

LINCOLN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 - 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: Bishop, Hartwig, Miller, Thiel Excused: Boyd

2. Confirm Meeting Date and Time

- a. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2025, at Lincoln County Service Center, 801 North Sales Street, Room 257, Merrill, WI 54452 at 4:00 PM.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of the Minutes

- a. **Approve Minutes From: August 13, 2025**

M/S Miller/Bishop to approve the August 13, 2025 meeting minutes. All Ayes. Motion carried on voice

5. Public Comment

Brian Hansen from the Town of Harrison, along with representatives from the Towns King, Rock Falls, Wilson and Tomahawk, addressed the committee about wake ordinances and their enforcement, suggesting the possibility of the county to assist the towns. Speakers clarified the negative impacts of wake boats on wildlife and shoreland, and noted the difficulties in enforcing existing ordinances. The committee indicated that a Resolution was passed by the County Board and forwarded to the state. Supervisor Hartwig indicated that he will be discussing this Resolution at the Wi Counties Association next week.

6. Emergency Management

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

Marheine reported revenues are at 79.5% and expenses are at 30.5%. PSAP needs to be fully completed before requesting reimbursement. The grant request is due by June 2026. Marheine also reported that due to audit issues and regulating the amount of Pcards, the Finance Committee and IT are working to incorporate charges for Emergency Management on the Finance credit card. Report placed on file.

- b. **Travel & Expense Report**

M/S Bishop/Miller to approve Travel and Expense report. All Ayes. Motions carried on voice vote.

- c. **Emergency Management Activity Report**

Reviewed, report placed on file.

- d. **FY25 Computer and Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Response Equipment Grant application and proposal**

M/S Miller/Bishop to table FY25 Computer and Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Response Equipment Grant application and proposal to next month. All ayes. Motion carried on voice vote.

7. Coroner

a. Year-to-Date Budget Report

No questions or concerns, report placed on file.

b. Travel & Expense Report

None

c. Coroner's Report

Caylor reported 24 deaths in August, including two suicides, both gun-shot-related. For our population size, Lincoln County has had a significant number of suicides this year. Report placed on file.

8. Judicial

a. District Attorney and Victim Witness

Concerns were raised about the District Attorney's office staffing due to District Attorney Ellis's illness and ADA departures.

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 medical and psychological expenses are over budget. However, reimbursement was received from Lincoln Hills for a large psychological report and additional reimbursement will be received this quarter.

Judge Allison reported that the public defender is having increasing difficulty appointing attorneys due to internal policies regarding conflict of interest, attorneys being restricted to certain counties or regions, and an overall shortage of general attorneys in the state. This may result in requiring the release of people in custody awaiting appointment of counsel and court appointing counsel even if public defender eligible; which could result in budgetary or public safety consequences.

c. Register in Probate and Circuit Court

i) Year-to-date Budget Report

Beyer reported that the budget is at 59% and stable. Continuously monitoring attorney fees. Revenue is at 107% due to monies collected through the Title 4E reimbursement grant. Beyer will be working with Rumsey to reapplying for the Title 4E grant for 2026. The application is due in October. Report placed on file.

ii) Travel & Expense Report

None

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, no 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, no questions or concerns. Report placed on file.

Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) is up and running. Awaiting deliver of the forest station radio. From an employee perspective, the system has not changed. There was a physical upgrade of the infrastructure of the room and replacement/upgrade of equipment.

v) Jail Census Report

Report reviewed. Sheriff Schneider reported that as of today the census is 68. There are currently 19 state inmates, with an additional 5-6 arriving in the next few days. Chief Deputy Iverson reported staffing is currently at 19, five of which will be attending jail school within the next few months, one in training, two on light duty and one upcoming retirement. There are currently 8 female corrections officers. Recommended/required inmate capacity is 80%, leaving 20% open for fluctuations.

Lincoln Hills inmates require sight and sound separation which requires an entire cell block. Chief Deputy Iverson indicated that a letter has been submitted to the state requesting reimbursement for the housing of Lincoln Hills inmates.

10. Emergency Medical Services

a. Tomahawk Report

Report reviewed. Marheine reported that Kirkley was unavailable to attend the meeting, however assured her that future reports would be available prior to meetings. Lincoln County has not yet received a bill for this year.

b. Merrill Report

Report reviewed. Chief Klug reported EMS is exploring new programs to improve preventative measures for motor vehicle incidents. Report placed on file.

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

M/S Miller/Hartwig to approve write-offs. All ayes. Motion carried on voice vote.

Marheine reported that the department is seeking a new ambulance biller. There have been two applicants thus far and position will remain open until Friday.

d. YTD Budget

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

11. Adjourn

Chair Meunier adjourned the meeting at 4:51pm

