

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING**

October 21, 2020 Minutes  
Noon

**Location: Zoom Meeting**

**Committee Members Present:** Judge Karen Seifert, Clerk of Courts Melissa Pingel, Sheriff John Matz, Victim Witness Coordinator Terri Vandellen, District Court Administrator Jon Bellows, District Attorney Christian Gossett, State Public Defender Linda Meier, Family Court Commissioner Lisa Krueger, Attorney Rebecca Castonia

**Committee Members Not Present:** County Board Vice-Chair Tom Egan, County Board Chair Shiloh Ramos, Facilities Director Mike Elder, Emergency Management Director Linda Kollmann, County Executive Mark Harris, and Attorney Ed Jelinski

**Others Present:** Family Court Services Director Chris Demos

1. **July Meeting:** The committee members present approved the minutes from the last meeting from July 2020. Jon Bellows moved, SPD Meier seconded, all approved.
2. **Committee Chair Update:** Judge Seifert is retiring at the end of this year. She let the Committee know that Judge Key will appoint a Judge to chair the committee once there is an appointment to Branch IV. Judge Seifert wished everyone well and thanked the committee members for keeping the courthouse safe.
3. **Voting Members:** There were questions about who was a voting member of this committee that came about after the last meeting regarding making committee recommendations. Judge Seifert indicated that the Courthouse Security Committee is only an advisory committee with designated members in the SCR's. Everyone on the committee list is a voting member. (Attached)
4. **Courthouse Security Incidents:** Judge Seifert indicated there were no incidents to report since the last meeting. The Courts are shut down for in person hearings for a second time due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
5. **OWI 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense or Higher Scheduling:** After the courts stopped in person hearings again due to Covid-19, Judge Basiliere reached out to the DA about having these hearings remotely and having the defendants report after the hearing to the jail if convicted. DA Gossett indicated that his interpretation of the law is that it cannot be done this way due to a case out of Oconomowoc, where a doctor was sentenced on a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense OWI, and subsequently struck and killed a pregnant teacher after sentencing prior to reporting to jail. Judge Basiliere then reached out to the Sheriff about these cases to see if they could be done remotely at the WCSO, then the defendant could be taken into custody if convicted. The issue is with 3<sup>rd</sup> offense OWI and higher is that if the defendant is convicted, they must be taken into custody immediately upon conviction.

SPD Meier asked if the attorneys could appear with their clients, Sheriff Matz said yes. Sheriff Matz said the hearings would be in the Rick Meyer room where there are a couple of televisions and there is a laptop to run zoom hearings from the Courts. Sheriff Matz indicated that these hearings will be scheduled 20 minutes apart, possibly twice per week. According to Judge Basiliere, there is a backlog of these cases so the volume may be a bit higher for a while. Sheriff Matz said they did try to use Polycom/Video Conferencing like is used in the jail to the courts, but could not because of technical/internet reasons.

6. Meeting ended 12:20 p.m.

**7. Next Meeting: January 20, 2021 by Zoom.**

- Zoom set up by Melissa Pingel (see bottom)/Include Chief Judge Key
- Sheriff John Matz will run the meetings until new chair appointment

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87220837289>

Meeting ID: 872 2083 7289

One tap mobile

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*Respectfully submitted by Winnebago County Clerk of Courts Melissa Pingel*