



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024**

A. Call to Order

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

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

ALSO, PRESENT: Sheriff John Matz, Chief Deputy Todd Christopherson, Court Commissioner Michael Rust, District Attorney Eric Sparr, Sheriff's IT Dept. - Dustin Heideman, Human Services Director - Dr. Bill Topel, Medical Examiner - Cheryl Brehmer, Corporation Counsel - Mary Anne Mueller, Paralegal Corporation Counsel - Tori Kinderman, Supervisor Tom Swan;

On TEAMS: Beth G., Iphone, and Citizen

B. Approval of Minutes

1. June 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to approve the minutes from June 3, 2024. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

C. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

Michael Blust, Judge elect for Branch 1, introduced himself to the committee.

D. Communications Shared by Committee Members

No comments from committee members.

E. Committee Chair's Report

Chairman Wise wished everyone a Happy 4th of July. He noted that Sheriff Matz will be reading the Declaration of Independence on the courthouse steps at 8:00 a.m. on the 4th of July.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Update from the District Attorney's Office - District Attorney Eric Sparr

District Attorney Eric Sparr reported on cases involving his office that are either going to trial or ones that have been completed and are awaiting sentencing. Attorney Sparr noted that occasionally they will be called to other counties to assist with trials for special prosecution cases.

Attorney Sparr commented on the two investigator positions in his office. Both have retired after many years of service with the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's office. One of the positions was split to two part-time positions. They have filled one part-time position and one full-time position.

2. Update from the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office - Sheriff John Matz

Sheriff Matz reported on a fatal accident that happened in Winnebago County and how it has affected everyone.

He will be reading the Declaration of Independence on the front Courthouse steps on July 4th at 8:00 a.m.

The evidence and morgue building project started today. It should take six to nine months to complete.

The Sheriff's Department will be returning approximately \$360,000 to ARPA funds for radios. They are holding \$29,000 for highway trucks that have not had their radios replaced yet. When this project is complete, any money that is left will be returned to the ARPA funds.

Sheriff Matz reported on a 1960's homicide case. They have identified a suspect in that case. The suspect passed away about a year ago. With new DNA testing improvements, they were able to identify the suspect.

Jail Count - 239, up 12 from the beginning of the year on average.

He met with Eau Claire County to give them an overview of the STAR program.

He will be applying for a state grant of \$100,000 that is available every year through the year 2027. He reported on the Opioid settlement funds announcement from the Wisconsin Counties Association. This announcement provided funds that Winnebago County can expect to receive through 2038. Representative Gustafson will be introducing legislation to increase state funding for the STAR program to the state.

Budget Update - Expecting a 4.23% labor increase due to contracts with Deputies, Wage Study, cost of Living, and other raises for employees. This will be a \$1.6 million increase in his budget. There will also be contractual increases due to medical expenses, food expenses, and other contractual expenses. Budget meetings are set. Sheriff Matz will let the committee know when his budget meeting will be.

Special Events: EAA, Winnebago County Fair, and Crossroads 41.

Sheriff Matz then took questions from the committee.

3. Update from the Corporation Counsel Office - Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller

Corporation Counsel Mary Anne Mueller addressed the committee.

Her office has had a number of jury trials, mental commitment cases from the Wisconsin Resource Center, and a mental commitment case through Human Services.

Appeals - they have filed 2 response briefs to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. Attended a Court of Appeals District 2 Seminar in Waukesha. They were able to attend continuing education with judges, and have been bombarded with mental health cases,

Attorney Cathy Scheer attended a public health law practitioner conference in New Orleans with Public Health Director, Doug Gieryn.

Recodification – they reviewed the 600 page final proof document. Seventeen meetings were held with various departments, along with meetings with Muni Code Attorneys. Substantive/policy changes are the next step in this process.

Guardianships – they have been responding to temporary requests, emergency protective placement requests, and advising adult protective services on numerous issues.

Appellate – they have twelve cases that are currently in court, they are waiting to see what will happen. There are ten additional cases with the intent to appeal.

980 sex offenders - on Friday, Judge Basiliere granted supervised release to another inmate. Housing has to be provided by October 28th. Attorney Mueller provided information on the 980 sex offender housing procedures.

Opioid settlement - Attorney Mueller gave an update on the settlement concerning the Sackler bankruptcy case.

Baby Boom - Two of the three paralegals will be out of the office starting in August until after Thanksgiving. They will be leaving the end of August and out of the office until Thanksgiving. Attorney Mueller asked everyone to please be patient with her office.

Mental Health Cases -127 new cases; New Guardianship - 58; New CHIPS Cases opened - 26; Legislation - they drafted 100 pieces; 30 Committee Meetings plus 195 other meetings. Extremely busy with Planning and Zoning and with Solid Waste. She is reviewing 408 contracts.

Attorney Mueller then took questions from the committee.

4. Request the Personnel & Finance Committee Approve \$15,607 in Labor Contingency Fund Use for the Medical Examiner Labor Expense Category

Cheryl Brehmer, Medical Examiner, asked for the committee's support to change an administrative associate position who is currently part-time, and make her a full-time employee and a deputy. The number of cases has increased. The Medical Examiner's office has had 56 autopsies to date this year. Last year the total was 49. Toxicology tests last year were 25. This year they are already at 59. Suicides are up thirteen, last year there were 8. Suicidal overdoses are down. The majority of suicides are by firearms and hangings. 174 on scene investigations, and only three people to cover them. Twelve confirmed overdoses this year, 26 at this time last year. Ms. Brehmer then took questions from the committee. Motion to Approve: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

5. Amend Winnebago County General Code Section 1.12 to Adopt a \$75 Stipend for Chairs of Boards, Commissions, Task Forces, and Consortiums and a \$25 Per Diem Stipend for Winnebago County Supervisors Attending any Authorized Meeting of Committees, Boards, Commissions, Task Forces, and Consortiums to Which the Supervisor Has Been Duly Appointed

Supervisor Tom Swan spoke about the proposed change he is requesting. The change from the per diem task force offered \$75.00 per month to standing committee chairs. In order to equalize additional compensation for the chairs of commissions, boards, task forces, consortium there would need to be an amendment to the previous verbiage. The budgetary impact would be \$10,000, including a \$25.00 stipend for anyone that is duly appointed to attend meetings. Supervisor Swan wondered if this would offer an additional incentive to attend meetings. These changes would take affect with the next term of the County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Swan suggested this item should be addressed to the AdHoc Task Force on County Board Rules.

Supervisor Swan offered to pull this amendment at this time, so that it can be brought back at a later date. The actual date is uncertain at this time.

G. Next Meeting Date

1. Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6:00 pm.
*Deadline for agenda items due Monday, July 22, 2024. Please forward those requests to Chairman Jim Wise for approval. Thank you.

H. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Hanson, seconded by Supervisor Stafford to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.