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LANGLADE COUNTY



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MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Public Safety Committee
Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Hearing 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: All members present

Public Safety Committee		
Name	Role	Status
Doug Curler	Chairman	Present
Warren Wagner	Vice-Chair	Present
Joel Wagner	Member	Present
Teresa Poltrock	Member	Present
Dan Persen	Member	Present

Non-Committee Members Present	
Name	Interest
Mark Westen	Sheriff
Heidi Walrath	Jail Administrator
Travis Krueger	Emergency Management
Nancy Benish	Diversion Coordinator
Felicia Blunt	Three Bridges
Ben Pierce	County Board Chairman
John Medo	County Board Supervisor
Becky Rank	Deputy County Clerk/ Recording Secretary

5. **Approve the previous meeting minutes of March 6, 2025:** Motion by Poltrock to amend the Minutes of March 6, 2025, spelling error in Item #10, second by Persen. All ayes, motion carried. Motion by Poltrock, second by Persen, to approve the previous meeting minutes of March 6, 2025, as amended. All ayes, motion carried.
6. **Short presentation about the Treatment and Alternative Diversion (TAD) Groups in Langlade County – Nancy Benish, Diversion Coordinator:** Langlade County Diversion Coordinator, Nancy Benish and Felicia Blunt with Three Bridges presented to the Committee a written resource guide of substance prevention groups within Langlade County. Benish and Blunt discussed each group, giving information on the location and time of each meeting. Benish stated this will be presented at the June County Board Meeting. Blunt stated recovery meetings are a growing need for the Community. Information only.
7. **Discussion regarding Opioid Funding, Uses, and Work Group:** No information will be addressed at the Administrative Committee Meeting.
8. **District Attorney's Report:** No report.
9. **Coroner's Report:** Written report presented to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

- 10. Child Support Report:** Written report presented to the Committee prior to the meeting.
- 11. Emergency Management Report:** Emergency Management Director Krueger presented the Committee with a written report. Krueger discussed with the Committee trainings upcoming and attended. Krueger stated he is assisting with numerous townships and the County to help assess clean-up costs. The town and County can then submit reimbursement to the Wisconsin Disaster Fund. Krueger updated the Committee on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the uncertainty of funding to complete the project. Information only.
- 12. Sheriff/Jail Office/Nurse Report:** Sheriff Westen updated the Committee on the Simulcast Project. Sheriff Westen stated the project was allocated 1.5 million, and currently \$780,261 is remaining. Sheriff Westen stated the project is projected to come in under budget, but wants to stress that the funding needs to stay with this project until completion. The Summit Lake Tower should be complete at the end of summer, with Pickerel Tower next. Sheriff Westen stated there was a lot of red tape to go through to get this project where it is today, and he wants to see it completed.
Sheriff Westen stated that Langlade County has seen two tragic automobile crashes this year. The two crashes happened at different times/locations, resulting in four fatalities. Sheriff Westen stated that these types of incidents are hard on the emergency crews and deputies.
Sheriff Westen wanted to clarify that there is an NA Program in the Jail. The program has limited attendance for inmates. However, the jail staff work on getting the inmates who will benefit the most from the program. There is also a church group that comes in. Diversion Coordinator Benish does get the current inmate lists. Sheriff Westen stated they now do in-person parent visits.
Jail Administrator Walrath updated the Committee on the Langlade County Jail. Walrath stated there are currently 70 inmates. Walrath stated the jail is fully staffed with two corrections officers in training. Walrath stated that about 60% of the inmates are on medication. The health and mental health of inmates are deteriorating. Walrath stated she is doing the best to deal with the rising costs to stay within budget. Information only.
- 13. Update on Staffing Changes:** Sheriff Westen stated the Jail is fully staffed with two in-field training. The Sheriff Deputies are fully staffed with one in the recruit academy, then they will go through field training. Sheriff Westen stated he has three deputies with less than a year of experience; Dispatch currently has six full-time staff, one in training, and two part-time. Westen stated he also utilizes dispatch-trained deputies who fill in as needed. Marathon County has not assisted in the Dispatch Center since January 2025 however, the capability is still in place if the need arises. Information only.
- 14. Review Monthly Departmental Budgets presented to the Committee:** Child Support provided a printed budget prior to the meeting. Sheriff Westen stated he will provide a written budget at the July meeting. Information only.
- 15. County Administrator Comments/Updates:** No report.
- 16. Tour of the Langlade County Jail, Supervisors are invited to attend this meeting/tour.** The Committee commenced the Jail Tour after the meeting was adjourned.
- 17. Next meeting date:** July 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- 18. Adjourn the meeting:** Motion by J. Wagner, second by Persen to adjourn the Public Safety Meeting at 10:01 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Rank, Deputy County Clerk, Recording Secretary