

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Douglas County Board of Supervisors**  
**Thursday, October 27, 2022, 4:00 p.m., Board Room, Second Floor, Government Center**  
**1316 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Superior, Wisconsin**

Meeting called to order by Chair Pomush.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Samuel Pomush, Rosemary Lear, Bill Fennessey, Ron Leino. Absent – Richard Staupe. Others present – Ann Doucette, Kelly Thimm, Alan Nichols, Rebecca Lovejoy, Sheila Keup, Jerry Moe, Tracy Ruppe, Bill Whiteside, Sharon Dembroski, Dave Sletten, Michele Wick, Matt Izzard, Tyler Edwards, Shelley Nelson, Mark Liebaert, Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Motion by Leino, second Fennessey, to approve the September 29, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Updates and Reports:**

**Child Support:** Dembroski attended a four day conference recently with other staff; software training in progress; and down two staff.

**Circuit Court Branch I:** Thimm reported on potential of three large trials in the next three months; numbers are consistent with last year.

**Circuit Court Branch II:** Not present.

**Clerk of Courts:** Wick reported new employee started October 17, 2022, one leaving and another one starting soon and one open position. Staffing continues to be a problem.

**Court Commissioner:** Lovejoy reported things going well, numbers are fairly steady. A Court Commissioner's conference will be held in Superior in the future.

**District Attorney:** Nichols reported office fully staffed,

**Emergency Management:** Sletten reported working on 2023 plan of work; closing out grants for 2022; training exercises ongoing; capital projects; reimbursement for hazard mitigation plan.

**Communications Center:** Sletten reported still down three staff, one in training, interviews starting next week; submitted grant public service answering point; capital project items in progress as well.

**Medical Examiner:** Keup reported fully staffed; two new deputy medical examiners are doing well.

**Probate:** Thimm reported new hire Deputy Register in Probate started from St. Croix County; prior deputy is training.

**Sheriff – Patrol Division:** Moe reported two staff at recruit school, done in December; three vehicles purchased in April will hit the road this weekend; other two purchased arranging for pickup from Milwaukee.

**Sheriff – Jail Division:** Edwards reported down five staff; door control system starting upgrade on November 7<sup>th</sup> should take a couple weeks; second floor still closed; next week new ladders coming in for

top bunks; approved meals to be supplemented with soy protein for cost savings; elevator currently broken; five week jail academy program started (8 officers attending).

**ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:**

**Resolutions from Eau Claire and Langlade Counties Requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and Revise the Entry Level Compensation Rate for Assistant District Attorneys:** Reviewed.

**ACTION (RESOLUTION):** Motion by Leino, second Lear, to approve resolutions from Eau Claire and Langlade Counties requesting the State of Wisconsin Review and revise the entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys at \$55,000 per year, and forward to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**INFORMATIONAL/REPORTS:**

**Jail:**

**Out of County Inmate Agreements:** Agreements reviewed. US Marshal contract distributed. All agreements are continuous.

**Jail Costs:** Chart distributed utilizing inmate historical data. Whiteside provided background for analysis: 60 average beds filled out at \$55 average per bed per day would be break-even point to cover deficit from fixed to levy costs. Finance to provide additional scenarios in the future to committee.

**Feasibility Study for a New Jail:** Edwards provided background on findings. Samuels Group has been utilized by many jails at an approximate cost of \$35,000 for 120 day long on-site study. Costs range anywhere from \$40,000,000 to \$70,000,000 for new jails being built, or built recently in Wisconsin.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Fennessey, second Leino, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk