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LANGLADE COUNTY



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MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Public Safety Committee
Date: Thursday, November 7, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: County Board Room, Lower Level of the Safety Building

The following discussion was held by the Committee at the meeting detailed above:

1. Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman Curler
2. The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Silence Cell Phones
4. Roll call was conducted: Motion by J. Wagner, second by Poltrock to excuse W. Wagner. All ayes, motion carried.

Public Safety Committee		
Name	Role	Status
Doug Curler	Chairman	Present
Warren Wagner	Vice-Chair	Absent
Joel Wagner	Member	Present
Teresa Poltrock	Member	Present
Chris Below	Member	Absent
Non-Committee Members Present		
Name	Interest	
Mark Westen	Sheriff	
Heidi Walrath	Jail Administrator	
Dan Bauknecht	Chief Deputy/ Undersheriff	
Kelly Hays	District Attorney	
Ashley Donovan	Sheriff's Office Manager	
Amanda Keesling	Sheriff's Office Administrative Assistant	
Becky Rank	Deputy County Clerk/ Recording Secretary	
Danny Spatchek	Antigo Daily Journal	

5. **Approve previous meeting minutes of August 22, 2024:** Motion by Poltrock, second by J. Wagner to approve the Public Safety Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2024. All ayes, motion carried.
6. **District Attorney's Report:** District Attorney Hays presented the Committee with a written report. Hays reported on case numbers, trial dates, and the Diversion Program. Hays stated the Unity in the Community event was well attended. Hays stated Assistant District Attorney Sam Schmitt was hired out of law school and just completed his first year with Langlade County, stating Schmitt is eager and willing to learn new tasks. Hays stated Assistant District Attorney Jon Spansail has been with Langlade County for 8 months. Mr. Spansail came to the county with years of experience as a Public Defender. Hays stated she is grateful for all of her staff and the office is running well. Discussion held on Juvenile case types and placement. Information only.
7. **Coroner's Report:** Report received prior to the meeting.
8. **Child Support Report:** Report received prior to the meeting.
9. **Emergency Management Report:** Report received prior to the meeting.
10. **Sheriff/Jail Office/Nurse Report:** Jail Administrator Walrath presented the Committee with a written report. Walrath stated the jail numbers are down from last month with a total number of 62 inmates. Walrath discussed the high medical needs of the inmate population. Information only.
11. **Update on Staffing Changes:** Sheriff Westen updated the Committee on staffing changes within the Sheriff's Office. Currently there is a Deputy Sheriff vacancy. Sheriff Westen stated this position has been vacant for 6 months with

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

no qualified candidate applications received during recruitment. Chief Deputy Bauknecht will continue to work with HR on recruitment. There are multiple vacancies in Dispatch. Sheriff Westen stated Deputy Chief Bauknecht has been working closely with HR on recruitment and training. Sheriff Westen stated there is 1 Correction Officer vacancy, 2 qualified candidate applications have been received. Sheriff Westen stated he received word on the possibility of 3 Correction Officer resignations. Sheriff Westen wanted the Committee to know if the vacancies occur then there will be a strain and overtime for employees until fully staffed. Chief Deputy Bauknecht updated the Committee on training qualifications needed to be a Corrections Officer, stating a 5-week course is needed and most applicants will not have the qualifications upon hire. Sheriff Westen discussed longevity in the Sheriff's Office, as there are very few long-term employees in the Sheriff's Office, most employees have two or less years of service. Sheriff Westen thanked Chief Deputy Bauknecht on the work he does on recruitment and retention. Information only.

- 12. Sheriff's Proposal discussed at the October 28, 2024 County Board Meeting:** Sheriff Westen presented the Committee with a written letter and request to amend the 2025 Budget. Sheriff Westen states in the letter he is requesting assistance in addressing recruitment and retention issues specifically for Correction's Officers and Emergency Dispatchers, positions unique to Langlade County services as they are the only positions that require staffing twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week, 365 days per year. Sheriff Westen has proposed increasing the standard pay rates that have been applied since approximately 2020 to \$23.00 starting, \$26.00 min and \$29.00 max. Additionally, Sheriff Westen is asking for a review and adjustment to the accrual rates of PTO offered to these positions. Motion by Poltrock, second by J. Wagner to forward to the full County Board the proposal from the Sheriff's Office to amend the 2025 Budget. All ayes, motion carried.
- 13. Review Monthly & Year End Departmental Budgets presented to the Committee:** Report received prior to the meeting.
- 14. County Administrator Comments/Updates:** Not in attendance.
- 15. Next meeting date:** December 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Board Room.
- 16. Tour of the Jail and Dispatch:** Tour commenced after meeting adjourned.
- 17. Adjourn the meeting:** Motion by J. Wagner, second by Poltrock to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Becky Rank, Deputy County Clerk, Recording Secretary