



Minutes - March 10, 2026

Call to Order: Chair Tillman called the hybrid Public Safety & Justice Committee meeting to order at 5:15 PM at the Rock County 911 Communications Center

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Tillman, Knudson, Whitley, Schwarz and Rashkin; Cian Hardtke, Youth in Government Representative; Cooper Buehl, Youth in Government Representative.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Kevin Wernet, Emergency Management Director; Fred Carr, 911 Communications Director; Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen, Justice System Strategist, Judge Karl Hanson, Judge Michael Haakenson, John Light, County Administrator; Belem Regan, Mediation and Family Courts Director; Sheriff Fell, Melissa Wittwer, Child Support Director; Tiffany Mingway, Treatment Supervisor.

Others Present: Joe Hardtke, Shawn Bennett, Beloit Memorial High School- American Democracy Class

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Knudson moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Schwarz. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: National Weather Service volunteered to come and explain weatherization concerns and explain the targeted warnings.

Approval of Minutes:

February 24, 2025 Minutes: Minutes from February 24, 2026 were not reviewed at this time.

Review of Payments:

February Payments: The committee reviewed the report.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

Recognizing Kris Pehl: Supervisor Knudson moved to approve recognition of Kris Pehl, second by Supervisor Schwarz. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Approval to Contract with Emergency Communications Systems to Perform Preventative Maintenance Services :

Kevin Wernet addressed the committee about the 2026 cost of maintenance and inspection per siren site, which was \$425.00. This was offered with a five-year contract to cost the same. They had a positive experience with this vendor last year. Committee questions the prior cost, which was \$425.00, and whether the vendor is willing to keep the fixed cost. This cost has gone up, but previous vendors only inspected every three years. The committee asked if there were any competitive offers. Kevin Wernet stated most of the other offers do not do siren maintenance, and in addition have to have a lift to inspect. The vendor they chose is the most efficient vendor. The Committee asked whether the vendor would be willing to do a two-year contract rather than 5 years. They also asked if there was an auto out. The Committee thought a five-year contract or 5-1-1 would be the best offer. The Committee asked if a motion to postpone tonight's approval impacts service. Kevin Wernet said waiting two weeks is acceptable.

Supervisor Schwarz moved to postpone approval for two weeks, second by Supervisor Knudson. ADOPTED.

Approval to Contract with City of Janesville- Fire Department to Provide Hazardous Materials Response Services:

Kevin Wernet updates the Committee. He states the contract is similar to last year. The committee asked if there was a year-over-year change. Kevin Wernet answered, "It was only a little over the baseline."

Supervisor Knudson moved to approve the contract with the City of Janesville Fire Department to provide Hazardous Materials Response Services, second by Supervisor Schwarz. ADOPTED.

Semi-Annual Report - Attendance at Conventions/Conferences:

Emergency Management: Emergency Management did not attend any conferences over \$1,000.00

Special Reports:

Justice System Strategist Report: Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen shared a PowerPoint presentation that included information about Drug Court, Veteran's Court, OWI Court and Family Recovery Court. A few highlights of the presentation were how graduation from these programs lowers the rate of new arrests, new charges, and new convictions. They are high-need individuals that are at risk of further recidivism. There is a psychiatrist that works directly with the programs, which has opened up great avenues for treatment in Rock County. Judge Hanson spoke about the importance of the Veteran's Court program by incorporating comradery, connecting with the VA and how the population in this program are different than the other programs. They have combat-related PTSD and traumatic brain injuries due to combat. The VA is trained specifically for PTSD and brain injuries. Judge Haakenson updated the Committee about OWI court and how the recidivism rates are lower with having the program. Judge Hanson updated the Committee with a new GPS monitor for Domestic Violence offenders called Supercom. The GPS monitor will have added components for victims. The victim receives a separate phone which provides alerts if the aggressor is in proximity. The phone provides audio and visual recording. SOS emergency button, and an on-screen map of the aggressor's and

victim's location. It also provides the victim with a safety route. The costs are very manageable. The challenges they are experiencing with these programs are funding, the process for certain funding and the competing county budget priorities. The Committee states that the rates are excellent, the numbers look good, and the numbers have gone down.

Sheriff's Report: Comparison report from 2025 to 2026. Sheriff Fell feels the numbers are pretty consistent but that they are short-staffed and are helping out different jurisdictions.

Approval of Transfers:

Sheriff Office Transfer- Insurance Liabilities: Supervisor Knudson moved to approve Sheriff Office transfer - Insurance Liabilities, second by Supervisor Schwarz. ADOPTED.

Sheriff Office Transfer- R&M Vehicles and Insurance Liabilities: Supervisor Knudson moved to approve Sheriff Office Transfer — R&M Vehicles and Insurance Liabilities, second by Supervisor Whitledge. ADOPTED.

Sheriff Office Transfer- Physicals: Supervisor Knudson moved to approve Sheriff Office Transfer - Physicals, second by Supervisor Schwarz. ADOPTED.

Sheriff Office Transfer- Physician Services: Supervisor Schwarz moved to approve Sheriff Office Transfer - Physician Services, second by Supervisor Knudson. ADOPTED.

Sheriff Office Transfer- Uniforms: Supervisor Schwarz moved to approve Sheriff Office Transfer - Uniforms, second by Supervisor Knudson. ADOPTED.

Sheriff Office Transfer- Office Supplies: Supervisor Knudson moved to approve Sheriff Office Transfer - Office Supplies, second by Supervisor Whitledge. ADOPTED.

Committee Requests, Future Agenda Items: Possible National Weather Service meeting. Request to have a graduate from OWI Court, Drug Court or Family Recovery Court at one of the next Public Safety & Justice Committee meetings.

Next meeting date and time: March 24, 2026 at 5:15 PM at the Rock County 911 Communications Center.

Adjournment: Supervisor Knudson moved adjournment at 6:37 PM, second by Supervisor Whitledge. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sarah Van Zandt

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