

JUDICIAL & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 5, 2025

Remote Meeting using WebEx/phone and in-person at Public Safety Room
Law Enforcement Center/Courthouse
67 W. Park St.– Montello, Wisconsin

1. Chairperson Judi Nigbor called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Members present: Judi Nigbor, Ken Borzick, Lance Achterberg, Chuck Bornhoeft, and Gary Sorensen

Others present: Supervisor Mary Walters, Administrator Ron Barger, EMS Director Rob Lulling, EMS Assistant Director Jordan Powell, Sheriff Joe Konrath, Captain Mike Kowalski, EM Director Lt. Aaron Williams, Clerk of Court Shari Rudolph (virtual), Medical Examiner Amanda Thoma (virtual), HR Manager Melanie Zuehls, multiple citizens, and virtual attendees.

2. Chairperson Nigbor reported items 10 a and 10 b will be swapped per the request of EMS Director Rob Lulling. Motion to approve amended agenda as presented by Ken Borzick and seconded by Chuck Bornhoeft. Motion carried.
3. Motion to approve July 1, 2025 minutes by Gary Sorensen and seconded by Ken Borzick. Motion carried.
4. Reports of official meetings held in the prior month- None
5. Upcoming Events/Issues/Citizen Comments- Several citizens spoke regarding the topic of EMS/ambulance coverage shortage, paramedic openings, pay/benefit issues - Bryan Claesges, Tim Houslet, Chris Klaopetke, and Mike Bourdeau. Citizen Ray Trudell addressed the committee concerning a matter involving the District Attorney. Sheriff Konrath agreed to speak to Ray Trudell after the meeting was complete.
6. Review Vouchers- No questions.
7. EM Director Lt. Williams has sent Hazard Mitigation Plan to municipalities and is open for review at County Clerk's Office. The plan will go to the County Board this month. Lt. Williams reported he has been working with schools setting up tabletop exercises before the school year begins. Reunification exercise with Waushara County has been scheduled. Lt. Williams also reported the Fire Association went to United Cooperative to tour the facility to pre-plan for emergencies.

ME Amanda Thoma reported there were 14 deaths for Marquette County in July.

Sheriff Konrath received an inspection report from the DOC- excellent report with no violations. Health Dept. inspected the jail kitchen with no violations. Currently fully staffed in the jail. Sheriff Konrath reported his budget will be presented in September.

Clerk of Court Shari Rudolph presented her proposed 2026 budget. Moved by Gary Sorensen and seconded by Chuck Bornhoeft to approve the 2026 Clerk of Court budget and forward to Executive and Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Administrator Ron Barger presented the proposed 2026 District Attorney budget due to DA Cliff Burdon being out of the office. Moved by Lance Achterberg and seconded by Chuck Bornhoeft to approve the 2026 District Attorney budget and forward to Executive and Finance Committee. Motion carried.

8. EMS Director Rob Lulling reported 207 calls in July. Budget to be presented in September. Rob gave a Medicaid reimbursement update noting the retroactive payments of \$94,000 from 2023 will get reimbursed next month, \$66,000 from 2024 will be reimbursed in Nov. Rob will submit 2025 data in 2026 for the current year's reimbursement. Rob reported there was another cardiac save- 4th for the year. Rob reported Madison Emergency Physicians will no longer provide medical direction. Options are to contract with Dr. Barr privately or with UW. Neither option will increase budget.

Rob reported that since December 2024, staffing issues continue. There are currently 2 open paramedic spots, with 1 paramedic to be out on FMLA soon. Next urgent open spot to be filled is August 30th.

9. Supervisor Bornhoeft requested the use of the county website for communications on news/emergency notifications be discussed. He requested information being shared via Facebook should also be shared via county webpage. Discussion followed. Department Heads would need to get information to IT to share the information to the "In the News" section.
10. Supervisor Bornhoeft reported he has requested information regarding information for jail expense reports. Supervisor Bornhoeft is looking for cost per person/inmate in the jail. Corporation Counsel Ben Lentendre reported the record doesn't need to be created or compiled based upon the request, but that a request does need to be responded to. Discussion followed regarding open records requests. Committee, Administrator, Sheriff's Office, and Corporation Counsel input was shared regarding the topic. Sheriff Konrath detailed the process it would take if the Marquette County Jail were to close, noting it would still require several staff. Sheriff Konrath reported what the county needed to do prior to the creation of the Marquette County Jail. Sheriff Konrath reiterated being PREA compliant allows for Marquette County to house federal inmates and earn revenue through the contract with US Marshals Service.
11. Moved by Lance Achterberg and seconded by Ken Borzick to move into closed session per Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e) under agenda item number 13. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes. Closed session began at 3:20 p.m.
12. Moved by Ken Borzick and seconded by Gary Sorensen to convene in open session under section 19.85(2) per agenda item number 10. Motion carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes. Open session began at 4:25 p.m.

13. The agenda having been completed Committee Chairperson Judi Nigbor declared the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Kiley Lloyd, County Clerk