

Minutes
Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 3:00 PM
County Courthouse, Room 3312
721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703
& Virtual via Cisco WebEx

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

Ex-Officio Member Present: Nick Smiar.

Others Present In Person: Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer, Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Susan Warner, District Attorney Peter Rindal, Criminal Justice Services Director Tiana Glenna, and Eric Huse.

Others Present via Cisco WebEx: Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts, Sheriff Dave Riewestahl, Captain Travis Holbrook, and Administrative Services Division Manager Katrina Ranallo.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wilkie at 3:01 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 March 22, 2023 Meeting

Supervisor Pagonis moved to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2023. The minutes were adopted as published in the meeting materials via 5-0 voice vote.

4th Quarter/Year-End Fiscal & Performance Measures Review

- **TRY Mediation**
 - Director Todd Johnson presented the TRY Mediation 4th quarter review. Director Johnson reported a nearly \$10,000 surplus to end 2022. Director Johnson explained the performance measures his agency is working on collecting for presentation at future meetings. The Committee engaged in general discussion.
- **Circuit Court**
 - Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer presented the Circuit Court 4th quarter review. Clerk Schaffer pointed out the jury benchmark numbers, which are provided annually by the state, and provided additional context for the report included in the agenda materials. Clerk Schaffer noted the financial report should be accurate and complete. The Committee engaged in general discussion.
- **Clerk of Court**
 - Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer presented the Clerk of Court 4th quarter review. Clerk Schaffer stated the department is busy with training promoted and new staff. Clerk Schaffer reported to the Committee that the department ended 2022 in the red as a result of overestimation in fines and forfeiture revenue. The Committee engaged in general discussion.

- **Criminal Justice Services**
 - Director Tiana Glenna presented the Criminal Justice Services 4th quarter review. Director Glenna reported her department is nearing completion of the new data dashboard and hopes to publish it soon. Director Glenna also discussed upcoming changes to the treatment court program, reducing from four courts to two courts. Director Glenna noted that some of the 2022 surplus is a result of staff vacancies throughout the year.
- **District Attorney**
 - District Attorney Peter Rindal and Operations Manager Eric Huse presented the District Attorney's Office 4th quarter review. DA Rindal noted the increase in criminal traffic case filings in 2022 is likely a direct result of policing practices returning to pre-pandemic norms. DA Rindal also expects the total trial number will increase substantially in 2023 as courts continue to move through the backlog and the American Rescue Plan Criminal Trial Prosecutor positions have been filed in the DA's Office. Operations Manager Eric Huse noted the financial report does not fully reflect actuals as the Finance Department is still booking back 2022 revenues received in 2023. He expects a surplus to end 2022.
- **Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court**
 - Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Susan Warner presented the Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court 4th quarter review. Register in Probate Warner noted an error in the total number of hearings clerked, a corrected report is available on the County website. Register in Probate Warner stated the budget deficit is a result of staffing changes.

Sheriff's Office Updates

- **4th quarter/year-end fiscal & performance measures review**
 - Administrative Services Division Manager Katrina Ranallo presented the Sheriff's Office 4th quarter review. Manager Ranallo stated the focus of the 4th quarter was hiring and staffing overall. Manager Ranallo noted the financial report does not fully reflect actual 2022 revenues and she expects additional revenue to be posted by finance soon.
- **Jail population & COVID-19 response**
 - Sheriff Riewestahl reported various recent changes to COVID-19 protocols in the jail including reduction in isolation time for new inmates and testing procedures. Sheriff Riewestahl also noted the average daily population of the jail is on the rise compared to the most recent two years.
- **Recruitment, retention, and other staffing challenges**
 - Sheriff Riewestahl reported there are currently 27 vacancies throughout the department; 16 jail staff positions and 11 patrol staff positions.
- **Protective status for correctional officers (2023 Wisconsin Act 4)**
 - Sheriff Riewestahl reported protective occupation status for correctional officers is now permitted after the passage of 2023 Wisconsin Act 4. The new law permits correctional officers to be classified in protective occupation status so long as the individual correctional officer pays the difference in cost between protective occupation status and non-protective occupation status.
- **Jail holding cell remodel**
 - Sheriff Riewestahl explained the on-going need for remodel in the jail holding cell area. The Committee engaged in general discussion.

*Supervisor Myren left at this time.

Statewide Bail Reform (2023 Wisconsin Act 3 and 2023 Senate Joint Resolution 2)

The Committee engaged in general discussion about the potential impact the changes the new and proposed legislation could have for Eau Claire County.

Committee Oversight Role in County Strategic Initiative Action Plan

The Committee agreed to hold this item over to a future meeting during which Administrator Schauf can be present.

Ordinance 23-24/003 – To Amend Section 2.04.445 A. of the Code: Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement

Supervisor Russell presented the ordinance which makes changes to the County Code consistent with the discussion at the previous committee meeting. Supervisor Pagonis moved to approve. Motion **passed** via 4-0 voice vote.

Future Meeting Dates

- The next regular meeting of the Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement was scheduled for May 24, 2023 at 3:00 PM.

Future Agenda Items

- Sheriff's Office
 - Jail population
 - Recruitment, retention, protective status, and other staffing challenges
 - DHS investigation update
 - Jail death investigation/review
 - Asset forfeiture policies and procedures

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wilkie at 5:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Eric Huse
Committee Clerk

1 Enrolled No.

ORDINANCE

File No. 23-24/003

2
3 TO AMEND SECTION 2.04.445 A. OF THE CODE: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND
4 LAW ENFORCEMENT

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6 The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Eau Claire does ordain as follows:

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8 SECTION 1. That Subsection A. of Section 2.04.445 of the code be amended to read:

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10 A. The committee shall be responsible to the county board for the departmental
11 policy and oversight of the sheriff's ~~department office~~, ~~the offices of the district attorney's office~~,
12 clerk of courts, register in probate/clerk of juvenile court, ~~family court commissioner~~, circuit
13 court, and criminal justice services~~collaborating council~~.

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15 ENACTED:

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26 Committee on Administration

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28 VOTE: _____ Aye _____ Nay

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30 Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023.
31

Shirley Paganini

Derald Decker

Constance Russell

Brett King

Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement

VOTE: 4 Aye 0 Nay

Dated this 19th day of April, 2023.