

MINUTES PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, December 8, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Courthouse – Conference Rm #302

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Zurfluh, Dennis Polach, Jeff Penzkover (WebEx), William Voight, Brad Hamilton

OTHERS PRESENT: Trent Miner, County Clerk; See attached sign-in list

1. Chairman Zurfluh called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
2. The minutes of the November 10, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Hamilton/Polach to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
3. There was no public comment.
4. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 9:00 AM.
5. The Communications Department presented their report and bill listing for review.
6. The Emergency Management Department presented their report and bill listing for review.
7. The Dispatch Department presented their report and bill listing for review.
8. The Coroner presented their monthly report and bill listing for review.
9. Coroner Patton presented a resolution increasing both the cremation fee and death certificate signature fee, beginning on January 1, 2026. The amount being increased keeps within the statutory guidelines. Motion by Voight/Hamilton to approve the resolution and forward onto the county board for their consideration. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Sheriff Becker reviewed various reports and activities of the Sheriff's Department. He highlighted the following:
 - Introduced Cherwith DeFabbio as the new Coordinated Response Specialist in the department. She provided a brief outline of her new position.
 - Reviewed the new hires and promotions within the department.
11. Becker reviewed the mental health services currently being provided through contract with Aspirus but now transitioning to in-house with Human Services. While this position would be a 1.0 FTE, the Sheriff's Dept. would also be paying for half of the cost an existing contracted employee housed in Human Services. There is committee approval required, pursuant to County Board Rule 4.09, to make the 1.0 FTE contracted position a county employee since there is a cost savings by doing so. Motion by Hamilton/Voight to approve the transition of the 1.0 FTE mental health position serving the jail to a county employee. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Becker reviewed the current Courthouse Security policy and how it currently is being enforced with the number of long-term contractors in our building during both the jail project and HVAC project. Lt. Peterson, the Security Lieutenant, expressed his concerns as well. The administration will look at the policy and come back to the committee with any proposed updates to it.
13. Motion by Hamilton/Voight to approve the voucher listings for Communications, Coroner, Dispatch, Emergency Management, and Sheriff's Department. Motion carried unanimously.
14. Chairman Zurfluh declared the meeting adjourned 9:31 AM.

Minutes taken by Trent Miner, County Clerk, and are in draft form until approved at the next meeting.

Public Safety Committee
December 8, 2025

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