



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

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

A. Call to Order

Chairman Wise called the meeting of the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. from the Richard Meyer Community Resource Room, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, 4311 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin and virtually by TEAMS.

Members Present: 5 - Chairman Jim Wise, Supervisor Conley Hanson, Supervisor Bryan Stafford, Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke, and Supervisor Jim Ponzer

Also Present at the Meeting:

Cassie Smith-Gregor, Chief Deputy County Clerk; Julie Barthels, County Clerk; Amber Hoppa, Treasurer; Mary Anne Mueller, Corporation Counsel; Tori Kinderman, Paralegal; Eric Sparr, District Attorney; Tom Egan, County Board Chairman; Morris Cox, County Board Supervisor, District 27; and Judge Bryan Keberlein

B. Approval of Minutes

1. February 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hanson, to approve the February 3, 2025, meeting minutes. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

No public comments.

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

1. Progress to date of the Ad-Hoc Task Force of the Rules of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors by Chairman Conley Hansen.

Supervisor Conley Hanson reported that a task force was created to go over the rules of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors.

Individual resolutions were handed out to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee showing the changes that are being proposed. He noted that sections 22, 23 and 24 would not have any restructuring of the rules because they relate to committees, commissions and boards. Each section will be presented as one resolution. Supervisor Hanson's request is that you e-mail him with any questions or suggested changes. This presentation will also be given at the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors Special Orders Session on Tuesday, March 4, 2025. No votes will be taken at either meeting. Submit changes as soon as possible so they can be added to the March 13, 2025, Task Force meeting. Supervisor Stafford made a suggestion to Supervisor Hanson to explain the reason why this Task Force was created and why there was the need to go through the rules in depth as he presents this to the County Board.

Supervisor Hanson then took questions from the committee members.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Wise thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There were no other comments.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

There were no Business Items for this meeting.

G. Department Reports

1. 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 provided his report to the committee.

- *Recent Significant Trials: Sexual Assault Trial - it was a 2-day trial. Guilty verdicts were handed down on all accounts. The defendant was already on extended supervision for a non-sexual assault felony.*
- *Recent Sentencings: Homicide case in Menasha involving a female shooting her boyfriend. She was charged with 1st degree intentional homicide, which requires a life in prison sentence. She will be eligible for parole after 30 years of incarceration.*
- *Non-case-related activities and any other Updates: Attorney Sparr provided a report on cases that were sent to his office by law enforcement over the last five years. He explained the abbreviations that were listed in the report.*
- *Cases - Different types of cases that are referred to the District Attorney's office are: Charged, Declined, Help Review or as a Referral, Deferred, Read in to Another Case. Cases are the primary job of the District Attorney's office.*
- *Upcoming Drug Court Graduations will be held on April 10, 2025, and July 31, 2025.*
- *Initiative - the District Attorney's office is trying to get prosecutors more involved with law enforcement. They are looking into part of the prison system where mental health is being handled, like the Wisconsin Resource Center.*

District Attorney Sparr then took questions from the committee members.

2. Corporation Counsel Update:

- Communications with the Wisconsin State Legislature regarding pending legislation and requests for records relating to "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion"

Updates from Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller

- *The Wisconsin Counties Association advised Corporation Counsel's offices that there has been a bill drafted to allow persons acting as a patient's representative to authorize hospitals to discharge incapacitated persons to a community-based residential facility or a nursing home without doing guardianship or a protective placement. She explained what this would mean for her office and what it would require them to do. This bill is very concerning to Corporation Counsels across the state. This bill is in the draft stage at this time. It is similar to Bill No. AB1088. It references Wis. Stat 50.06.*
- *An open records request was made to all 72 county Departments of Health by Representative Shae Sortwell referencing WI Stat §13.45, which talks about governing bodies of subdivisions are required to assist legislative committees in the completion of their tasks. He is requesting all information relating to Diversity, Equity*

& Inclusion from 2019 to present. The Wisconsin Counties Association is going to look into this.

H. Closed Session

The chair will entertain a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g) for conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation: John Elliott et al vs. State of Wisconsin et al.

At this point, a motion was entertained by Chairman Wise, seconded by Supervisor Stafford, to convene in closed session to discuss the Tyler vs. Hennepin lawsuit regarding surplus funds from sales of foreclosed properties.

Vote to convene in Closed Session: AYES: 5; NAYS: 0; ABSTAIN: 0. PASSED.

Roll Call: The following individuals were present: 11 – Chairman Jim Wise, Supervisor Conley Hanson, Supervisor Bryan Stafford, Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke, Supervisor Jim Ponzer, County Board Chairman Tom Egan, Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, Paralegal Tori Kinderman, Treasurer Amber Hoppa, Supervisor Morris Cox and Chief Deputy County Clerk Cassie Smith-Gregor.

The Judiciary & Public Safety Committee convened in closed session to discuss the lawsuit of Tyler vs. Hennepin and how it will affect Winnebago County.

After discussion, a motion by Supervisor Wise, seconded by Supervisor Stafford, to reconvene to open session.

Vote to Reconvene: AYES: 5; NAYS: 0; ABSTAIN: 0. PASSED.

The following committee members were present: 5 – Chairman Jim Wise, Supervisor Conley Hanson, Supervisor Bryan Stafford, Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke and Supervisor Jim Ponzer.

I. Next Meeting Date

Monday, April 7th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. *Deadline for agenda items will be Monday, March 24, 2025. Please forward those requests to Chairman Wise for approval. Thank you.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Richard Meyer Community Resource Room, at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

J. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Hancock-Cooke, to adjourn. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Submitted by:

Cassie J. Smith-Gregor

Winnebago County Chief Deputy Clerk

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