



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2025**

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim 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 Megan Kamien, Judge Scott Woldt, District Attorney Eric Sparr, Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, Medical Examiner Cheryl Brehmer, Deputy Medical Examiner McKenzie Repinski, Deputy Medical Examiner Canine "Brie", Finance Management Analysis Michael Schuh, County Executive Gordon Hintz, League of Women Voter Representatives Kathleen Propp and Mary Sales, and County Clerk Julie Barthels; via TEAMS - Lieutenant Amber Rozek, Professor Jonathan Richie, Mushe

B. Approval of Minutes

1. July 7, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to approve the July 7, 2025, minutes for the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting. CARRIED by VOICE VOTE. (5-0)

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

Kathleen Propp, Oshkosh, representing the League of Women Voters, thanked the Sheriff for putting together statistics regarding ICE. She asked a question regarding the 126 people that were booked into the jail between January and July that were born outside the United States, how many had criminal records. The second question was, what is the criteria for notifying ICE of those people who have committed a crime?

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

1. Sheriff's Report:

• STAR Update

Sheriff Matz gave a PowerPoint presentation to the committee regarding the Star Program Financials and Staffing.

Sheriff Matz noted that there has been an increase of 33 people that were incarcerated over last year's numbers, and he does not see these numbers decreasing. The Sheriff's Department did not plan financially to open up a vacant pod within the jail. Sheriff Matz feels that by 2027 this will need to happen, if not sooner. The department would need to add positions to cover the increase in population.

One option to avoid adding new positions would be to stop taking Extended Supervision Sanctions that are reimbursed by the State of Wisconsin. Another option would be to consider shipping prisoners to other jails within Wisconsin.

Star Program Data (March 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025):

- o Average Participants: 30 Males*
- o Average Participants: 10 Females*
- o Total number of inmates served in a Recovery Pod: 593*
- o Groups provided by Solutions: 777*
- o Recovery Speakers: 270*
- o Total Active Participants in the Jail: 125*
- o 1,419 Inmates have been served through the STAR Program*
- o 4,499 In-person contacts*
- o 2,311 phone calls to peer support from the jail*
- o 1,996 follow-up contacts*
- o 139 Vivitrol shots were administered*
- o 131 direct releases and transports*

Sheriff Matz provided comparisons of the STAR budget from 2022 through the current year. The Sheriff's Department contracts with Solutions Recovery for staffing. They will continue to seek grant funding opportunities to purchase Vivitrol shots for participants. Sheriff Matz reported on the number of positions that they have eliminated and those positions were able to be covered by other employees. They closed a housing unit. This was all done to be fiscally responsible. He explained the staffing for the STAR program and provided numbers for the opioid settlement funds. Sheriff Matz then took questions from the committee members.

- ICE Update

Sheriff Matz gave an update regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The ICE program started with a program called "SCAAP" (State Criminal Alien Assistance Program). The Sheriff's Department would report to SCAAP, then the Bureau of Justice Assistance Program, along with US Immigrations and Customs, would provide federal payments to states and localities that incurred correctional officers and salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions. From January 2025 to July 18, 2025, 126 persons were booked into the county jail that were born outside the United States. Notifications of 88 persons were made to ICE. Sheriff Matz noted the reasons for notifying ICE. Sheriff Matz then took questions from the committee members.

2. DA's Office Update:

District Attorney Eric Sparr gave an update regarding his office.

- Recent Significant Trials: The number of jury trials has decreased over the last couple of years. There has been a recent uptick in trials. The office had two trials within two weeks.
- Significant Sentencings:
 - Human Trafficking, Gun and Drug Charges - Sentence imposed: 12 years total, 4 years confinement, 8 years with supervision
 - 2nd Degree Sexual Assault of a Child - 21 years confinement, 22 years supervision, registered as a sex offender.
- Non-case Related:
 - Drug Court Graduation - 3 graduates from Drug Court.
 - Continue to have new officers trained with the District Attorney's office in hopes of strengthening the relationship between the District Attorney and Law Enforcement.
 - Legal Intern for the summer. She is staying a couple more weeks. The office has a half-time lawyer position. This position has been extended through October.
 - Recidivism - The District Attorney's office looked at data from different agencies to see how they document their information.

District Attorney Sparr then took questions from the committee members.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Wise noted that the next Judiciary and Public Safety Committee (JPS) meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2025. He would like the committee to consider changing the date to September 8th to hear budget reports from departments under the discretion of the JPS committee.

F. Business Items

1. Approval to establish new fees matching the services rendered by the Medical Examiner's Office

Medical Examiner, Cheryl Brehmer, introduced and explained the new fees that should be established for her office. The fees that are being increased are for death certificate signing and for storage BIO seals.

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to approve to establish new fees matching the services rendered by the Medical Examiner's office. Vote: CARRIED. (5-0)

G. Presentations

*The Medical Examiner's office is proud to present the newest member of their Department, Therapy dog "Brie".
She just started today and still has some training and certifications to achieve.*

H. Next Meeting Date

The next Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on September 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard Meyer room at the Sheriff's Department.

I. Adjourn

*Motion by Supervisor Ponzer, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to adjourn the meeting.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 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>*