



# POLK COUNTY, WISCONSIN

[WWW.CO.POLK.WI.US](http://WWW.CO.POLK.WI.US)

Dana Frey, County Administrator  
100 Polk Plaza, Suite 220, Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
Phone (715) 485-9212 Email [dana.frey@co.polk.wi.us](mailto:dana.frey@co.polk.wi.us)

---

## AGENDA AND NOTICE OF MEETING PUBLIC SAFETY AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Government Center  
County Board Room  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
2:00 p.m. Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

**Purpose:** Review and action on selected items as listed below  
**Documents:** Minutes of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, monthly/quarterly reports

ITEM	LEAD PERSON
Call to Order	Committee Chair
Approval of agenda	
Approval of minutes for January 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	
Public comment	
New business	
1. Law Enforcement Memorial	Sheriff Pete Johnson
Future agenda items	Committee members
Adjourn	

This meeting is open to the public according to Wisconsin State Statute 19.83. Persons with disabilities wishing to attend and/or participate are asked to notify the County Clerk's office (715-485-9226) at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting time so all reasonable accommodations can be made. Requests are confidential



**MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE**

Government Center County Board Room  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
2:00 p.m. Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Meeting called to order by Committee Chair Jay Luke at 2:00 P.M.**

**Members present**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jay Luke	Chair	Present
John Bonneprise	Vice Chair	Present
William Johnson	Supervisor	Present
Marvin Caspersen	Supervisor	Present
Larry Jepsen	Supervisor	Present

Also present Tammy Peterson, Executive Secretary, Dana Frey, County Administrator and Steve Warndahl, Highway Commissioner

**Approval of Agenda-** Chairman called for a motion to approve agenda. **Motion** (Caspersen/ Jepsen) to approve agenda. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes-** Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2014. **Motion** (Johnson/ Bonneprise) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment** – None

**New Business**

Administrator Dana Frey addressed monthly reports.

Administrator Frey discussed the recommendation on resolution concerning Harlan Funk offer to sell to county certain lands in Town of Lorain. Mr. Frey handed out the appraisal and answered questions with no dollar value mentioned except the letter of offer of \$200,000 from Harlan Funk. There has been one appraisal completed. Half of the funding will come from the Highway department and the other half from the asset fund with highway paying back. The yearly taxes for land are \$168.90.

Highway Commissioner, Steve Warndahl stated the highway department has looked at the 40 acres, has prepped the site and has determined gravel is there. Commissioner Warndahl also discussed the background information on the regulations.

Motion (Jepsen/ Johnson) to go into closed session at 2:26 p.m.

Also present in closed session were Dana Frey, Tammy Peterson and Steve Warndahl.

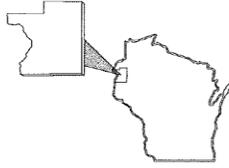
Motion (Jepsen/ Luke) to pursue up to the appraisal amount and pass on to the Conservation, Development, Recreation and Education and General Government committees and County Board. Motion carried on voice vote of 4 to 1, with Johnson vote no.

Motion (Caspersen/ Jepsen) to reconvene at 2:52 p.m.

Motion (Jepsen/ Caspersen) to recommend purchase without a dollar amount to County Board. Motion carried on voice vote of 4 to 1, with Johnson vote no.

Next meeting will be February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

**Motion** (Caspersen/Johnson) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 2:57 p.m.



## Polk County Highway Department

518 Main Street ▪ PO Box 248 ▪ Balsam Lake WI 54810  
Phone (715) 485-8700 ▪ Fax (715) 485-8702

Steve Warndahl, Commissioner

Jim Pankonien – Patrol Superintendent

Steve Mullenbach – Fleet Supervisor

Emil "Moe" Norby – Technical Support Manager

Kathy Bohn – Supervisor of Hwy Administration

---

### MONTHLY REPORT

Jan. 2015

#### CONSTRUCTION & RECONSTRUCTION OF COUNTY ROADS

##### CURRENT:

- Plans for the 2015 construction season are being reviewed
- Mythology and review of processes are being debated
- CTH X Culvert over Horse creek – 12 foot 11 inch by 7 foot 9 inch culvert has been delivered, is now assembled, and has been moved outside, and will be installed in the spring.
- Estimates will soon be completed for the 2015 CIP projects

##### UP COMING:

- We continue to monitor oil prices and anticipate a reduction in asphalt prices

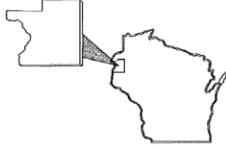
#### ROAD MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

##### CURRENT:

- The procedures for over width, overweight, and house moving has been completed and implemented
- All truck snow equipment has been mounted
- Four graders now have wings installed
- Pre wet systems are all installed
- Salt shipments have caught up and we have plenty of salt on hand

UPCOMING:

- If there are any question or concerns on the Implements of husbandry issue please contact me to discuss the issue
- We continue to deal with problems with the heating systems as well as the security system in the highway building



## Polk County Highway Department

518 Main Street ▪ PO Box 248 ▪ Balsam Lake WI 54810  
Phone (715) 485-8700 ▪ Fax (715) 485-8702

Steve Warndahl, Commissioner

Jim Pankonien – Patrol Superintendent  
Emil "Moe" Norby – Technical Support Manager

Steve Mullenbach – Fleet Supervisor  
Kathy Bohn – Supervisor of Hwy Administration

---

### MONTHLY REPORT Feb. 2015

#### CONSTRUCTION & RECONSTRUCTION OF COUNTY ROADS

##### CURRENT:

- Plans for the 2015 construction season are being reviewed and scheduled with Monarch Paving
- Mythology and review of processes are being debated and shared with Monarch for feedback on our plans
- Funding for the County Rd J Bridge still remains an issue.
- Estimates are completed for the 2015 CIP projects we are just waiting for the upcoming asphalt bids in the spring
- Culverts are being estimated for Co D project

##### UP COMING:

- We continue to monitor oil prices and anticipate a reduction in asphalt prices

#### ROAD MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

##### CURRENT:

- Three presentations were given to local farmers on the Implements of Husbandry
- The Commissioner also appeared before the Towns Association and discussed implements of Husbandry
- Pre wet systems are all installed
- Salt shipments have caught up and we have plenty of salt on hand

UPCOMING:

- If there are any question or concerns on the Implements of Husbandry issue please contact me to discuss the issue
- We continue to receive inquires on IOH and are prepared to issue permits as they are requested

## Sheriff's Office Monthly Report February 2015

### **Field Services**

Deputy Joe Vierkandt resigned to take position as Asst. Chief of Police in Amery. Application to fill this vacancy will be taken until Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, testing on Feb. and interviews are scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.

Hunter Wilson began his FTO training 1/06/15.

Nate Hoftender is off FTO and working as part time patrol deputy.

Drug Endangered Children training was held here. The training was conducted by WI Dept of Justice. A majority of the municipal agencies in the county had a representative in the class.

Transport costs for the month of December 2014 were \$3,403.59, bringing the total cost of transports for the year to \$73,719.35.

Judge GaleWyrick has announced that the court video conferencing system is not reliable and she will no longer consider doing any video testimony until it is reliable.

### **Dispatch**

We have interviewed the qualified applicants for the open position and have identified a couple of strong candidates that will be asked back for a second interview.

### **Jail**

Chase Hamilton has been hired to fill one of the open Jailer positions. His starting date is scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Another contingent offer has been made to another candidate, pending successful completion of the background, psychological, and physical screenings.

I have been made aware of the possibility of two more jailers leaving within the next few months. One through retirement and the other is currently in the background stage in another county.

During the early morning hours of 1/13/15, Officers Tim Johnson and Michael Kahler responded to a medical cell after observing an inmate on the floor in distress. They discovered that the inmate had fashioned a tourniquet of sorts using materials in his cell, and had this secured around his neck. Their quick actions interrupted a suicide attempt by an inmate who had recently been sentenced to prison. Medical attention was sought and the inmate suffered no lasting effects.

The Jail TV transition continues. All of the TVs have been purchased and the mount conversion kits have been ordered. Unfortunately they will not arrive before the digital cutover is made by the cable company rendering the current TVs unusable. The staff will be increasing their contact with the inmates and provide them alternative recreation during this time.

Officer Stacey Ptacek has been registered to attend Taser Instructor. This will allow her to become the primary instructor for the Jail as well as the person with primary responsibility for this program and equipment.

## **Emergency Government**

We are in the process of scheduling a multi-agency training for search and Rescue. Invitations will be going out to the Chiefs of all law enforcement and all fire departments in the county to gathering interest and set a schedule. The training will be put on by a member(s) of the St. Louis County (MN) Search and Rescue Team, who are considered to be one of the best teams in the region.

# OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

Chief Medical Examiner

Jonn B. Dinnies, ABMDI

[jonnd@co.polk.wi.us](mailto:jonnd@co.polk.wi.us)

100 Polk County Plaza, Suite 180 · Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Phone: 715 485-9218 · Fax: 715 485-9272

---

## End of the Year Report 2014

January 2, 2015

**Total Cases 2014            338**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>177</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>160</b>

**Autopsies                    16**

### Type of deaths

**Natural deaths            310**

**Accidental deaths        23**

- 1.    Complications from a fall            2**
- 2.    Complications from hip fractures    7**
- 3.    Asphyxiation (compression)        1**
- 4.    Drowning                                2**
- 5.    Methamphetamine toxicity            1**
- 6.    Motor vehicle crash                    5**

- 7. Pedestrian vs. vehicle crash 3
- 8. Snowmobile crash 2

Homicide 1

Suicide 3

- 1. Asphyxia by hanging 1
- 2. Mixed drug overdose 1
- 3. Sharp Force Injuries 1

**Cremation permits issued in 2014 225**

**Comparison of total cases with previous years**

2004	206
2005	189
2006	215
2007	212
2008	262
2009	276
2010	288
2011	277
2012	282
2013	344
2014	338

In summary: 2014 was the second busiest year of my tenure. Only 2013 surpassed this year and then only by six cases. The issuing of cremation permits continues to be the driving force in our increased case load. This fact and the fact we increased our cremation fees to \$175 and also added in a signing fee for certain death certificates have dramatically increased our department income.

Our contract with the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office in Anoka County, Minnesota, will be remaining unchanged at \$32,000 annually. This amount is based on the assumption that in a county our size, we should have 16 autopsies per year. In 2014, we had exactly 16 autopsies.

Compare this with the previous few years of autopsy totals:

2008	15
2009	14
2010	14
2011	19
2012	22
2013	9

I thank you for the continued opportunity to serve Polk County as your Medical Examiner.

Jon B. Dinnies

Polk County Medical Examiner



**MINUTES  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE**

Government Center  
County Board Room  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
2:00 p.m. Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

**Meeting called to order by Committee Chair Jay Luke at 2:00 P.M.**

**Members present**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jay Luke	Chair	Present
John Bonneprise	Vice Chair	Not Present
William Johnson	Supervisor	Present
Marvin Caspersen	Supervisor	Present
Larry Jepsen	Supervisor	Present

Also present Maggie Wickre, Finance Manager, Pete Johnson, Sheriff, and Steve Moe, Deputy Sheriff.

**Approval of Agenda-** Chairman called for a motion to approve agenda. **Motion** (Johnson/Caspersen) to approve agenda. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes-** Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. **Motion (Jepsen/Johnson)** to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment – None**

**New Business**

**Law Enforcement Memorial - Sheriff, Pete Johnson addressed the Committee about the National Law Enforcement Memorial ceremony in Washington DC May 12 -16, 2015. Polk County's former deputy, Mike Severson, is getting enshrined with adding his name to the wall of the memorial this year. The ceremony will begin with a candle light vigil on the 12<sup>th</sup> through to the actual ceremony on the 15th. Sheriff Johnson stated that there are six law enforcement officers from Polk County who will be attending at their own expense in honor of Deputy Severson. He also stated that the officers would like to drive one of Polk County's policy vehicle out there carrying guns and uniforms and avoid carrying these items by plane. The expense to the County would only be fuel and the use of the vehicle. He also requested that Polk County promote the enshrinement of our former deputy Mike Severson to the**

**public during this time of remembrance. Sheriff Johnson also stated that Mike Severson spoke at a past ceremony in Washington DC one year after this recovery.**

**Also May 8<sup>th</sup> in Madison, Wisconsin will be similar ceremony as the State of Wisconsin will also be honoring Mike Severson by including his name on their memorial.**

**Motion by Jepsen/Johnson to support this effort, whole heartedly, and also authorize the use of a county vehicle to be taken out of state with financial costs of that vehicle covered by the County to travel to Washington DC to honor Mike Severson. Motion passed.**

**Future Agenda Items: Resolution proclamation to support Mike Severson.**

**Motion (Jepsen/Johnson) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 2:23 p.m.**