

Minutes
Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Wednesday, October 25, 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.

Others Present In Person: Judge Michael Schumacher, Human Resources Director Angela Eckman, Sheriff Dave Riewestahl, Administrative Services Division Manager Katrina Ranallo, Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer, and Eric Huse.

Others Present via Cisco WebEx: Risk Manager Sonja Leenhouts and Assistant to County Administrator Samantha Kraegenbrink.

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.

*Supervisor Pagonis arrived at this time

Approval of Minutes from September 27, 2023 Meeting

Supervisor Russell moved to approve the minutes from the September 27, 2023 meeting. The minutes were adopted as published in the meeting materials via 5-0 voice vote.

Department Responses to 2024 Administrator's Recommended Budget and Amendments Proposed by County Board Committees

- **TRY Mediation**
 - Director Todd Johnson, though the Clerk, informed the Committee that there were no changes recommended or amendments proposed to the TRY Mediation budget.
- **Circuit Court**
 - Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer informed the Committee about concern with the Administrator's recommendation to reduce the 01-Tax Levy/General Revenue Allocation revenue item by \$100,000 and increase the 06-Public Charges for Services revenue item by \$100,000. Clerk Schaffer informed the Committee she has some concern with the recommended expenditure line for court interpreters but proactive budgeting measures were taken in the 2024 request and recommendation. Clerk Schaffer additionally informed the Committee that she has concern with the expenditure line for criminal court attorney fees. Judge Schumacher explained issues facing the criminal justice system as it relates to State Public Defender appointed attorneys, court appointed attorneys, and their likely impact on the Circuit Court budget. The Committee engaged in general discussion.
 - Supervisor Myren moved to support an amendment to the 2024 Circuit Court budget to restore the original 2024 request and increase the 01-Tax Levy/General Revenue Allocation revenue item by an additional \$34,600. Chairperson Wilkie called for a roll call vote on the motion: Geboy, aye; MYREN, aye; PAGONIS, aye; RUSSELL, aye; WILKIE, aye. The motion **passed** 5-0.

- **Clerk of Courts**
 - Clerk of Circuit Court Susan Schaffer informed the Committee that there were no changes recommended or amendments proposed to the Clerk of Courts budget.
- **District Attorney**
 - Operations Manager Eric Huse informed the committee that there were no changes recommended or amendments proposed to the District Attorney budget.
- **Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court**
 - Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court Susan Warner, though the Clerk, informed the Committee that there were no changes recommended or amendments proposed to the Register in Probate/Clerk of Juvenile Court budget.
- **Criminal Justice Services**
 - Director Tiana Glenna, though the Clerk, informed the Committee that there were no changes recommended or amendments proposed to the Criminal Justice Services budget.
- **Sheriff's Office**
 - Sheriff Riewestahl informed the Committee that the Sheriff's Office will operate within the recommended budget. He further stated that the department will work to mitigate expenses to accommodate the increased costs related to the recently ratified Wisconsin Professional Police Association contract and jail medical/mental health services. Sheriff Riewestahl advised the Committee should not anticipate a significant return of money to the general fund as has been the case over the last several years.

Sheriff's Office Updates

- **Jail population**
 - Sheriff Riewestahl reported to the Committee that there is no significant change from last month in jail population.
- **Recruitment, retention, and other staffing challenges**
 - Sheriff Riewestahl commended the Human Resources Department for their assistance in recruitment, retention, and overall personnel efforts. The Sheriff's Office has begun conducting weekly interviews for correctional officers which has resulted in more quickly moving candidates through the hiring process. There are currently five field service staff in field training and one staff member in the law enforcement academy.
 - There are currently 20 total security services vacancies: one civil process deputy, one bailiff, one night shift lieutenant, three correctional officers, two administrative sergeants, and twelve training corporals.

Resolution 23-24/045 – Approving the Eau Claire County Opioid Task Force to Expend Funding for the Eau Claire County Jail Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Maintenance While Individuals are Incarcerated

Sheriff Riewestahl provided background on the resolution. This is related to a grant received from the State to begin a medication assisted treatment (MAT) program in the jail. The resolution allocates funds from the Opioid Settlement to provide the training component necessary for the MAT program to be implemented. Supervisor Myren moved to approve the resolution and present to the full County Board for consideration. The motion **passed** 5-0.

Future Meeting Dates

- The Committee scheduled meetings on the following dates and times:
 - November 16, 2023 at 3:00PM
 - December 13, 2023 at 3:00PM

Future Agenda Items

- 3rd quarter department fiscal & performance measures review
- Sheriff's Office
 - Jail population
 - Recruitment, retention, and other staffing challenges
 - Jail death investigation/review
 - Asset forfeiture follow-up

Announcements

- No announcements were made.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wilkie at 4:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Huse".

Eric Huse
Committee Clerk