accident to show

the committee what the officers did to save the lives of two individuals and four dogs. The officers will be recognized for their heroic efforts.

A recognition to welcome new hires to the Sheriff's Department will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 11:30 a the JP Coughlin Center. The officers will be sworn in at this event.

On May 14, 2025, there will be a recognition day for all the outstanding efforts of the Sheriff's Department employees.

Sheriff Matz then answered questions from the committee.

3. Corporation Counsel Update:

- Office of Corporation Counsel 2024 Year End Summary

Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel, stated that she is glad to see the year 2024 come to an end.

She is fully staffed with support staff, but down one attorney.

Happenings in the Corporation Counsel Office: UWO Fox Cities closure; Recodification; Act 235 - Judicial Shielding going into effect April 1. 2025. Tyler vs Hennepin case regarding in-rem tax foreclosure issues; the Ad-Hoc Task Force on Winnebago County Board of Supervisor Rules; Public Record Requests, Planning & Zoning Issues regarding Shoreland Zoning.

Numbers of Cases: Mental Health - New Cases - 315 (2023 - 339); Extension Cases: 2024 - 87 (2023 - 56); Adult Guardianship Cases - 108; CHIPS Cases - 2024 -72 new cases (2023 - 40 new cases); Department of Human Services feels that drugs are a big factor and part of this increase in numbers; CHIPS Hearings: 2024 - 192 compared to 87 in 2023.

In 2023, Corporation Counsel had to complete 17 briefs, the City of Milwaukee had 2.

Contract Review: 2023 - 220 contracts were reviewed; 2024 - 584 contracts were reviewed.

Child Support Attorneys cannot do CHIPS work because of a potential conflict.

Corporation Counsel then took questions from the committee.

4. District Attorney Update:

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

District Attorney Eric Sparr touched on significant trials that have occurred since his last report.

- *High Frequency/ Low Severity Offenders: These are offenders that have had nine criminal cases referred to the DA's office within a three-year period; twelve cases within a four year period; or fifteen within a five year period. There are a number of partners involved with helping these offenders; UW-Oshkosh, United Way and a case manager from the Sheriff's office. They have ten people that have qualified for this program this year.*
- *Restorative Justice Program for Juveniles - The DA's office has been working with conflict resolution, Human Services and Juvenile Intake to get this program started. It will be used to bring victims and offenders together, if that is what they want to do. If not, they might be placed with social workers or go to juvenile intake. They hope to start this program in 2025.*
- *Legal Updates - They have completed training with the City of Oshkosh Police Department; they will be heading to Neenah and Menasha this summer. This will include Fox Crossing.*
- *Staffing - They had the retirement of one of their lawyers. He was there for 17 years. They have been in contact with UW law school in Madison to see if they have any offers for internships for attorneys. Marquette is another university that offers internships.*

- 2 cases: Case #1 - gone to sentencing for multiple counts of child pornography in Winnebago and Outagamie Counties. Sentenced to 15 years confinement and 15 years parole. One individual involved went to federal prison.

Case #2 - has gone to trial and is waiting for sentencing. A male that was shot in the abdomen by a girlfriend. She was found guilty on both counts. The sentencing will be in February.

Winnebago County is noted for being quick at convicting people of misdemeanors and felonies.

District Attorney Sparr then answered questions from the committee.

5. Medical Examiner Report:

- Morgue and case status update

Cheryl Brehmer, Medical Examiner, noted that the morgue is 95% complete. They were supposed to move in this week, but had some setbacks. The vans should be coming shortly. They have all the equipment necessary to start. Desks have been ordered; they might have to start with using tables and chairs. Racking should be here sooner.

Ms. Brehmer will come back in March to establish fees for her department. This includes fees for transportation and for storage, the rental of the suite for tissue and eye donations. She will need a contract to be approved from American Tissue donation.

Suicides for 2024–28; this is the highest number since 2018. There have been 4 suicides in January 2025.

Overdoses for 2024–24; there were 47 in 2023.

2024 budget - For 2024, she is \$19,154 under budget. The operational expense for her budget is over due to labor changes and changes to health insurance. The transportation expense was over \$7,000.00.

Medical Examiner Brehmer then answered questions from the committee.

H. Next Meeting Date

Monday, March 3rd, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. *Deadline for agenda items will be Monday, February 17th, 2025. Please forward those requests to Chairman Jim Wise for approval. Thank you.

The next Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on March 3, 2025.

Agenda items are due to the Clerk's office or Supervisor Hancock-Cooke by February 17th, 2025.

I. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to adjourn this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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

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