

Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee

April 4, 2025

The Richland County Public Safety Standing Committee convened on Friday, April 4, 2025 in person and virtually at 8:30 AM in the County Boardroom of the Richland County Courthouse.

Call To Order: Committee Chair Frank called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

Roll Call: Deputy Clerk Hege conducted roll call. Committee member(s) present: Craig Woodhouse, Chad Cosgrove, and Melvin “Bob” Frank, and Kerry Severson. Committee member(s) absent: Gary Manning, David Turk, and Julie Fleming. Supervisor Turk joined the meeting at 08:39 AM via WebEx.

Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance: Deputy Clerk Hege confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

Approval Of Agenda: Motion by Woodhouse, second by Cosgrove to approve agenda. Emergency Management Director, Michael Jessen requested that item 9: Discussion & Possible Action: Emergency Management Response Vehicle Acquisition be stricken from the agenda. Motion carried and agenda declared approved.

Approval Of Minutes From March 7, 2025 Meeting: Motion by Cosgrove, second by Woodhouse to approve the March 7, 2025 minutes. Motion carried and the March 7, 2025 minutes declared approved.

Public Comment:

Cricket Lochner of Bloom Township presented the committee with a guide to the 2025 Driftless Music Gardens season and briefly reviewed the safety plan in place for the festival season. Brief discussion ensued.

Reports:

- A. Sheriff – Departmental Activities:** Sheriff Porter briefly presented the Sheriff’s Monthly Report for March 2025, a staffing memo from Chief Deputy Wallace, and the squad mileage report. Sheriff Porter reported briefly on various staff members who resigned and noted that there was only one current opening. Brief discussion ensued.
- B. Coroner - Departmental Activities:** Richland County Emergency Management Director, Michael Jessen presented the February and March 2025 Coroner’s Report to the committee. Director Jessen briefly reported that Jim Rossing, Richland County Coroner, is still looking for deputy coroners. Brief discussion ensued.
- C. Circuit Court Judge - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Jenifer Laue reported on behalf of Judge McDougal who was out of the office for the day. Ms. Laue reported that the judge has been taking continuing education classes in regards to the treatment court program, Judge McDougal is looking forward to working with the new County Administrator and court security is still her top priority. Ms. Laue reported that the recently added security measures have been working well. Brief discussion ensued.
- D. Clerk Of Court - Departmental Activities:** Clerk of Court, Stacy Kleist presented her financial reports to the committee and highlighted that sensitive data that had inadvertently been included

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had been redacted. Ms. Kleist reported on the continued work being done on the Wisconsin Counties Association court funding initiative, her recent visit with Senator Sarah Keyeski, student Government Day was set for April 9, 2025, and that 25 new chairs for the court room had arrived and were being assembled. Brief discussion ensued.

- E. Register In Probate - Departmental Activities:** Register in Probate, Ms. Jenifer Laue reported that Judge McDougal is getting an increase in new cases from Juneau County. Ms. Laue questioned MIS Director, Jason Marshall on the status of the Zoom capabilities in the small court room and the cameras in the hallways. Director Marshall gave a brief update on the audio-visual projects in the courthouse. Discussion ensued. Ms. Laue requested that Director Marshall keep the judge and herself up-to-date on the progress. Ms. Laue presented the Register in Probate financial reports to the committee. Extensive discussion on the recent fire alarm test ensued. Ms. Laue requested that the Courthouse Security Report be tabled to the May meeting as there was currently nothing to report.
- F. District Attorney - Departmental Activities:** No one present.
- G. Emergency Management - Departmental Activities:** Richland County Emergency Management Director, Michael Jessen reported that in 2025 his department is working on community outreach and one of the initiatives was having the Emergency Services station designated as an excess medication drop off point. John Heinen, Emergency Management Coordinator, briefly reported on the work being done on the IPP and the courthouse security Plan and reported that some grant dollars applied for had been received. Brief discussion ensued.
- H. PSAP & NG-911 Grants:** Sheriff Porter reported that the 2025 round 2 grant application had been submitted. Discussion ensued.
- I. Radio Tower Project:** Mike Day from True North Consulting Group joined via WebEx and gave a detailed update on the radio tower project and that the budget remains on track. Extensive discussion ensued.

Approval of Monthly Invoices: Sheriff Porter presented the March 2025 bills. Motion by Cosgrove, second by Woodhouse to approve the monthly invoices as presented. Motion carried and the monthly invoices were approved as presented.

Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items:

Discussion & Possible Action: Radio Tower Project Subscriber Equipment Funding Purchase – Bob Frank
Discussion & Possible Action: Radio Tower Project Ongoing Maintenance Funding – Jason Marshall

Adjourn: Committee Chair Frank entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Woodhouse, second by Cosgrove to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Richland County
Public Safety Standing Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myranda H. Hege". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Myranda H. Hege
Deputy County Clerk