

LINCOLN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 11, 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: March 11, 2026, 4:00pm, Lincoln County Service Center, 801 North Sales Street, Room 255, Merrill, WI 54452.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of the Minutes

M/S Bishop/Thiel o approve the January 14, 2026 meeting minutes with typo correction ("Respon" to "Respond") in item 10 f. All ayes, motion carried on voice vote.

a. Approve Minutes From: Approve Minutes From: January 14, 2026

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

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

c. Mass Notification RFP—Proposal Review and Analysis

Verhasselt provided an overview and analysis of the ten Mass Notification RFPs, which were opened on January 30, 2026, at 11:00am. Crisis24 was recommended, citing a projected 80–100% ROI from the opt-out system. The cost of the notification system will be budgeted between the Emergency Management Department and the IT Department over a three-year period. However, an evaluation will be conducted after two years.

M/S Miller/Bishop to approve proposal award to Crisis24. 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. Travel & Expense Report

None

c. Coroner's Report

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

- d. Ordinance 2026-02-XX - Amend the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 3-Finance and Taxation to increase certain fees for the County Coroner as permitted under WI statutes.**

M/S Miller/Hartwig to approve ordinance to amend the General Code of the Count of Lincoln Chapter 3-Finance and Taxation to increase certain fees for the County Coroner as permitted under WI statutes. All ayes. Motion carried on voice vote. Miller to sponsor and Hartwig to co-sponsor.

8. Judicial

- a. District Attorney and Victim Witness**

- i) Year-to-date Budget Report**

Report reviewed. Not questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

- b. Clerk of Courts and Family Court**

- i) Year-to-date Budget Report**

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

- c. Register in Probate and Circuit Court**

- i) Year-to-date Budget Report**

Report reviewed. Beyer reported on the 2025 budget. All guardian at litem bills have been processed and will show up on next month's report. Expectations are to be within budget for 2025 with the Title IV reimbursements of just under \$10,000 received. Beyer will present the budget for 2025 next month. Beyer also reported that at the request of Judge Bayne-Allison, the Capitol Police come to the Court House for a security assessment. The report will take a few months to compile and will be presented to the committee once received. Report placed on file.

9. Sheriff's Office

- a. Statistical Reports**

- i) Case Summary Report**

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

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

Report reviewed. Final impact on state inmate reimbursement for 2025 will be reviewed at next month's meeting. No other questions or concerns. Report 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. Not questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

- v) Jail Census Report**

Report reviewed. Hoeft reported that they are currently operating with 20 Correctional Officers. No other questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

10. Emergency Medical Services

a. Tomahawk Report

Report reviewed. Kirkley reported 10.5% variance in volumes. Seventy-three transports short this year. Salaries and benefits were below budget. Supplies were up 39%, however purchases, services and other were below 52%. Some accounts may be overlapping with coding. Insurance had a variance of \$4300. Total operating expenses are below budget by 6.1% for the year. No other questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

b. Merrill Report

i) Merrill Ambulance Billing - December 2025

Report reviewed. Chief Klug reported being over budget by \$4428 at the end of the year. There was a county side budget modification made in respect to EMT and Paramedic training costs. The City should have mirrored \$10,000 which is not reflected in the report. The budget modification will appear on both the 2025 and 2026 budgets. No other questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

ii) Merrill Paramedic Refresher 2026

Chief Klug reported that historically a third party (NTC) was utilized every 2 years for training. The state has since changed the required Paramedic Refresher to every 3 years. Training occurred in January at the cost of \$5700 to have a trainer from NTC come to Merrill. With all personnel attending, overtime did occur at the cost of \$8,000. By using comp time, which employees prefer, there was a savings of \$35,000. Comp time is capped at 96 hours, December 1st to December 1st. Only 48 hours can be paid out in comp time and 48 hours can be carried over.

iii) *Request to open Ambulance contract negotiations.

Chief Klug reported contract negotiations in 2021 were unsuccessful. Currently operating under the contract from 2008, Renee Krueger acknowledged Lincoln County has received the letter of request to open Ambulance contract negotiations, which needs to be addressed within 30 days.

M/S Bishop/Miller to acknowledge receipt of a letter of request to open Ambulance contract negotiations and to reopen negotiations with Corporation Counsel, Administrative Coordinator, Finance Director, and one representative from the Public Safety Committee. All ayes. Motion carried on voice vote.

iv) *Ambulance Service Information

Chief Klug reported that just under 90% of the calls for service are for ambulances. Due to changes over the years, the ambulance service/paramedics now also respond to fires. Ambulances were upgraded to pre-hospital level in 2005. Fire Department Organizational Chart and shift assignments were reviewed.

Chief Klug reported on a recent news interview regarding patient transport and the importance of the community utilizing other transport services such as Blue Jay Taxi and the Merrill-Go-Round for non-emergent transportation. For many years, Merrill Fire was transporting patients from Aspirus Hospital back to their residence. Within the last few years, the hospital ER has made an effort to reach out to other transport services. Some of the patient care facilities have also now obtained and use their own transport vehicles. Currently, the county has an agreement in place to transport patients from Bell Tower, Pine Crest and Woodland Court to transport patients from the hospital to their residence.

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

Report reviewed. Marheine reported that tax intercepts are \$6947.54 and miscellaneous write-offs (primarily for untimely filing) in the amount of \$11,945.47. M/S Thierl/Hartwig to approve write off amount of \$18,892.92. All ayes. Motion carried on voice vote.

d. YTD Budget

Report reviewed. Marheine reported no contingencies were needed for Merrill. No other questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

11. Adjourn

Chair Meunier adjourned the meeting at 5:04pm.