



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wise at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Jim Wise
Supervisor Bryan Stafford
Supervisor Conley Hanson
Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke
Supervisor James Ponzer

ALSO PRESENT: John Matz - Sheriff
Todd Christopherson - Chief Deputy
Dave Mack - Captain of Corrections
Lara Vendola - Captain of Communications
Nathan Struensee - Public Safety Application Administrator/GIS
Mary Anne Mueller - Corporation Counsel
Bryan Keberlein - Judge, Branch 3
Eric Sparr - District Attorney
Jason Kraayvanger - Citizen
Cheryl Brehmer - Medical Examiner (TEAMS)

B. Introduction of the New Committee Members

Chairman Wise has been involved with the county board for six years. This is his first chairman position. He was vice-chairman of the Facilities and Property Management Committee and was also on the Solid Waste Committee. He lives in Neenah.

Kate Hancock-Cooke lives in Neenah and has served on a number of commissions in the City of Neenah. She decided to run for County Board and is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the County Board.

Jim Ponzer is the Supervisor for District 18. He lives in Oshkosh. He has lived in his district for 40 years. He served on the Arts & Beautification Committee for City of Oshkosh until it was dissolved.

Bryan Stafford lives in Neenah and serves as the Supervisor for Winnebago County Board of Supervisors District 10.

Conley Hanson serves as the Supervisor for Winnebago County Board of Supervisors District 26.

C. Introduction of Departments under the Jurisdiction of the Judiciary & Public Safety Committee

Sheriff's Office, Corporation Counsel and County Clerk's Office

- *Sheriff Matz has served as Sheriff for four terms. Fourteen years as Sheriff, 35 years with the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department tries to continue to grow and be a great leader in law enforcement. He is looking forward to working with the new committee.*
- *Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller has worked for Winnebago County for 16 years. She became Corporation Counsel in 2018. Her office consists of 4 attorneys. They are the counsel to 27 departments, 36 county board supervisors, committees, commissions, and boards, and the county executive. Two of the attorneys are child support attorneys that handle child support cases. She has lived in Wisconsin for 16 years.*

- County Clerk Julie Barthels read the mission of the County Clerk's office. She noted that the main responsibility in their office is elections. The County Clerk's office works directly with the County Board and Committees to make sure the agendas are posted. They issue marriage licenses and boat launch permits. She has been employed by Winnebago County for 24 years, 13 years in the Clerk's office.
- District Attorney Eric Sparr has been employed for 19 years by Winnebago County. There are a total of thirty people in his office. Twelve of those positions are attorneys, who are state employees. Attorney Sparr enjoys coming to the Judiciary and Public Safety meetings to report on his trials and other happenings in his office.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. Action Item: March 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Motion by Supervisor Wise, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to approve the minutes. CARRIED. Supervisor Stafford and Supervisor Hanson voted to approve the minutes. Supervisors Wise, Hancock-Cooke and Ponzer were not in attendance at the March meeting, so they were not able to approve these minutes.

E. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

Judge Keberlein noted that he is in the second year of his first term as judge. The judges hope to be present at Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meetings to report the happenings in Winnebago County and answer any questions that the committee might have. He is the Chairperson of the Safe Streets Committee. He was Court Commissioner before being elected as Judge.

F. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke looked back at previous meeting notes. When referring to someone presenting at the meeting, she feels that everyone should address them by their title, not just their name.

G. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Office of Corporation Counsel overview and update.
Corporation Counsel Mueller noted that she wanted to focus on the bigger projects of her department.
 1. *Re-codification of General Code - Last time it was updated was in the 1970s and 1980s. They started updating it again in 2022 and submitted it to MuniCode for corrections. A proof was returned in 2023. They voiced concerns that not all the corrections had been made, they did not include ordinances and didn't follow directions. They received a second proof. The plan is to have meetings with departments to verify the changes. After meeting with departments, it will go to the committees of jurisdiction, then to the full county board.*
 2. *Corporation Counsel's office has a very active case load. They are tracking their time to see where it is spent. They give advice to County Board Supervisors, the County Executive, and Department Heads. For their mental health practice, in 2024 they opened 81 new mental health cases; 43 extension cases; 26 probable cause hearings; 53 new guardianship cases, 23 protective placements, 14 emergency protective placements, and 33 adult guardianships. They had 40 CHIPS cases as of December 31, 2023. As of April 30, 2024, they have had 24 CHIPS Cases. Appeals cases have increased tremendously regarding mental health cases. They filed two appellate briefs, and four responses for review to the Supreme Court. In 2023, they had 17 appellate briefs; Milwaukee County filed two appellate briefs. Since the beginning of the year, 149 meetings were attended by Corporation Counsel and staff. They have read and approved 329 contracts, provided legal support for Planning and Zoning issues, and responded to public records requests. Feel free to*

call or e-mail the Corporation Counsel office if you have questions. Corporation Counsel Mueller then took questions from the committee.

2. Update from District Attorney's Office - District Attorney Eric Sparr
Attorney Eric Sparr gave an update from his office. A committee member that has jury duty should let the DA's office know so that he doesn't discuss those cases. Attorney Sparr noted cases that have gone to trial since the last Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting. Attorney Sparr noted that eight of the eleven attorneys in the District Attorney's office have been there for over 10 years. The turnover rate in his office is very low. The District Attorney's office is conducting legal updates for the northern police departments in Winnebago County. Three sessions took place at the Fox Crossing police department. There are thirty employees in the DA's office. They have two investigators, who are both retiring within a month apart. Attorney Sparr discussed the Mental Health Court. It just got started, so it is at a low capacity. Judge Gibbs, Human Services, the District Attorney's office, the Oshkosh Police Department, and the Public Defender's office are working together on this program. There is no one in the program to date. Attorney Sparr noted that the next Drug Court Graduation will be held on May 23, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Keberlein's courtroom. A joint group went to the Wisconsin Counties Association Conference regarding opioid settlements. They talked about efforts that have been made by Winnebago County and how settlement money has been used. Attorney Sparr then took questions from the committee.
3. Request the County Executive to include a \$120,000 in the 2025 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 to introduce a resolution to include \$120,000 in the 2025 County Budget from the National Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund to continue the Sheriff's Office Program contracting with Solutions Recovery, Inc., seconded by Supervisor Stafford. The Sheriff's Department started with the Medication Assisted Treatment Program (MAT). Then the Vivatrol program was introduced. The Star program was introduced to enhance the MAT program. There were 47 overdose deaths in 2023. Currently, the County is tracking worse in 2024. There are already over 30 overdose deaths in 2024. The STAR program had \$60,000 that was budgeted for previously, they are requesting \$120,000. The Star program costs \$370,000 a year. The Sheriff's Department has applied for eight grants to cover this program. Currently, they have 47 males and 11 females in the program. This resolution should be submitted by Supervisor Hanson too. Vote to Approve Resolution: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.
4. Authorize the acceptance of an additional \$60,559 Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) Grant for the Sheriff's Office Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pod that houses the Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) Program.
Motion by Supervisor Hanson to authorize the acceptance of an additional \$60,559 Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) Grant for the Sheriff's Office Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pod that houses the Sobriety Treatment Assisted Recovery (STAR) Program, seconded by Supervisor Stafford. This would be for the male and female STAR pods and would be a treatment facility inside a correctional facility. The facility has to have correctional grade furniture that has therapeutic value. The STAR program is for all addictions. These are leftover funds from other counties that were not used. The State of Wisconsin is impressed with our program. Supervisor Hanson's name should be included with this resolution. Vote to approve resolution: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.
5. Sheriff's Report
Sheriff Matz noted that the current jail count is 240; 47 males and 11 females are enrolled in the STAR program; 22 are ES Sanctioned, paid for by the State of Wisconsin; 30 inmates are

on GPS tracking. In the last 72 hours, they booked in 30 inmates and released 38. There are 195 males and 45 females incarcerated in the jail at this time. The capacity for the jail is 355 inmates. The Sheriff's Department does not have the staffing to cover that many inmates. The Sheriff's Department has two vacancies in dispatch; they have five applicants for these positions. In Patrol, they are full at this time on paper, there are two people in training. In corrections they have nine vacancies; for booking clerks they have three vacancies. For canine officers, they retired canine Tim. He retired on March 13 after 10 years of service. A new canine completed his training on April 4th. There is a lot of support for the canine unit in Winnebago County. The boat house is now operational.

Sheriff Matz attended a DHS conference in Tucson, AZ funded by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). This conference covered Chapter 51 and overall mental health responses. They are working on a Peer response. 988 is the mental health response number.

A jail inspection was conducted on April 25th with no major concerns.

They are assisting the Oshkosh Police Department and University Police with protesting regarding the Israeli conflict.

The Sheriff's Department will be honoring employee recognition in April and May for law enforcement. This week, May 5th - 11th, is National Correction Employees Week and National Police Week is May 12th - May 17th. The annual awards program is May 15th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Convention Center. This event is very informative.

Sheriff Matz then took questions from the committee.

H. Next Meeting Date

Supervisor Stafford would like to have the Medical Examiner, Cheryl Brehmer, on the agenda for the next meeting. He would like to see reports on the Morgue, the Evidence Garage and the 980 housing. The next meeting will be on June 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

I. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Wise, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.