



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Wise at 6:00 p.m. at the Richard Meyer Community Resource Room, 4311 Jackson Street, Oshkosh.

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

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, Paralegal Tori Kinderman, Judge Gibbs, County Board Chairman Tom Egan, Supervisor Morris Cox, Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer, Supervisor Tim Paterson, Director of Veterans Services Delmar Voelpel, Sheriff John Matz, Professional Standards Lieutenant Darin Rice and Training & Special Operations Lieutenant Tim Eichman and County Clerk Julie Barthels

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of March 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025 Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

Supervisor Tim Paterson inquired about creating a Veterans Court in Winnebago County. This would involve situations where a veteran is going to court for a variety of reasons, other than a felony. It would be similar to drug court, but it would be totally separate from the other courts. Brown County currently has a Veterans' Court.

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

There were no comments from committee members.

1. **Presentation of the Ad-Hoc Task Force of the Rules of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors by Chairman Conley Hansen.**

Supervisor Conley Hanson gave a brief presentation regarding the Ad-Hoc Task Force of the Rules of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors. He noted that it is his intent to have everything posted in Civic Plus to be shared with the entire County Board. At this time, the task force needs to meet to approve items that they feel should advance forward to the board. Supervisor Hanson has asked for dates as to when the task force can meet. He has only heard back from two members.

The vote to pass the rule changes at the county board level will be by a majority of members present. A question would be whether the board should vote on one resolution with all the changes included, or separate resolutions for each section.

Chairman Wise is willing to schedule a special meeting for the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee (JPS) to be able to vote on the rule changes. The task force is scheduled to end as of April 30, 2025, then forward the proposed changes on to JPS, and then voted on by the entire County Board in May. The rule changes should be completed by the end of June.

Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller read the resolution as to how this should be advanced to the JPS Committee. A discussion was held regarding the best way to address how the changes to the rules are looked at.

Chairman Wise asked to have the Ad-Hoc Task Force listed on the resolution as the one that is bringing this forward. He also questioned if there were no changes made to a section, if that section should or should not be included in with the other proposed changes.

Chairman Wise voiced his thanks for the work that the task force has done to change and update the rules. He noted that the chair of a committee has three responsibilities: to set the agenda, to follow the agenda, and to make sure there is order kept at the meeting. Supervisor Stafford expressed that this was not an easy undertaking for anyone. As chair of committees, commissions, boards or task forces, you can only do so much, and you cannot hold yourself accountable for others' actions.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Wise had nothing to report.

F. Business Items

There were no business items to bring forward this month.

G. Department Reports

1. District Attorney Update:

- *Juvenile Cases have risen significantly since the last meeting. One case was moved into adult court for attempted homicide. A number of requests were made to move this juvenile into adult court. If there is a case that starts in adult court, there can be the chance of a reverse waiver.*
- *Another juvenile case involving an overdose fatality of a young victim and young defendant. The defendant was charged with reckless homicide and had a significant quantity of pills in his custody.*
- *Non-Case Related: Training – the office continues talking to law enforcement and having them talk to the DA's office regarding downloading information from phones.*
- *Educational – the office has been presenting to other individuals, lawyers, and the American Prosecutors Association Conference in Brooklyn, New York on Domestic Violence.*
- *Drug Court Graduation will be held in Branch 3, second floor of the Winnebago County Courthouse on Thursday, April 10.*
- *Efforts have been made for prosecutors to have the chance to get out and see other places. They toured the Wisconsin Resource Center.*
- *Case - Misdemeanor Level Case - Defendant was in court the day before the trial. They brought 35 jurors in, and the defendant did not show up. The court ordered the costs to be reimbursed by the defendant. There is a warrant out for her arrest.*

2. Medical Examiner Update:

- *On March 10th, they started moving to the new facility. By March 17th, their new facility was in operation.*
- *Since starting, they have had 10 guests, three of whom have been transported for autopsies.*
- *Last year there were 24 total overdoses. This year there have been two. Both were intentional.*
- *Last year there were 28 suicides. This year there have been 5, all over the age of 63.*
- *Last year there were 7 homicides, 3 of which were firearm-related. This year there have not been any.*
- *Last year there were 122 autopsies performed, which averages 10.25 per month. This year there have been 23, which averages 5.75 per month.*

Medical Examiner Brehmer then took questions from the committee.

3. Sheriff's Office Update:

- *Sheriff Matz introduced Lieutenant Darin Rice and Lieutenant Tim Eichman.*
- *Lieutenant Darin Rice presented his report on the ATV/UTV Ordinance. The Sheriff's Department was approached by the Winnebago County UTV/ATV Alliance. The Sheriff's Department voiced concerns about allowing the usage of UTV/ATVs on major roads within the County. Discussion was held regarding all the requirements that are needed to operate these vehicles. The proposed resolution will be sent to Corporation Counsel for approval and then forwarded to the Highway Committee.*

- Sheriff Matz presented an update on the STAR program. He provided a report to the committee regarding the number of people served, the number of phone calls that were followed up, the number of vivitrol shots administered, and the number of direct release transports. The report also included a testimonial from one of the participants. The Sheriff's Department has applied for a deflection grant which would put somebody out in the community that would work directly for the Sheriff's Department. This is \$350,000 grant. He provided numbers of recidivism that have occurred since the program started.

Sheriff Matz then took questions from the Committee.

4. Veterans Service Office Update:

Delmer Volpel, Veterans Service Officer, introduced himself and provided his report to the committee.

- The Veterans' office will have a booth at the Winnebago County Fair from July 30th to August 3, 2025. Veterans' Day will be August 1st. They have a series of activities planned. The theme for this year is "Entrepreneurship and Education". There will be free entry, free rides, and free food for veterans. They have invited Senators Johnson and Baldwin to speak on this day. The goal is to educate as many veterans as possible at this event. Director Volpel understands that there is a lack of knowledge about the benefits for veterans.
- The Veterans' office has some great funding for veterans in need. They understand that the cost of living is high. The goal would be to make Winnebago County a central location for veterans. The Veterans' office would like to partner with different organizations to help the veterans in securing a job and to find housing for them until they can get on their feet.
- In September, they will be having a tri-county event to help veterans understand what the Veterans' Services does.

Veterans Service Officer Volpel then took questions from the Committee members.

H. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 5th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. *Deadline for agenda items will be Monday, April 21st, 2025. Please forward those requests to Chairman Jim Wise for approval. Thank you.

Chairman Wise will let members know if there will be a special meeting.

I. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to adjourn the April 7, 2025, meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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