

LINCOLN COUNTY
Public Safety Committee
Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Board Chambers, Room 257
Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452

MINUTES

1. Vice-chair Osness called the meeting to order. In attendance were Supervisors Thiel, Osness, Meunier, Miller, with Boyd and Friske attending virtually. Chair Boyd was attending virtually while on his way to the meeting. Boyd arrived at 4:18 and relieved Osness from chairing the meeting. Department heads in attendance were Sheriff Schneider, Tyler Iverson, Tyler Verhasselt, Tom Barker, Becky Byer, Samantha Fenske, Chief Klug, Shari Rodriguez, and Chris Marlowe.
2. Next Meeting Date and Time Wednesday, November 8, 2023
3. M/S Thiel/Meunier to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2023 meeting. All Ayes.
4. Public Comment – there was none
5. **Emergency Management**
 - a. Year-to-date Budget Report – Verhasselt reported he was at roughly 50% of his expected budget and is expecting delivery of grant proceeds totaling 10,000 that will offset previous expenditures.
 - b. M/S Miller/Thiel to approve Verhasselt’s Travel & Expense Report. All Ayes.
 - c. Resolution 2023-10-XX – Adoption of Lincoln County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) – Verhasselt reported that the adoption is critical for future grants. He also reported that State and Federal best practice recommendations involve developing an Emergency Support Function (ESF) to replace the traditional Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). M/S Miller/Thiel to approve this resolution and forward to November County Board. Motion passed 5-0.
 - d. FEMA Training Opportunities for Elected and Senior Officials – Verhasselt announced two training opportunities, on Response Measures and Command Systems, for all our elected and senior officials as follows: October 17 in Wisconsin Rapids and 12/6 in Medford.
 - e. Updates on Emergency Management Plans and Programs. Verhasselt reported that he is in the process of writing our Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) which will replace our Emergency Response Plan. He has asked, and chair Boyd reiterated, that all our Supervisors and other Elected Officials respond to the survey Verhasselt is distributing.
6. **Coroner**
 - a. Year-to-date Budget Report – The committee had no concerns with the coroner budget report so it was placed on file.
 - b. Coroner’s Report – Caylor’s report was reviewed and placed on file.
7. **Judicial**
 - a. District Attorney and Victim Witness– Kristopher Ellis
 - i. Year-to-date Budget Report – Report was placed on file.
 - b. Clerk of Courts and Family Court – Thomas Barker
 - i. Year-to-date Budget Report – Barker had no major concerns, report was placed on file.
 - ii. Hearing Room Audio/Video Equipment – Barker is reviewing AV Equipment for the Court House hearing room. He made a trip to Taylor County to view their equipment which is similar to our requirements.
 - iii. Travel & Expense Report – M/S Miller/Meunier to approve Barker’s expense report. All Ayes
 - c. Register in Probate and Circuit Court – Becky Beyer
 - i. Year-to-date Budget Report – Byer reported she was concerned that upcoming trials could adversely affect her budget.
 - ii. Approval of Time Sheets – M/S Thiel/Osness to approve Byers time sheets, all ayes.
 - iii. Deputy Register in Probate Vacancy – Byer reported that she was internally posting until the 20th and opened up after that if needed. Sherrie Zortman’s last physical day is October 31, 2023 and

her last paid day is 1/2/2024. Byer reported she would be working alone in the office for the remainder of the year due to the budgetary payroll restraints that retirements can create.

8. Sheriff's Office

a. Statistical Reports

- i. Case Summary Report – placed on file.
- ii. Expense Budget, Revenue Budget (Year-to-date Report) – Reviewed and placed on file.
- iii. Recreational Officer Activity Report – placed on file.
- iv. 9-1-1 Supervisor's Report – Iverson reported that they had two recent hires and that when they are trained 911 will be fully staffed again.
- v. Jail Census Report – Reported average of 52 with today's count being 40. Iverson reported being very dependent of Marathon county who sends us 50% of their out of county placements. Chair Boyd express concern with census average that was used for budgeting 2024.
- vi. Ordinance Amending the General Code of Lincoln County Chapter 7 – Traffic and Vehicle Code. Iverson and Schneider explained that the Sheriff Office is responsible for the removal of abandoned vehicles. The state asks that counties set the time limits for how long a vehicle can remain abandoned before it is deemed abandoned and removed. This ordinance sets these limits. M/S Osness/Miller to forward to county board for approval. All Ayes. Osness agreed to author and with Boyd and Thiel as additional sponsors.

9. Emergency Medical Services

- a. Tomahawk Report – Samantha Fenske reviewed the report with the committee. Placed on file.
- b. Merrill Report– Chief Klug was available for questions on his report. Placed on file.
- c. Monthly Charge Report, Write-offs, and Collections – Samantha Fenske reported that the aging is about \$450,000. Requested write-offs for the month are \$6,554.71. Charge reports and collections were in the packet for review. M/S Osness/Thiel to approve write-offs of \$6,554.71. All ayes.
- d. Year-to-Date Budget Report – Samantha Fenske presented the year-to-date budget with the committee. She also gave a verbal update on the revenue budget stating billings were up \$200K this year. She also reported that Medicaid payoffs went from \$200 to \$400 this year.

10. Adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Minutes drafted by County Clerk Chris Marlowe 2023.10.27

DISTRIBUTION:

Committee Members: Jesse Boyd – Chair, Steve Osness, Jr., Laurie Thiel, James Meunier, Dana Miller, and Don Friske

Administrative Coordinator, Other County Board Supervisors, Department Heads, Family Court Commissioner – Wachsmuth, Judge Bayne-Allison – Branch 1, Judge Russell – Branch 2, Merrill Fire Chief Klug, Kelly Thomsen – Victim Witness, Scott Langa – Tomahawk EMS