

## **JUDICIAL & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**October 7, 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 2:03 p.m.

Members present: Judi Nigbor, Ken Borzick, Chuck Bornhoeft, Gary Sorensen, and Lance Achterberg (2:07 p.m.)

Others present: Supervisor Mary Walters, Supervisor Peggy Krause (virtual), Administrator Ron Barger, EMS Director Rob Lulling, Sheriff Joe Konrath, Captain Mike Kowalski, EM Director Lt. Aaron Williams, Medical Examiner Amanda Thoma (virtual), HR Manager Melanie Zuehls, Citizens Leroy Miller, Ervin Miller, David Miller, Melvin Schmucker, and Tim Houslet.

2. Chairperson Nigbor reported that item 8: EMS and item 9: Sheriff would be swapped for the attending citizens to speak on item 9b Animal Drawn Vehicles. Motion to approve amended agenda by Ken Borzick and seconded by Chuck Bornhoeft. Motion carried.
3. Motion to approve September 2, 2025 minutes by Chuck Bornhoeft and seconded by Gary Sorensen. Motion carried.
4. Reports of official meetings held in the prior month- None
5. Upcoming Events/Issues/Citizen Comments- Tim Houslet addressed the committee regarding the discussion around the possibility of closing an EMS station, EMS budget/overtime, etc. Mr. Houslet communicated that the decision to have the number and locations of stations was done through various public forums and consulting.
6. Review Vouchers- Questions by Supervisor Bornhoeft regarding Sheriff's Office vouchers regarding jail purchases.
7. Clerk of Court Shari Rudolph reported to Chairperson Nigbor she was unavailable due to being short staffed. DA Cliff Burdon was not in attendance. Lt. Williams reported that 2 municipalities, the Village of Endeavor and the Town of Newton are yet to submit their resolutions for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. When submissions are complete, Lt. Williams will upload the completed Hazard Mitigation Plan with the submitted attachments to SharePoint and notify the committee for their viewing. Lt. Williams gave an update regarding the uncertainty of funding for Emergency Management. He noted the State of WI applies for federal grants and divvies those out to counties, however, with federal funding often changing there has no definite news. Marquette County has not received this year's grant allocation for Emergency Management. There will be an update from the WEM as soon as possible to let counties know how funding will proceed. Lt. Williams reported information from a recent Traffic Safety Committee meeting and noted that they are trying to get Highway 82 memorialized for Fireman Millard and Fireman Quinn. Chairperson Nigbor

reported that TSC also had a presentation presenting information showing that driving behavior is learned from parents. ME Amanda Thoma reported Sept. deaths were at 19 for Marquette County.

8. Sheriff Konrath presented proposed 2026 fee increases. Discussion regarding huber rates, special event fees, etc. Motion by Ken Borzick and seconded by Gary Sorensen to approve Sheriff's Office fee schedule as presented and forward to Executive and Finance. Motion carried. Supervisor Achterberg noted he would like the Judge involved in the process next year when fees are examined.

Sheriff Konrath reported there have been an increase in complaints and accidents with animal drawn vehicles over the last several years. He reported many of the different Amish sects have been agreeable to state law Act 228 requiring a lighting change, however a sect in the northern part of the county have no lighting on buggies or slow-moving vehicle signage. Sheriff Konrath is requesting the committee sponsor an Animal Drawn Vehicles Ordinance to be adopted by the county, which was done in St. Croix County. It was reported Lt. Williams is the Amish community liaison. Lt. Williams reported the Westfield and Oxford Amish community area is in the older sect and will not abide by stricter rules and will not use state law of slow-moving vehicle sign or yellow flashing lights. They have attempted to meet to discuss safety issue, considered area bishops meeting, etc. Discussion with Amish attendees and how to work with the community members that do not want to comply. Committee recommended Sheriff Konrath to reach out to Corporation Counsel for further guidance on the issue. Citizens from the Amish community also spoke to the lighting issues, manure issue, and sole protection. It was noted they donate funds to Buffalo Township to assist with road maintenance.

9. Administrator Barger presented an updated proposed 2026 budget for EMS. He reported the presented budget utilized \$200,000 of surplus funds and \$100,000 of new shared revenue funds. The presented budget also has 2 positions included, not 3 which had been previously discussed at the last meeting. With this position lineup, the Assistant EMS Director would be working as a Paramedic as calls come in during daytime hours. Part-time Paramedics will pick up the extra shifts outside of his hours. Discussion on overtime. Overtime that is automatically built in is at approximately \$576,000. The budget presented has the overtime line item at \$650,000 for possibility of FMLA, sick leave, shift openings. etc. Discussion on outlay accounts and surplus accounts. With the \$200,000 of surplus in the EMS budget, it would leave \$131,000 in that account.

Committee went through each line in the proposed 2026 EMS budget with thorough discussion.

Moved by Gary Sorensen and seconded by Ken Borzick to forward EMS budget with shared revenue line item of \$100,000 to be removed from proposed 2026 budget.

Moved by Lance Achterberg and seconded by Chuck Bornhoeft to amend the motion to set the overtime line item to \$580,000 with the shared revenue line item being reduced. Motion carried.

Amended motion to forward EMS budget with shared revenue line item of \$100,000 to be removed and to set the overtime line item at \$580,000 in the proposed 2026 budget. Motion carried.

Sheriff Konrath and Supervisor Bornhoeft went over financial information for inmates. The discussion will continue at another time.

Rob Lulling reported they settled on a new Medical Director agreement with Dr. Aurora Lybeck. Rob reported they passed the final desk review went over numbers for Medicaid reimbursements. Rob had several applicants and interviews and offered 3 Paramedics (2 full-time and 1 part-time) and 3 part-time EMT's today.

10. The agenda having been completed Committee Chairperson Judi Nigbor declared the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Kiley Lloyd, County Clerk