

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
October 8th, 2025

The meeting of the Public Safety & Judicial Committee was called to order by Vice Chair Gene Thom on Wednesday, October 8th, 2025, at 9:00AM, in the County Board Room and via remote access format at the Government Center, Green Lake, WI. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present:

Sue Wendt
Gene Thom
Keith Hess
Don Lenz

Absent: Joe Gonyo

Other County Employees Present: Karissa Rohde, Deputy County Clerk; Mark Podoll, Sheriff; Jason Jerome, Interim County Administrator; Jeff Mann, Corporation Counsel; Tom Wastart, Medical Examiner (remote); Matt Vande Kolk, Chief Deputy; Jason Preuss, Deputy (remote)

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

MINUTES OF 8/13/2025

Motion/second (Hess/Wendt) to approve the minutes of the 8/13/2025 meeting with no additions or corrections. Motion carried with no negative vote.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE STAFFING CHANGES

Sheriff Mark Podoll stated they will be appointing someone to fill the empty detective position. They filled the open sergeant spot in communications.

DISCUSSION REGARDING HIRING PROCESSES

Chief Deputy Matt Vande Kolk explained the hiring process. All applicants must have a PEP assessment. In the previous months most applicants have denied the PEP assessment, failed, or were not a good fit for the position. Vande Kolk stated they have not lowered their hiring standards just to fill spots. They will continue to seek applicants for all open positions. There are currently 3 applicants waiting for a PEP assessment, 6 total sheriff employees in training, and 1 employee that will transfer from master control to communications within the upcoming months.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE ASSISTANCE RECAP

In September the Judicial Conference was held at the Heidel House here in Green Lake. The Sheriff's Department was asked to attend as Security. Sheriff stated they got good feedback from Judges attending the conference.

TRAP SHOOT FUNDRAISER RECAP

Sheriff thanked his front office staff Sara Radloff and Rachel Heiling for all their hard work putting together the K9 Fundraiser. Over 77 baskets were donated. Sheriff stated they made over \$18,000. Sheriff also thanked K9 handler Deputy Wallace.

DISCUSSION REGARDING CRASH RESPONDERS SAFETY WEEK PROCLAMATION

Crash Responder Safety Week in Green Lake County will be November 17-21, 2025. Approved by committee. No formal action is needed. Deputy Vande Kolk stated the next Traffic Safety meeting will be held on October 16th at 11:00am in the County Board room. Committee members are welcome to attend.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Our Sheriff's department held a Basic SWAT training at our training center. Four of our deputies attended. Sheriff stated that Josh Ward resigned as well as Scott Patterson. The Sheriff's department is sad to see them go but wishes them the best. On September 8th members of the Sheriff's department gave a presentation regarding the Kayaker case at a conference in the Wisconsin Dells and on September 10th the Sheriff's department received the MOCIC award.

EXPENSE & REVENUE REPORTS – no discussion.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- **Future meeting dates: Regular meeting** – November 12, 2025
- **Future agenda items for action & discussion:**

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Thom adjourned the meeting at 9:28am.

Submitted by,

Karissa Rohde
Deputy County Clerk