

LINCOLN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 - 4:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Meunier called the meeting to order at 4:00pm with the following committee members in attendance: Hartwig, Bishop, Miller, Thiel Excused: Boyd

2. Confirm Meeting Date and Time

Next meeting scheduled for February 11, 2026, 4:00pm, Lincoln County Service Center, 801 North Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452, Room 255.

- a. **Next Meeting: February 11, 2026, 2:30pm, Lincoln County Service Center, 801 North Sales Street, Merrill, WI 54452, Room 255.**

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of the Minutes

- a. **Approve Minutes From: December 10, 2025**

M/S Miller/Bishop to approve the December 10, 2025, meeting minutes. All ayes, motion carried on voice vote.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Emergency Management

- a. **Year-to-Date Budget Report**

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

- b. **Emergency Management Activity Report**

Verhasselt not available. On active duty. Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

- c. **Travel & Expense Report**

M/S Thiel/Meunier to approve the Emergency Management Travel and Expense Report. All ayes. Motion carried on voice vote.

7. Coroner

- a. **Year-to-Date Budget Report**

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

- b. **Coroner's Report**

Report reviewed. Caylor reported on annual statistics. Fifty percent increase in suicides compared to years past. Autopsy turn-over time has decreased significantly with the new lab in Marathon County. Report placed on file.

8. Judicial

a. District Attorney and Victim Witness

i) Year-to-date Budget Report

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

b. Clerk of Courts and Family Court

i) Year-to-date Budget Report

Report reviewed. Barker reported that the Court Commissioner contract was reviewed due to approved raise after the budget was completed. Working with the Finance Department for contingency to balance the budget. Report placed on file.

c. Register in Probate and Circuit Court

i) Year-to-date Budget Report

Report reviewed. Beyer reported that once the attorney and guardian at litem bills are received, she will be able to make her final submission to the Title IV grant reimbursement. Anticipating that once these reimbursements are received they will not need contingency plans. Report placed on file.

9. Sheriff's Office

a. Statistical Reports

i) Case Summary Report

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Reported placed on file.

ii) Expense Budget, Revenue Budget (Year-to-date Report)

Report reviewed. Sheriff Schneider reported overtime is included in the Investigator's Fringe which pushes the number up. Expections are that 2025 budget will be near projections. No other questions or concerns. Reported placed on file.

iii) Recreational Officer Activity Report

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

iv) 9-1-1 Supervisor's Report

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

v) Jail Census Report

Report reviewed. Hoeft reported that the census today is 150. Fifty-eight DOC. With full staffing, 160 would be the total inmates that could be housed. Maximum outside inmates would be 110. No other questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

10. Emergency Medical Services

a. Tomahawk Report

Kirkley reported that the volume is 12% lower than the budgeted number. Other operating revenue is at -3.16%, which is under budget. Total revenue is -3.16%. Currently, 3% less than what budgeted numbers are, possibly due to volume. Salaries are 6.23% under budget for the year. Benefits are at 2.28%. Supplies are 42% above average for the year. Purchase services depend on fuel pricing. Currently, under budgeted numbers for the year. Insurance is slightly over budget for the year. Report placed on file.

b. Merrill Report

i) November 2025 Merrill AMb-EMS

Chief Klug reviewed report. Anticipating an over-budget status due to long-term sick leaves which resulted in overtime. He will be working with the city's finance director to possibly reclassify some items. Final report will be provided next month.

Chief Klug reviewed the newspaper article, "On the Brink" and other newspaper articles. He will continue to provide informational material to the committee on the history of ambulance service and EMS as it relates to the county.

Chief Klug indicated that the paramedic license needs to be renewed every three years in Wisconsin. Paramedics can obtain recertification online. Merrill has upgraded to the paramedic level ambulance which required a formal refresher through NTC. Merrill prefers to have an outside instructor onsite to provide an in-person evaluation/training, which makes it easier to track. The documentation is then submitted to the state to get re-licensed for three years. Will continue to do both online and in-person training.

c. Discuss/Possible Approval of CentralSquare Respond Billing - Remittance Processing Module & Payor Logic

Marheine reported on the efficiency of purchasing the Central Square Respond Billing. The purchase of two add-on modules for the Central Square Tri-Tech billing software at an initial cost of \$3,120 and an annual cost of \$1,560. This would be in addition to current software being utilized. If it is determined that this program is not beneficial to EMS billing, the contract can be prorated. Marheine will provide a report at 6 months. Funds would come from EMS. M/S Miller/Thiel to approve the purchase of Central Square Respond Billing. All ayes. Motion carried on voice vote.

d. Monthly Charge Report, Write-offs, and Collections

M/S Thiel/Miller to approve total write-offs of \$20,479.94. All ayes. Motions carried by voice vote.

e. YTD Budget

Report reviewed. No questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

f. Update on EMS billing status

Marheine reported that Taylor has been doing a great job. Approval of Central Square Respond billing will be beneficial to him.

11. Adjourn

Chair Meunier adjourned the meeting at 4:40pm.