



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 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 Bryan Stafford, Supervisor Kate Hancock-Cooke, and Supervisor Jim Ponzer.

Also Present: County Executive Gordon Hintz, County Executive Assistant Koby Schellenger, Sheriff John Matz, Lieutenant Darin Rice, Communications Captain Lara Vendola, Corrections Lieutenant Amber Rozek, Sheriff's Accountant Qiauna Ross, District Attorney Eric Sparr, District Attorney Office Kelly Kutz, Judge Mike Gibbs, Clerk of Courts Desiree Bongers, Clerk of Courts Accounting Supervisor Melissa Schnyder, Interim Medical Examiner McKenzie Repinski, Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller, Paralegal Tori Kinderman, Child Support Director Julie Mabry, Emergency Management Director Eric Rasmussen, Register of Deeds Susan Snyder, Director of Veteran Services Delmer Volpel, Deputy Director of Veteran Services Lydia Wilz, Director of Finance Paul Kaiser, County Board Supervisor KristL Laux, Jennifer Kohler, Jason Rippl and County Clerk Julie Barthels

B. Approval of Minutes

1. August 4th, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Stafford, seconded by Supervisor Hanson to approve the minutes for the August 4, 2025, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. CARRIED. (5-0)

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

County Board Supervisor, District 2, KristL Laux inquired about the need for 6 new deputies at the county jail. She also asked if there were any new ideas on how to keep the jail population down.

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

No communications from committee members.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Wise commented that this is an important meeting tonight. The committee will be listening to budget reports from department heads.

F. Presentations

1. 2026 Budget Presentation — Corporation Counsel — Mary Anne Mueller

Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller presented her 2026 budget to the committee.

- *Asking for a paralegal position and additional contractual legal services*
- *Going through the recodification process to update the General Code*
- *Doing research on Shoreland Zoning*

Corporation Counsel Mueller took questions from the committee members.

2. 2026 Budget Presentation — Sheriff's Office — John Matz

- 2026 Capital Improvement Plan

Sheriff Matz gave his 2026 budget presentation.

Sheriff Matz provided figures and data for the Sheriff's office's 2024 annual performance.

- Operations and Transport
- Public Safety and Security
- Community Engagement

He provided a strategic report on how the 2026 budget will impact the Sheriff's Department. He discussed how his table of organization will be affected by this budget by adding and eliminating positions within his department.

Sheriff Matz displayed a graph showing the increase in the jail population.

Lieutenant Amber Rozek and Lieutenant Darin Rice explained some of the needs for the Sheriff's Department.

Lieutenant Amber Rozek reported on the Jail Improvement Fund.

- This fund is only used for things for the inmates.

Lieutenant Darin Rice reported on the capital improvement plan for the Sheriff's Department for 2026.

- Marine Unit Replacement
- Server and Storage Upgrades for Squad and Body Cameras

Sheriff Matz took questions from the committee members.

3. 2026 Budget Presentation — Clerk of Courts — Desiree Bongers

Clerk of Courts, Desiree Bongers, presented her 2026 budget to the committee.

- Their office will be eliminating an Administrative Associate 3 position and adding an Administrative Associate 4 position and changing the responsibilities for that position.
- Increasing the contract for Mediation Services
- Having an increase in revenue from the Wisconsin Department of Justice

There were no questions for Clerk of Courts, Desiree Bongers.

4. 2026 Budget Presentation — District Attorney — Eric Sparr

District Attorney, Eric Sparr, presented his 2026 budget to the committee.

- He noted that the COSSUP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Program) Grant will be ending.
- He discussed the issues at the jail and how it could be helped. The DA's office has a study that shows what crimes were committed that caused the increase in the jail population.

District Attorney Sparr took questions from the committee members.

5. 2026 Budget Presentation — Child Support Agency — Julie Mabry

Child Support Director, Julie Mabry, presented her 2026 budget to the committee.

- Her office has opted to eliminate 1 Administrative Associate 2 position.

Director Mabry took questions from committee members.

6. 2026 Budget Presentation — Emergency Management — Eric Rasmussen

Emergency Management Director, Eric Rasmussen, presented his 2026 budget to the committee.

- *He would like to convert his part-time position to a full-time position.*
- *There is a need to upgrade his outdoor warning siren system.*
- *Director Rasmussen provided a screen showing how his budget will be utilized by providing training events, special events, outreach events, and social media growth.*

7. 2026 Budget Presentation — Medical Examiner — Cheryl Brehmer
Interim Medical Examiner, McKenzie Repinski, presented the 2026 budget to the committee. Ms. Repinski announced that Cheryl Brehmer has retired from her position.

- *She is expecting an increase in revenue for next year due to an ordinance that was passed by the County Board to increase their fees.*

There were no questions from the committee.

8. 2026 Budget Presentation — Register of Deeds — Susan Snyder
Register of Deeds, Susan Snyder, presented her 2026 budget to the committee.

- *She noted that her budget had not changed from the previous year.*

There were no questions from committee members.

9. 2026 Budget Presentation — Veteran's Department — Delmer Volpel
Director of Veteran's Services, Delmer Volpel, presented his 2026 budget to the committee.

- *Director Volpel would like to change a position from specialist position to a deputy director in his office.*
- *Their office will be eliminating a veteran benefit specialist position.*
- *They would like to add a vehicle to aid in veteran transportation.*
- *They are hoping for an increase in their relief assistance.*

Director Volpel took questions from committee members.

10. 2026 Budget Presentation — County Clerk — Julie Barthels
County Clerk, Julie Barthels, presented her 2026 budget to the committee.

- *The Clerk's office would like to add a deputy clerk position to the office.*
- *The election budget was doubled from the previous year due to 4 elections in 2026. The Clerk's office has seen an increase in the number of people voting and will need to order additional ballots.*

Clerk Barthels took questions from the committee members.

G. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Amendments to the Budget the Committee may recommend to the County Board
There were no amendments from the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee members.

H. Next Meeting Date

Monday, November 3rd, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. *Deadline for agenda items will be Monday, October 20th, 2025. Please forward those requests to Chairman Jim Wise for approval. Thank you.

The next Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting will be held on November 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard Meyer room at the Sheriff's Department.

Suggestions for the next meeting: Clarification of what people are in jail for and how it compares to other Counties.

I. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie A. Barthels

Winnebago County Clerk

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

<https://winnebago.cowi.portal.civicclerk.com>

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