

**Minutes**  
Eau Claire County  
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement  
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 – 3:00 PM  
County Courthouse, Room 3312  
721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703  
& Virtual via Cisco WebEx

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

**Others Present In Person:** Supervisor Dane Zook, Captain Cory Schalinske, District Attorney Peter Rindal and Eric Huse.

**Others Present via Cisco WebEx:** Administrative Services Division Manager Katrina Ranallo and Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts.

**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.

**Call of the Roll**

The Clerk called the roll. Attendance is noted above.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

**Approval of Minutes from February 15, 2023 Meeting**

Supervisor Russell moved to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2023. The minutes were adopted as published in the meeting materials via 4-0 voice vote.

**Criminal Justice Services Data Dashboard**

A link to the dashboard website was included in the meeting materials. The Committee did not specifically review the dashboard.

**Sheriff's Office Updates**

- **Jail population & COVID-19 response**
  - Captain Schalinske reported there are currently 231 individuals in the care of the Eau Claire County Jail. Captain Schalinske reported that staff are working to identify the primary reasons why individuals are incarcerated in the jail and noted that mental health is a growing concern. COVID-19 mitigation is still on-going; the Sheriff's Office is working with the health department to provide vaccinations and plan for the anticipated end of the formal declaration of a public health emergency.
  
- **Recruitment, retention, protective status, and other staffing challenges**
  - Captain Schalinske provided a general update about on-going recruitments for Correctional Officer and Sheriff's Deputy staff. There are currently 13 vacant Correctional Officer positions, five vacant Deputy Sheriff positions, and various other vacant positions in the detective division. Captain Schalinske also reported that legislation establishing protective status for correctional officers has passed the Wisconsin Assembly (Wisconsin AB 28); the Senate has scheduled their companion legislation (Wisconsin SB 28) for a public hearing.

\*Supervisor Pagonis arrived at this time.

### **Committee Oversight Role and Responsibilities**

The Committee reviewed County Code section 2.04.445 and discussed potential changes which will be brought forth at a future meeting.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

- The next regular meeting of the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement was scheduled for April 19, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Sheriff's Office
  - Jail population, staffing, & COVID-19 response
  - Recruitment, retention, protective status, and other challenges for correctional officers
  - DHS investigation update
  - Jail holding cell remodel
  - Jail death investigation/review
  - Asset forfeiture policies and procedures
- Proposed statewide bail reform
- Oversight departments' role in County strategic initiative action plan
- 4<sup>th</sup> quarter/year-end fiscal & performance measures review

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wilkie at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Eric Huse  
Committee Clerk