

MINUTES PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, September 8, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Courthouse – Conference Rm #302

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Zurfluh, Dennis Polach, Jeff Penzkover, William Voight, Brad Hamilton

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Zurfluh called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Motion by Hamilton/Penzkover to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
3. There was no public comment.
4. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 13, 2025, at 9:00 AM.
5. The Communications Department presented their report and bill listing for review.
6. Communications Director Engel presented the 2026 Communications budget for review. Motion by Hamilton/Voight to approve the budget as presented and forward to the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
7. The Emergency Management Department presented their report and bill listing for review.
8. Emergency Management Director Christensen presented the 2026 Emergency Management budgets for review. Motion by Voight/Hamilton to approve the budget as presented and forward to the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
9. The Dispatch Department presented their report and bill listing for review.
10. Dispatch Manager Bastien presented an incentive pay policy for the Dispatch Dept. to better ensure staffing levels during the year. It is modeled after the incentive pay policies already being used at both Norwood Health Care Center and Edgewater Haven Nursing Home. Motion by Penzkover/Voight to approve the policy as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Bastien presented the 2026 Dispatch budget for review. Motion by Hamilton/Penzkover to approve the budget as presented and forward to the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
12. Coroner Patton was on a call during the meeting; the committee reviewed the monthly report and bill listing.
13. The 2026 Coroner budget was reviewed. Motion by Hamilton/Voight to approve the 2026 Coroners budget as presented and forward onto the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Sheriff Becker reviewed various reports and activities of the Sheriff's Department. He highlighted the following:
- Special recognition was given to Security Services Deputy Sara McCormick on her upcoming retirement and her 29 years of service to Wood County.
 - Central Wisconsin State Fair attendance by the Sheriffs Dept.
 - Applicants for the co-responder grant funded position will be interviewed shortly.
15. Sheriff Becker & Chief Deputy Ellis presented the 2026 Humane Officer and Sheriff Dept. budgets. Motion by Hamilton/Penzkover to approve the budgets as presented and forward to the Finance Dept. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Becker presented a resolution to amend the 2025 budget to fund a school resource officer position for Auburndale Schools through the Sheriff's Dept. Motion by Hamilton/Penzkover to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
17. Motion by Hamilton/Voight to approve the voucher listings for Communications, Coroner, Dispatch, Emergency Management, and Sheriff's Department. Motion carried unanimously.
18. Chairman Zurfluh declared the meeting adjourned 10:17 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

Public Safety Committee
September 8, 2025

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