



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

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

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

Also Present: Sheriff John Matz, Lieutenant Amber Rozek, Lieutenant Megan Kamien, Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, Paralegal Truitt Landolt, District Attorney Eric Sparr, Judge Michael Rust, Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer, Deputy Medical Examiner McKenzie Repinski, Emergency Management Director Eric Rasmussen, and County Clerk Julie Barthels

B. Approval of Minutes

1. June 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Ponzer to approve the June 2, 2025, meeting minutes.

Vote: AYES - 3; NAYES - 0; ABSTAIN - 2 - Hancock-Cooke and Ponzer. CARRIED. (3-0-2)

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

Cheryl Brehmer, Omro, spoke in support of the resolution requesting the County Executive to include \$120,000 in the 2026 County Budget from the National Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund to continue the Sheriff's Office Program Contracting with Solutions Recovery, Inc. and encouraged the committee to support it too.

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

No comments from committee members.

1. Emergency Management Department:

- Routine update from Eric Rasmussen

Emergency Management Director Eric Rasmussen gave an update from his Department.

- *Spring and Summer are a busy time monitoring any severe weather*
- *Events for this Summer include: EAA, Lifest, Crossroads 41, and the Winnebago County Fair*
- *Last quarter - Trainings: Municipal Readiness Workshop; Mass Fatalities Incident Response Class; Intermediate Incident Command System Class; School Incident Response Class; and a Red Cross Mass Care Workshop.*
- *Director Rasmussen is working with Community Partners, Public Health and Human Services for any updates on heating and cooling sheltering and emergency sheltering.*
- *Fall Training - ICS (Incident Command System) and EOC (Emergency Operations Center) Training for Winneconne, Omro, and other Townships. This is part of a four-year training cycle.*
- *August and September - Hosting two classes for National Incident Management System for Senior Officials training.*

Director Rasmussen then took questions from the committee.

*Fall - ICS and EOC Incident Command Service Emergency Operation Center
August 26
Recovery from a Disaster
Tornado Sirens*

2. Medical Examiner's Office:

- Brief video presentation regarding Brie and emotional support dog

Deputy Medical Examiner McKenzie Repinski provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding their emotional support dog, Brie.

- *The Medical Examiner's office is fund-raising to be able to acquire their emotional support dog. She will be a certified facility therapy dog.*
- *Their goal is to promote emotional well-being, reduce stress and foster resilience among staff and grieving families. To add another level of comfort, connection, and calm in the face of loss and tragedy.*
- *Brie has been sourced, raised and trained since she was 8 weeks old. McKenzie Repinski will be her handler and Brie will reside with her. The care and needs for Brie will all come from the funds that are raised.*

Deputy Medical Examiner Repinski then took questions from the committee.

3. District Attorney's Office:

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

District Attorney Eric Sparr provided an update from his office.

- *Recent Significant Trials - District Attorney Sparr noted a recent negligent homicide case and the outcome of the case.*
- *Non-Case-Related Activities and Other Updates*
 - *An attorney retired earlier this year. A new ADA will be starting next week. He is from the Milwaukee District Attorney's office. With this addition, they will be at full staff with 12 prosecutors.*
 - *With the State Budget relating to prosecution, the legislators have bumped starting pay rate for prosecutors. This will help to create more positions around the state.*
 - *Orientation for New Officers - The DA's office is working with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, the City of Oshkosh Police Department, and UWO Security for training for new officers.*
 - *SOAR Program - The grant for this program is about to end. They will be working with UWO to do a study to see the effectiveness of this program.*
- *Recent Sentencing Potentially of Interest to the Committee - District Attorney Sparr noted a case that involved interference with a child custody case.*

District Attorney Sparr then took questions from the committee.

E. Committee Chair's Report

No comments from the Committee Chair.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Authorize Winnebago County Emergency Management to enter into an easement with the City of Oshkosh for an existing outdoor warning siren at 929 Winnebago Ave, Oshkosh.
Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hancock-Cooke to authorize Winnebago County Emergency Management to enter into an Easement with the City of Oshkosh for an Existing Outdoor Warning Siren at 929 Winnebago Avenue, Oshkosh. Emergency Management Director, Eric Rasmussen, explained the reason for needing this resolution.
Vote: AYES - 5; NAYES - 0. CARRIED. (5-0)
2. Request the County Executive to include \$120,000 in the 2026 County Budget from the National Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund to continue the Sheriff's Office Program Contracting with Solutions Recovery, Inc.
Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Stafford requesting the County Executive to Include \$120,000 in the 2026 County Budget from the National Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund to Continue the Sheriff's Office Program Contracting with Solutions Recovery.
Supervisor Hanson praised the STAR pods that have been created at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department.
Vote: AYES - 5; NAYES - 0. CARRIED. (5-0)
3. Resolution Confirming and Ratifying the Authority of Counsel for Winnebago County to Add Additional Defendants to Opioid Litigation, Including in MDL 2804
Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to approve the Resolution Confirming and Ratifying the Authority of Counsel for Winnebago County to Add Additional Defendants to Opioid Litigation, Including in MDL 2804.
Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller explained the reasoning for this resolution.
Vote: AYES - 5; NAYES - 0. CARRIED. (5-0)
4. \$350,000 Wisconsin Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Programs for COSSUP Wisconsin Deflection Initiative Grant
Motion by Supervisor Wise, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to approve a \$350,000 Wisconsin Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Programs for COSSUP Wisconsin Deflection Initiative Grant.
Lieutenant Amber Rozek explained what this grant would be used for. It would add to the current staff for the STAR program. It would be for a two-year project person. This employee would be part of the Sheriff's Department.
Vote: AYES - 5; NAYES - 0. CARRIED. (5-0)
5. Resolution Delegating the Authority to Enter Into Settlement Agreements with Opioid Defendants to the Winnebago County Executive
Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to approve this resolution Delegating the Authority to Enter into Settlement Agreements with Opioid Defendants to the Winnebago County Executive.
Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller explained what this resolution entails. In the resolution it is noted that the County Executive would be required to notify the County Board and Corporation Counsel.
Vote: AYES - 5; NAYES - 0. CARRIED. (5-0)

G. Presentations

No Presentations/

Supervisor Hancock-Cooke requested to have two items added to the agenda for future meetings:

1. *A quarterly report for the cost of the STAR Program*
2. *Jail Population Report - How many are released early? Prison Population in Wisconsin*

H. Next Meeting Date

Monday, August 4th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. *Deadline for agenda items will be Monday, July 21st, 2025. Please forward those requests to Chairman Jim Wise for approval. Thank you.

Next meeting date will be August 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Deadline for agenda items will be July 21st.

Discussion was held to have the September meeting on August 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

The regularly scheduled September meeting would fall on Labor Day.

I. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie A Barthels

Winnebago County Clerk

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

<https://winnebagocowi.portal.civicclerk.com>

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