

February 18, 2021

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Douglas County Board of Supervisors

**Thursday, February 25, 2021, 4:00 p.m., Board Room, Second Floor, Government Center
1316 North 14th Street, Superior, Wisconsin**

OR JOIN BY PHONE: (US) +1 970-880-1608 PIN: 200 034 504#

OR VIDEO: <https://meet.google.com/ash-phiw-owe>

*** Due to COVID-19 concerns, members of the committee and public may attend the meeting remotely.**

Please call the County Clerk’s Office (715-395-1569) if you are unable to attend.

MEMBERS: Samuel Pomush, Chair Rosemary Lear, Vice Chair Peter Clark
 Ron Leino Mark McGillis

A G E N D A

(Committee to maintain a two-hour meeting limit *or* take action to continue meeting beyond that time).

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of the October 29, 2020, meeting minutes (attached).
3. Updates and reports (Information only – budget reports attached; all departments listed but may not have any additional reports):
 - a. Child Support;
 - b. Circuit Court Branch I;
 - c. Circuit Court Branch II;
 - d. Clerk of Courts;
 - e. Court Commissioner;
 - f. District Attorney;
 - g. Emergency Management;
 - h. Communications Center;
 - i. Medical Examiner;
 - j. Probate;
 - k. Sheriff – Patrol Division; and
 - l. Sheriff – Jail Division.
4. Action items/referrals: Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding (attached).
5. Informational: Staff retention (Tyler Edwards).
6. Future agenda items.
7. Adjournment.

ec:	County Board Supervisors	Ann Doucette	Susan Sandvick	Candy Holm-Anderson	Jaime McMeekin
	Kaci Lundgren(website)	Tracy Ruppe	Carolyn Pierce	Shelley Nelson	Tom Dalbec
	Rebecca Severson	Michele Wick	Kelly Thimm	George Glonek	Rebecca Lovejoy
	Dave Sletten	Mark Fruehauf	Jen Stank	Darrell Witt	Jerry Moe
	Tyler Edwards				

Note: Attachments to agenda are available in County Clerk’s Office for review or copying, and are also available on the county’s website www.douglascountywi.org. Action may be taken on any item listed on the agenda. The County of Douglas complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are in need of any accommodation to participate in the public meeting process, please contact the Douglas County Clerk’s Office at (715) 395-1341 by 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the scheduled meeting. Douglas County will attempt to accommodate any request, depending on the amount of notice we receive.

Posted/Daily Telegram/Government Center/Courthouse/Superior Public Library:

 02/18/2021

Name _____ Date _____

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Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Thursday, October 29, 2020, 4:00 p.m., Board Room, Second Floor, Government Center
1316 North 14th Street, Superior, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chair Pomush.

ROLL CALL: Present – Samuel Pomush, Rosemary Lear, Peter Clark, Ron Leino, Mark McGillis (remote). Others present – Becky Severson, Kelly Thimm, Jerry Moe, Amber Popplewell (remote), Shelley Nelson (remote), Dave Sletten, Tracy Ruppe, Mark Liebaert, Darrell Witt, Tyler Edwards, Mark Fruehauf (remote), Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Lear, second Clark, to approve the September 14, 2020, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Updates and Reports:

Child Support: Severson provided staffing update; office soon to be back to fully staffed.

Circuit Court Branch I: Thimm reported virtual work continues for the foreseeable future.

Circuit Court Branch II: No one present.

Clerk of Courts: No one present.

Court Commissioner: Popplewell reported thankfulness for air purifiers in the courtrooms and noted also utilizing virtual technology for hearings.

District Attorney: Fruehauf reported office is currently quarantined but still working.

Emergency Management: Sletten reported busy with active Covid-19 response since March 2020; partnering with Public Health on a daily basis; PPE distribution ongoing; Wednesday briefings continue as well as organization drive through testing sites. Update to 5 year hazard mitigation plan upcoming.

Communications Center: Sletten reported on 911 center staffing; down three people and will be addressing that issue along with providing more social distancing in the center.

Medical Examiner: Witt noted statistics are currently much higher than at the same time last year for all areas.

Probate: No one present.

Sheriff – Patrol Division: Moe noted numbers this year are down; short staffed currently; testing this week and interviews next week.

Sheriff – Jail Division: Edwards reported camera system is in place, with first phase working well; and second phase replacing external cameras to be completed in a few years; busy with

video court, adding two more courtrooms in the jail, along with a fourth portable courtroom built. Body scanner arrived today and installed, and thermal cameras ordered for each of three entrances. He also noted staffing numbers are down, hoping to start filling empty spots in the near future.

ACTION ITEMS/REFERRALS:

Emergency Management – Vehicle Replacement – (state contract pricing for replacement vehicle to be provided at meeting): Handout distributed featuring vehicle identified from Ewald Automotive Group: 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD 4dr Commercial for a total sales price of \$37,632.

ACTION: Motion by Lear, second Leino, to approve purchase of vehicle as presented. Motion carried.

Communications Center – Resolution Supporting Grants for Public Safety Answering Points: WCA is urging counties to pass PSAP resolution to provide grant support to PSAPs with Next Generation capable equipment for future equipment and software upgrades.

ACTION (REFERRAL/RESOLUTION): Motion by Lear, second Clark, to sponsor Resolution Supporting Grants for Public Safety to County Board for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Take from the Table and Consider “Resolution Relating to Expungement of Criminal and Civil Conviction and Non-Conviction Records.” Resolution was voted down in the senate. No need to take further action.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Clark, second Leino, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Westman, Committee Clerk

Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

- WHEREAS: Douglas County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Douglas County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and
- WHEREAS: Our children's well-being, economic security and success in life are enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and
- WHEREAS: County child support agencies collected \$935 Million in child support during 2019 and established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and
- WHEREAS: Douglas Child Support Agency provides services to children as well as custodial and non-custodial parents that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children; and
- WHEREAS: The economic security and social service programs provided by Douglas Child Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now more than ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19; and
- WHEREAS: State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and
- WHEREAS: Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2nd in the nation for collecting current support to 5th; and
- WHEREAS: Wisconsin's decreased performance has led to the state losing out on an estimated \$70,000 in potential federal incentive payments between Calendar Year 2019 and 2020; and
- WHEREAS: An abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS: Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions to federal funding for Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS: Decreased federal funding results in less funding for Douglas County's child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child support collections; and
- WHEREAS: New state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2 in federal matching funds; and
- WHEREAS: Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$4 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Douglas County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.