

Waukesha County Board of Supervisors

**Minutes of the Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee
Friday, September 15, 2023**

Chair LaFontain called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Jacob LaFontain, Mike Crowley, Robert Kolb, Johnny Koremenos, Tom Schellinger, Terry Thieme and Matthew Weil

Also Present: Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Fraley, Administrative Specialist Barbara Hollander, Chairman Paul Decker, Public Works Director Allison Bussler, Facilities Manager Shane Waeghe, IT Project Manager John Gorski, PMO Manager John Hinchey, Business Manager Josh Joost, Jail Administrator Angela Wollenhaupt, WCC Operations Manager Chris Becker, District Attorney Sue Opper, Victim Witness Program Coordinator Jen Dunn, Senior Human Resources Analyst Jane Barwick, Financial Analyst Tyler Livesey, Budget Manager Bill Duckwitz, Corrections Captain Mark Scardino

Approve Minutes of July 25

MOTION: Crowley moved, second by Weil to approve the minutes of July 25. Motion carried 7-0

Next Meeting Date

October 13

Executive Committee Report of July 25 and August 22

LaFontain reported that both meetings approved appointments and spoke briefly about compensation study.

Discuss and Consider the following Capital Projects:

Public Works – Facilities (Item 2)

Bussler and Waeghe were present to discuss the above-listed capital project as outlined in the 2024-2028 Capital Projects Plan. No major concerns were voiced.

MOTION: Crowley moved, second by Thieme to recommend approval of the above-listed capital project to the Executive Committee. Motion carried 7-0

IT-Sheriff (Item 43)

Joost and Gorski were present to discuss the above-listed capital project as outlined in the 2024-2028 Capital Projects Plan. No major concerns were voiced.

MOTION: Weil moved, second by Kolb to recommend approval of the above-listed capital project to the Executive Committee. Motion carried 7-0

Future Agenda Items

Body cameras

Sheriff's Department update

Discussion was held regarding moving the committee meeting time earlier than 8:30. A consensus was reached to start the meetings at 8:00 a.m. beginning with the November 8 meeting.

Update on Waukesha County Communication Center Staffing

Becker said that Communication Center (9-1-1 Dispatch) staffing is trending in a better direction, and is expected to be improved in spring once new hires are through training. The quality of candidates has improved since the pay raise was approved. The last hiring requisition was at the end of June/early July, which resulted in nine hires from a pool of 500 applicants. There were two applicants with previous experience and they started on the floor towards the end of July and are being shadowed now. Many were screened out because of preference for first shift only work, and questionable job history.

The next requisition was for experienced telecommunicators, in which they had seven applicants. Three have successfully completed their typing test; one failed. There are two applicants that they are particularly interested in based on their current dispatching experience. Department staff will be developing a plan to get those two hired, and plan to open up a non-experienced telecommunicator requirement requisition. Also, police and fire protocols are frequently updated on the county's hiring requisitions.

Update on District Attorney Office's Budget

Opper and Dunn said their office is anticipating staffing issues in 2024. During COVID, a judge was shifted from family court to criminal court to address the backlog and the County Board approved the use of APRA dollars to assist with the workload. The additional Assistant District Attorney (ADA) positions funded with APRA sunset at the end of this year. The courts have announced they plan to keep the additional criminal court going in 2024. Opper said if the additional criminal court continues, they will have to prioritize their work and may have to drop staffing for things such as treatment courts. Opper said the lack of staffing will have a domino effect on cases moving efficiently through the justice system. Opper requested three additional positions (one prosecutor, one victim witness and one support staff) from the County Executive and those positions won't be included in the 2024 budget.

Dunn said that with Marcy's Law being passed, it created an enormous number of things they are required to do for victims. They have already used a lot of their creative ideas just trying to stretch what they had at that point, and they are meeting those demands. However, with the extra workload, they may have to start asking for adjournments when they can't make their constitutionally required notifications. Also, with Zoom hearings, they are seeing victims attend court much more frequently, so she is staffing court a lot more than she has in the past.

In answering LaFontain's question, Opper said she asked for three positions, which she projected would be a cost of under \$300,000.

In answering Thieme's questions, Opper said Judge Domina did invite her in for a meeting regarding his proposal for a sixth criminal court. She was able to share all of these concerns and that this was not realistic. Two weeks later she received a letter stating they were going ahead with the sixth court. Dunn said the state is definitely messaging that no one is getting grants at the same level and to expect major cuts.

Crowley asked for a list of consequences (subjective and objective) of being given three positions versus seven to the help the committee make a decision regarding a potential budget amendment. He also requested data on the financial impact the sixth court is having on bailiff's hours and increased jail time.

Weil said it would be helpful to have as much information as possible on the necessity of the sixth criminal court by next month. Opper will see if she can get the data from the courts.

In answering Kolb's questions, Opper said a study was started by the County Executive as to how many of our cases are Milwaukee County residents committing crimes in Waukesha. This is not easy data to gather; they have to go through Madison's IT department to filter through zip codes.

MOTION: Kolb moved, second by Crowley to adjourn at 9:58 a.m. Motion carried 7-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Thieme".

Terry Thieme
Secretary – Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee