

Minutes
Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Wednesday, June 14, 2023 – 3:00 PM
County Courthouse, Room 3312
721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703
& Virtual via Cisco WebEx

Members Present: Brett Geboy[^], Stella Pagonis*, Connie Russell, and Gerald Wilkie.

Members Absent: Allen Myren.

Ex-Officio Member Present: Nick Smiar.

Others Present In Person: Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer, Chief Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court Cherie Norberg, Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Susan Warner, Sheriff Dave Riewestahl, Administrative Services Division Manager Katrina Ranallo, District Attorney Peter Rindal, and Eric Huse.

Others Present via Cisco WebEx: Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts and Captain Cory Schalinske.

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.

*Supervisor Pagonis arrived at this time.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2023 Meeting

Supervisor Pagonis moved to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2023. The minutes were adopted as published in the meeting materials via 3-0 voice vote.

1st Quarter Fiscal & Performance Measures Review

- **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 1st quarter review. Register in Probate Warner noted filing fees are up for the first quarter but total case filings are down slightly.

[^]Supervisor Geboy arrived at this time.

- **TRY Mediation**
 - Director Todd Johnson was not in attendance to present the TRY Mediation 1st quarter review. This agenda item will be carried over to a future meeting.
- **Circuit Court**
 - Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer presented the Circuit Court 1st quarter review. Clerk Schaffer reported they are waiting for state court reimbursement funds which happen every six months. She also reported the reduced 1st quarter personnel expenses are a result of position vacancies. Court interpreter need has risen significantly, will likely need to seek additional levy dollars in future budget years.

- **Clerk of Court**
 - Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer presented the Clerk of Court 1st quarter review. Clerk Schaffer stated the department is on target for budget through 1st quarter. The 1st quarter had substantial staff transition with staff shifting into new roles within the department. Clerk Schaffer reported she will be holding open a vacant position to permit existing staff to get comfortable and accustomed to new roles before adding a new staff member.
- **Criminal Justice Services**
 - Director Tiana Glenna was unable to attend the meeting. This agenda item will be carried over to a future meeting.
- **District Attorney**
 - District Attorney Peter Rindal and Operations Manager Eric Huse presented the District Attorney's Office 1st quarter review. They reported there were personnel savings from vacant positions that took time to fill; the department is now fully staffed on the county-personnel side. They also reported that there are some unanticipated costs associated with their office remodel and restructuring but they anticipate being able to remain within their budget.

Sheriff's Office Updates

- **1st quarter fiscal & performance measures review**
 - Administrative Services Division Manager Katrina Ranallo presented the Sheriff's Office 1st quarter review. Division Manager Ranallo noted Sheriff Riewestahl was sworn in as Eau Claire County Sheriff in January.
- **Jail population & COVID-19 response**
 - Sheriff Riewestahl reported the jail average daily population is 185 people which is an increase from the same time period last year.
- **Recruitment, retention, and other staffing challenges**
 - Sheriff Riewestahl reported the following current vacancies:
 - Security Services Division: 13 correctional officers, with additional expected vacancies in the near future, 2 corporals, 1 bailiff, and 1 lieutenant.
 - Field Services Division: 8 patrol deputies, 1 civil process deputy, 1 West Central Drug Task Force detective, and 2 detectives.

Future Meeting Dates

- The next two meeting dates are scheduled as joint meetings with the Committee on Finance and Budget:
 - July 26, 2023 at 3:00PM
 - July 27, 2023 at 3:00PM

Future Agenda Items

- 2024 Department Annual Budget Review
- 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 4:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Eric Huse
Committee Clerk