

LINCOLN COUNTY
Public Safety Committee
Wednesday, November 8, 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. Chair Boyd called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm with these additional supervisors in attendance: Meunier, Miller, Osness, and Thiel, (5) with Friske attending virtually (6). Department heads in attendance were Sheriff Schneider, Tyler Iverson, Judge Robert Russell, Tyler Verhasselt, Tom Barker, Becky Byer, Samantha Fenske, Chief Klug, Scott Langa, and Chris Marlowe.
2. Next Meeting Date and Time Wednesday, December 13, 2023
3. M/S Thiel/Meunier to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2023 meeting. All Ayes.
4. Public Comment – there was none
5. **Emergency Management**
 - a. Year-to-date Budget Report – Verhasselt reported everything is on track as expected.
 - b. M/S Thiel/Osness to approve Verhasselt’s October Travel & Expense Report. All Ayes.
 - c. Updates on Emergency Management Plans and Programs. Verhasselt reported that he believes he is on par to complete his grant requirements. ID cards are on schedule. Working to identify where we are at in our Risk Management Processes to evaluate what needs improvement.
6. **Coroner**
 - a. Year-to-date Budget Report – Caylor has no concerns with the coroner budget report explaining that expenditures for the month were low. Her YTD Budget Report was placed on file.
 - b. Coroner’s Report – Caylor reported 24 deaths for the month and that her morgue cooler is now operable. Her report was placed on file.
 - c. Travel & Expense Report – M/S Osness/Miller to approve Caylor’s October expense report. All Ayes
7. **Judicial**
 - a. District Attorney and Victim Witness– Nothing to report.
 - 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 explained his overall YTD Budget is in good order. His report was placed on file.
 - ii. Family Court Commissioner 2024 Contract – Barker reported no language change from previous year’s contract. He is expecting a raise in attorney fees in the 2025 contract.
 - iii. Travel & Expense Report – M/S Thiel/Osness to approve Barker’s October expense report. All Ayes
 - c. Register in Probate and Circuit Court – Becky Beyer
 - i. Year-to-date Budget Report – Byer reported she is watch expenditures closely and that her budget has been adversely affected due to her long-time employees recent retirement.
 - ii. Approval of Time Sheets – M/S Thiel/Osness to approve Byers October time sheets, all ayes.
 - iii. Update on Security Screening and State Historical Society Walkthrough – Judge Russell reported the walk through went well. The Historical Society Rep advises that we focus on the North Entrance. It is too early to estimate project costs. Maintenance Director is expecting preliminary architectural sketches and will seek information from there. The project will need County Board Approval once numbers are known. Judge Russell estimated that he would have another update in 60 days.
 - iv. Deputy Register in Probate Position has been internally filled from the COC Office and will create a vacancy there. Her new hire will begin on January 3, 2024. Until then she will be running the office shorthanded and with just her.
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 – Schneider reported that 911 received a lot of nuisance calls last month as seen in the report.
- v. Jail Census Report – Report placed on file.
- vi. Ordinance Jail Inmate Debt Write Offs. Finance Director Fenske explained the need for the write-off and that this has never been done which is the reason for the very high number which exceeds 49K. She explained, with the help of Schneider, that inmates often run up debt while in jail. Most of this debt is a result of medical care administered while in our care. Medical care is administered to all and not based on their ability to pay. The county uses the services of the State Debt Collection to collect but this only works if the inmate has the means to pay. The county will continue to attempt to collect these debts even though they have been written off. Next year’s write off will be significantly less. M/S Osness/Miller to approve the write-off of \$49,961.41. All Ayes.

9. **Emergency Medical Services**

- a. Tomahawk Report – Langa was in attendance and the report was 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 requested write-offs for the month are \$12,238.45. Charge reports and collections were in the packet for review. M/S Osness/Miller to approve write-offs of \$12,238.45. All ayes.
- d. Year-to-Date Budget Report – Samantha Fenske presented the year-to-date budget with the committee. She noted that we recognized the last ambulance purchase and that would explain the large expenditure. Fenske was optimistic regarding the End of Year Numbers reporting higher than usual collections. Report was placed on file.

10. Adjourned at 4:41 PM.

Minutes drafted by County Clerk Chris Marlowe 2023.11.20

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