

LINCOLN COUNTY
Public Safety Committee
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 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: Friske, Meunier, Miller, and Thiel, (5) Department heads in attendance were Tyler Iverson, Tyler Verhasselt, Tom Barker, Becky Byer, Samantha Fenske, Valerie Caylor, Chief Klug, Judge Russell and Pat Gierl attending virtually Scott Langa Excused: Steve Osness, Sheriff Schneider
2. Next Meeting Date and Time Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 4:00p.m.
3. M/S Thiel/Miller to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting. All ayes.
4. Public Comment – none
5. **Emergency Management**
 - a. Year-to-date Budget Report – Verhasselt reported everything is on track as expected. Report reviewed and placed on file.
 - b. Travel & Expense Report – M/S Miller/Meunier to approve Verhasselt’s expense report. All ayes.
 - c. Updates on Emergency Management Plans and Programs – Verhasselt reported the State of WI approved all three training requests. Verhasselt will be sending out a memo indicating training dates and topics. First training (Extreme Event Game) will take place the second or third week in March, pending response from the WI Emergency Management Trainer. Verhasselt will be sending out the 2024 Priorities and Objectives based on the IPP Survey results from Fall. Verhasselt reported that the statewide communication exercise Lincoln County is hosting in May will be expanded to include the National Guard.
6. **Coroner**
 - a. Coroner’s Report – Caylor reported 34 deaths, three suicides and one autopsy. Increased deaths of people under the age of 50. Twenty five cremation permits and 10 formal death investigations. First family able to utilize the morgue to view a family member.
 - b. Travel & Expense Report – M/S Thiel/Miller to approve Caylor’s December expense report. All ayes.
 - c. Year-to-date Budget Report – Report reviewed and placed on file.
 - d. Discuss and Possible Action of Indigent Expense Account of \$5000 – Fenske reported that Caylor determined an adequate amount would be \$5000. Caylor indicated that fees could range between \$1000-\$2000 or less per person. This could potentially pay for 4-5 people. Last year there were two cases. M/S Thiel/Miller to send to Finance for 2024 Budget Modification or bring back to committee for 2025 budget. All ayes.
7. **Judicial**
 - a. District Attorney and Victim Witness
 - i. Year-to-date Budget Report – Placed on file.
 - ii. Active Cases and Breakdown Report – none, will be reviewed quarterly.
 - b. Clerk of Courts and Family Court – Thomas Barker
 - i. Year-to-date Budget Report – Report reviewed, no questions/concerns. Placed on file.
 - c. Register in Probate and Circuit Court – Becky Beyer
 - i. Proposal for Professional Services (Courthouse Security Screening) – Judge Russell presented the Proposal for Professional Services. Pat Gierl reported that the proposal would be for work necessary to complete to utilize the north entrance of the Courthouse as the primary entrance. The Historical Society has indicated that this will require a separate structure outside of the north entrance for screening equipment and personnel. This would consist of a new structure, attached to the building, and a new parking lot. Pat will be working with the Funktion Design Studio, LLC to reduce the cost associated with construction by determining what aspects of construction can be completed by the County. Timeframe for finalized comprehensive plan

would be October/November. Estimated building construction cost \$420,000-\$500,000(20x40 brick and glass), parking lot (80x100) \$78,000 for project costs alone. M/S Miller/Meunier to proceed with design firm. Body will notify the Chair of the Finance Committee that we are proceeding with this project and potential cost to the county.

- ii. Year-to-date Budget Report – Byer indicated that there will need to be a modification made to her 2024 budget to show an unbudgeted expense from a retirement. The expense should be offset by the difference in insurance costs for the new hire. Byer expects to have budget modifications and a request for contingency funds next month, as GAL and Doctor fees caused her to go over budget last year.
- iii. Approval of Time Sheets – M/S Thiel/Meunier to approve time sheets. All ayes.

8. Sheriff's Office

a. Statistical Reports

- i. Case Summary Report – reviewed and placed on file.
- ii. Expense Budget, Revenue Budget (Year-to-date Report) – Iverson reported vehicle repair for corrections expended due to transmission repair (\$5200). Iverson also reported that the 911 statewide grant (\$50,000) was not awarded this year which covers the service contracts for software. Contingency plan will need to be made. Reapplying for grant for next year. Report placed on file.
- iii. Recreational Officer Activity Report – reviewed and placed on file.
- iv. 9-1-1 Supervisor's Report – Reviewed and placed on file.
- v. Jail Census Report – Census has dropped significantly. Iverson reported that staffing will improve within the next three months with a few applicants moving through the hiring process full time. Report placed on file.

The Jail Administrator (Dave Mannen) of 27 years has passed. Condolences extended to his family on behalf of the committee.

9. Emergency Medical Services

- a. Tomahawk Report –Langa reviewed report with committee. Langa reported significant increase in salary expenses due to new salary calculations in November by Aspirus. Langa has requested a detailed breakdown of these changes from Aspirus. Employees are technically Aspirus employees. Aspirus pays employees and then the County reimburses Aspirus. Report placed on file.
- b. Merrill Report– Chief Klug was available for questions on his report. December 12th began advertising for firefighter/paramedic. Only two viable candidates after submission deadline. Both candidate placed on an eligibility list to fill upcoming retirement vacancy. Assisted the Finance Department on the Medical Ground Ambulance Data Collection Program to increase revenues. Report placed on file.
- c. Lift Assist Fee Discussion and Possible Action – Chief Klug indicated that changes have not been made to this program since 2015. Fees are typically not reimbursed by Medicare/Medicaid unless patient is transported to a facility. If approved (based on type of coverage and diagnosis), Medicare/Medicaid reimburses \$49. There are some residents who frequently rely on this service. Concerns with ambulance service availability discussed for other emergencies when being utilized for lift assists. Wausau currently charges \$275 per occurrence after the first two. Fenske will report actual collections and committee will discuss possible increase of fees at next meeting.
- d. Monthly Charge Report, Write-offs, and Collections – Fenske reported \$9207 in write-offs. M/S Meunier/Miller to approve \$9207 in write-offs. All ayes. Fenske updated the committee on EMS yearly reports. Since allowing the biller to extend working hours, \$171,000 was received in January. Aging is coming more in line to where it needs to be. Budget report on track. Fenske reported that some of the Biermann Family donation money will be carried over into 2024 to accommodate expenditures.

10. Adjourned at 5:06 PM.

Minutes drafted by Deputy County Clerk Heather Hurley

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