

**Minutes**  
Eau Claire County  
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement  
Wednesday, June 22, 2022 – 3:00 PM  
County Courthouse, Room 1273  
721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703

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**Members Present:** Allen Myren, Stella Pagonis, Connie Russell, and Gerald Wilkie.

**Members Absent:** Brett Geboy.

**Ex Officio Member Present:** Nick Smiar.

**Others Present:** Corporation Counsel Sharon McIlquham, TRY Mediation Director Todd Johnson, Lieutenant Travis Holbrook, Captain Dave Riewestahl, Clerk of Court Susan Schaffer, Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Susan Warner, Victim Witness Coordinator Jessica Bryan, District Attorney Peter Rindal, Avery Shanahan, and Eric Huse.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wilkie at 3:00 PM.

**Confirmation of Public Meeting Notice**

The Clerk confirmed the meeting was properly noticed to the public.

**Roll Call**

The Clerk called the roll. Attendance is noted above.

**Public Comment**

Supervisor Pagonis noted the Butterfly House at Beaver Creek Reserve is opening in early July.

**Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2022 Meeting**

Supervisor Russell moved to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2022 meeting. A correction to the spelling of Supervisor Geboy's name under the American Rescue Plan Fund Proposal roll call votes was noted. The minutes were adopted as corrected via 4-0 voice vote.

**Corporation Counsel Opinion: "Can Eau Claire County Correctional Officers be granted protective status by County Board Action?"**

Corporation Counsel Sharon McIlquham spoke to the memos attached to these minutes. The opinion of Corporation Counsel that Eau Claire County Correctional Officers cannot be granted protective status by County Board Action is unchanged since the November 2017 opinion as there has not been any change in the legislation or case law. The Committee engaged in general discussion. Captain Riewestahl will draft a resolution for the County Board's consideration urging the State legislature to take action.

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Department Fiscal Updates**

- **TRY Mediation**

- Director Todd Johnson provided an update. Director Johnson explained that a new contract with a county they service was unexpected when the annual budget was set and has resulted in increased revenue for the first quarter. TRY Mediation has also experienced other cost savings in mediator expenses. Technology fees are increasing but are manageable right now. Currently, nearly all mediations are done by Zoom and Director Johnson does not anticipate reverting back to in-person. The Committee engaged in general discussion.

- **Clerk of Court**
  - Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer provided an update. The department has recently gone through staffing changes but will be fully staffed at the beginning of July. The Committee engaged in general discussion.
- **Circuit Court**
  - Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer provided an update. Interpreter costs were discussed; despite interpreters appearing by Zoom, costs are still relatively substantial. The Committee engaged in general discussion.
- **Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court**
  - Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Susan Warner provided an update. Expecting payroll line-item to be over budget this year due to a staff member unexpectedly selecting county offered health insurance benefits. The Committee engaged in general discussion.

### **District Attorney's Office**

- **Marsy's Law Overview**
  - Victim Witness Coordinator Jessica Bryan and Operations Manager Eric Huse provided an overview of the 2020 Constitutional amendment "Marsy's Law." The Committee engaged in general discussion.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Fiscal Update**
  - District Attorney Peter Rindal and Operations Manager Eric Huse provided an update. It was noted that case filings and jury trial activity appear to be returning to pre-COVID-19 levels. The Committee engaged in general discussion.

### **Criminal Justice Services**

- **Department Introduction**
  - Criminal Justice Services Director Tiana Glenna introduced her department and provided an overview of their roles and responsibilities. The Committee engaged in general discussion.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Fiscal Update**
  - Criminal Justice Services Director Tiana Glenna provided an update. The Committee engaged in general discussion.

### **Sheriff's Office**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Fiscal Update**
  - Captain Dave Riewestahl and Lieutenant Travis Holbrook provided an update. The Committee engaged in general discussion.
- **Jail Population, Staffing, & COVID-19 Response**
  - Captain Dave Riewestahl and Lieutenant Travis Holbrook provided an update. Jail population is trending upward-highest population since March 2020. Jail bookings are also on the rise, approaching pre-COVID-19 levels. 10 total vacancies- 1 Patrol Deputy, 7 Correctional Officers, 2 Corporals.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting is scheduled as a joint meeting with the Committee on Finance & Budget on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 3:00 PM. The Committee also has a joint meeting with the Committee on Finance & Budget scheduled on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 3:00 PM. Department annual budget submissions will be reviewed at both meetings. The July 27, 2022 meeting will also serve as a regular meeting of the Committee.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- System of Care overview
- Sheriff's Office
  - Jail population, staffing, & COVID-19 response
  - Update on DHS Investigation
  - Communications network / Digital radios

- Protective status for correctional officers
- Policies/procedures for proper execution of search warrants
- Policies/procedures for officer involved critical incidents
- Committee oversight duties and responsibilities review

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wilkie at 5:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Eric Huse  
Committee Clerk