



# Public Safety and Court Services Committee

## Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 10:30 AM

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

### I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m., by Chair Mike Koppien.

### II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Mike Koppien, Vice Chair Keane Hudson, Katie White, Angie Shippert, Michael Pearson

Mike Koppien, Keane Hudson, Katie White, Angie Shippert, and Michael Pearson all attended in person.

Also present: Dean Freil and Tom Kitson (Board Members), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Alice Henkel (Zoning Administrator), Amy Johnson (Circuit Clerk), Kevin Lalley (EMA Director), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Staci Stewart (Director of Probation and Court Services), Clay Whalen (Sheriff), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person. Teri Zinke (Animal Control Administrator) attended via Zoom.

### III. Public Attendees

No members of the public were in attendance.

### IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (June 11, 2024)

Minutes from the June 11, 2024, Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

### V. Animal Control

Following are highlights from Terry Zinke's report from Animal Control:

- Teri provided graphs for the committee showing the activity in the office for the month of June.
- She reported that she was down an Animal Control Officer and would be looking for a replacement.

### VI. Circuit Clerk

Following are highlights from Amy Johnson's report from the Circuit Clerk's Office:

- Amy reported that she would have final quotes for the case management software in time for budget hearings.
- Her office is down two employees and may have an additional two employees out on FMLA. Amy explained that the starting salary offered by the County is complicating the hiring process.

### VII. Judges, Coroner, and Public Defender

No representatives were present from the Judges, Coroner, or Public Defender's Offices and no reports were submitted.

VIII. Emergency Management Agency

Following are highlights from Kevin Lalley's report from the EMA Office:

- Kevin had prepared for and assisted with the Petunia Festival activities.
- He was contacted by West Brooklyn with a request for an outdoor warning siren system. Kevin gave the Township guidance and walked them through the policies and procedures.
- He coordinated with the National Weather service regarding blowing dust in the area that caused several accidents. A special weather advisory was issued.

IX. Probation

Following are highlights from Staci Stewart's report from Probation:

- The office continues to be very busy as they keep up with the demands of the Pre-Trial Fairness Act.
- Lesley Dever, just recognized for her 25 years in the office, will be moving into the trial court administrator position, leaving a big gap in the office.

X. Sheriff

A. *Monthly Report*

Clay Whelan submitted a detailed report from the Sheriff's Office. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the July County Board agenda packet.

XI. State's Attorney

Following are highlights from Charley Boonstra's report from the State's Attorney's Office:

- The office continues to keep up with the additional workload ushered in by Pre-Trial Fairness Act. Since September 18, 2023, when the act went into effect, an additional 843 hours have been logged with detention hearings, conditions, and all the new moving parts.
- The office closed roughly 75 felony cases in the last two months, including a predatory case that received a 12-year sentence and a Department of Corrections aggravated battery with a firearms case that received a 14-year sentence.
- During the last week in June, the office transitioned LOTS over to the Reagan Mass Transit District.

A. *Quarterly Update on the Collection of Unpaid Fines - State's Attorney*

No updates were given during the meeting.

XII. Report of Abandoned Properties Focus Group

Jeremy Englund reported the following information from the Abandoned/Nuisance Properties Focus Group:

- Jeremy explained that the group is expanding to include the Sheriff's Office.
- Action on the Magnuson Hotel is on hold for now as the County considers how to get closure and/or solutions that fit the requirements of health and safety.

- The County continues to work with a developer that could potentially take ownership of the Lee Center School. Another option would be to have the County take ownership and demolish the building.
- A BAR Form is on the Executive Committee agenda for action by the Board to reallocate roughly \$55,000 from ARPA funds not expended on projects to ARPA Capital to provide additional funds for projects.
- The focus group is still working on \$75,000 from the Strong Communities grant for residential properties within the County.

XIII. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XIV. New Business

There were no items under New Business.

XV. Executive Session

There was no request for an Executive Session.

Before the meeting adjourned, Alice Henkel reported that the Zoning Office will be hosting an evening seminar on Floodplain matters at 6:00 p.m., on Monday, July 29th, at the Old Courthouse in the third-floor courtroom. Aaron Conley from IDNR has been invited to answer questions specific to state requirements.

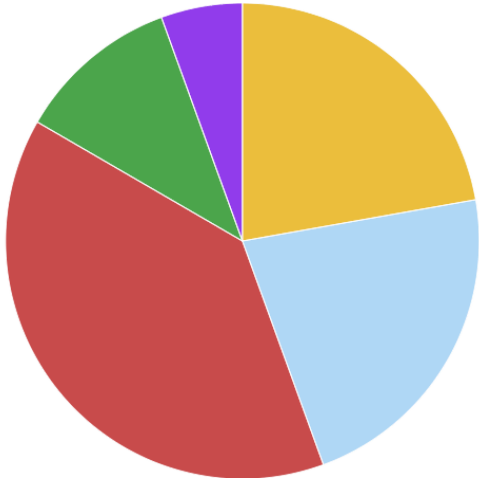
XVI. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn at 10:56 a.m. **Moved** by Keane Hudson. **Second** by Michael Pearson. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for  
10:56 a.m., Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Respectfully submitted by:  
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

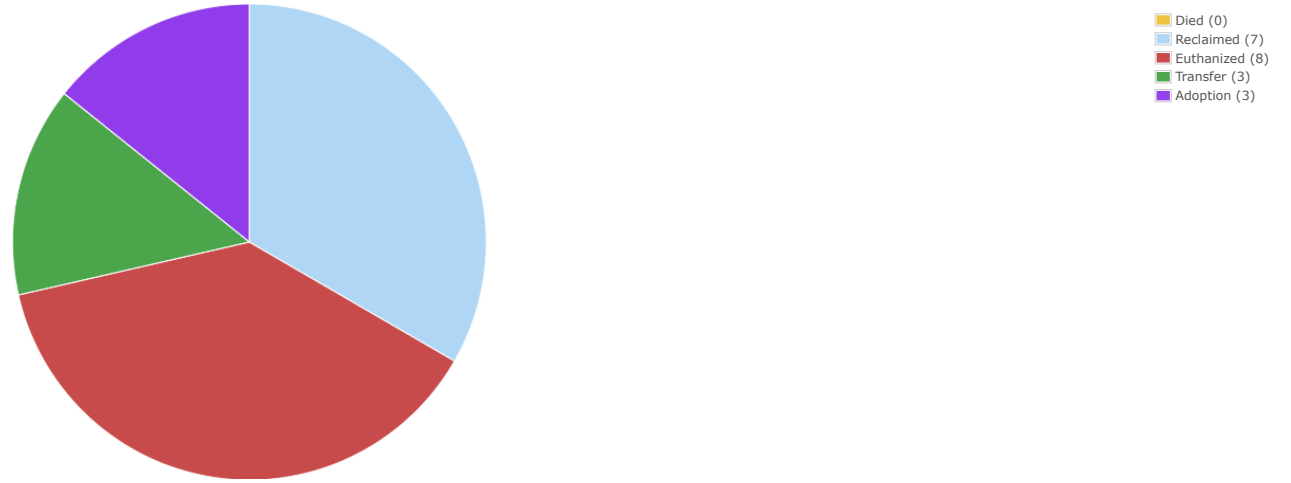
**\*\*ANIMAL ENTRY REASONS-GRAPH\*\***



- Born in Shelter (4)
- Sick/Injured (4)
- Stray (7)
- Surrender - other (2)
- Surrender - unable to cope with animal (1)

Criteria:  
Enter from date: 06/01/2024  
Enter to date: 06/30/2024

**\*\*ANIMAL EXIT REASONS-GRAPH\*\***



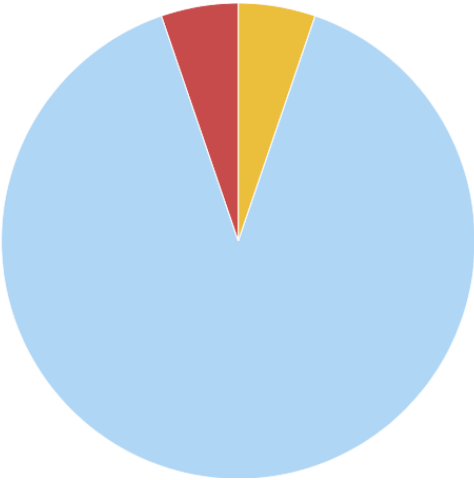
Criteria:

Enter from date: 06/01/2024  
Enter to date: 06/30/2024

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Report: **\*\*ANIMAL EXIT REASONS-GRAPH\*\***  
Generated by Animal Shelter Manager 49u [Thu 04 Jul 2024 01:53:49 PM UTC] at Lee County Animal Control on 07/05/2024 by tz2404

**\*\*CITATIONS ISSUED BY TYPE-GRAPH\*\***

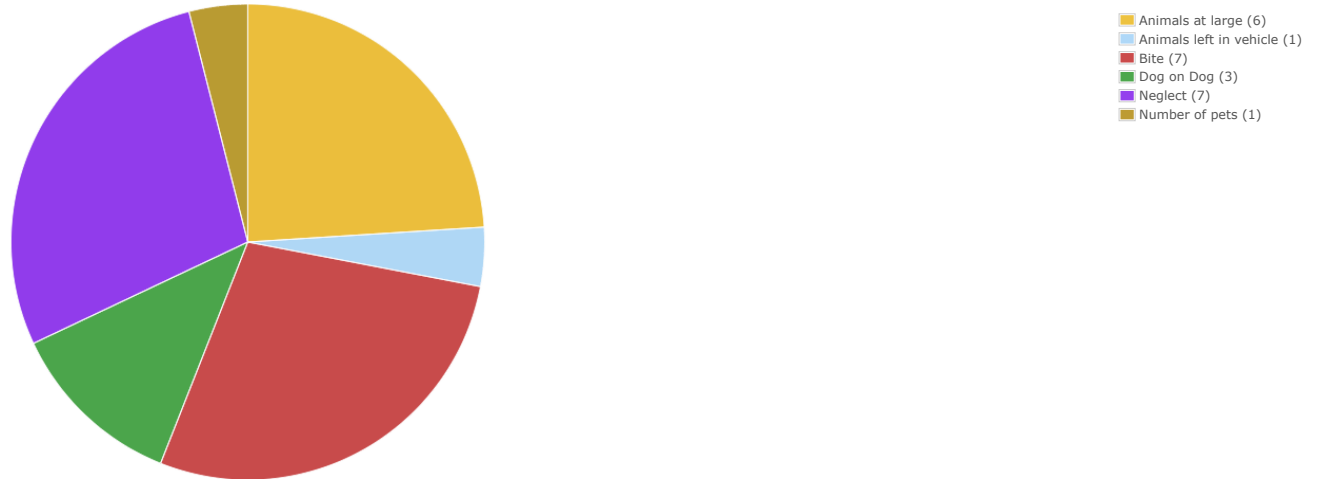


County Registration (1)  
Vaccine (17)  
Vaccine-2nd Offense (1)

Criteria:  
Enter the from date: 06/01/2024  
Enter the to date: 06/30/2024

Report: **\*\*CITATIONS ISSUED BY TYPE-GRAPH\*\***  
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**\*\*INCIDENTS BY TYPE-GRAPH\*\***



Criteria:

Enter the from date: 06/01/2024  
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Report: **\*\*INCIDENTS BY TYPE-GRAPH\*\***  
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Lee County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety and Court Services Committee

July 9, 2024

In the month of June, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 777 calls for service.

As far as notable calls for the month, the following incidents occurred...

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, Lee County Deputies responded to assist the Ogle County Sheriff's Office at an address in Lost Nation Subdivision. The sheriff's office had responded to the residence for a report of a male subject that was suffering from a mental health crisis in which he was also suicidal and homicidal. The Ogle County Emergency Response Team was activated and responded to the location. After numerous failed attempts to contact the subject, team members attempted to conduct a welfare check at the residence. Team members immediately came under fire after making entry to the premises. Three Ogle County Emergency Response Team members were shot and wounded during the incident. Gounaris was reported to be armed with two handguns, a fixed-blade knife, pepper spray and ballistic armor.

Two law enforcement officers were transported by ground from the scene to KSB Hospital in Dixon. The third law enforcement officer was flown to OSF St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford and underwent surgery. The suspect, 32-year-old Jonathon Gounaris, was also shot and wounded. He was transported to KSB Hospital where he received surgery for his wounds.

After being treated at KSB Hospital for several days, Gounaris was taken into custody and charged with four counts of Attempted First Degree Murder, three counts of Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm, three counts of Aggravated Battery, and two counts of Possession of a Firearm without a Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card. Attempted First Degree Murder is a Class X felony that is punishable by a special sentence of 20-80 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm is a Class X felony that is punishable by a special sentence of 10-45 years. Aggravated Battery is a Class X felony that is punishable by a special sentence of 15-60 years. The charges are pending in Ogle County Court, and Gounaris is being held at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office. The Illinois State Police has taken over the investigation, and it will later be reviewed by the Ogle County State's Attorney's Office.

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Lee County has been dealing with numerous code violations over the past several years at the Magnuson Hotel, located at 443 Illinois Route 2 in Dixon. The owner had entered into an agreement on October 1, 2021, with the Dixon Rural Fire Department to make numerous repairs and remedy a multitude of code violations within specific periods of time. The repair efforts have since stalled, and the Dixon Rural Fire Department is spearheading the effort to either complete the necessary repairs or close the business. On June 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., representatives from the Dixon Rural Fire Department, Lee County Health Department, Lee County Zoning Office, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office distributed notices at the Magnuson Hotel. The documents were notifications to the occupants that the hotel will likely be closed to inhabitants on June 21<sup>st</sup> due to the numerous building, health, and safety code violations. An emergency injunction was filed in Lee County Courts and the closure of the facility was postponed. The matter is still pending with a mid-July court date.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> at approximately 2:00 p.m., a Deputy stopped a vehicle for a speeding violation on Rock Island Road. The driver of the vehicle was identified as 43-year-old Chad Payne of Rock Falls. A computer check revealed that Payne was wanted on a Whiteside County for Obstructing a Court Order. After the deputy asked Payne to step out of the vehicle, he quickly put the vehicle in gear and fled the scene. An Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network (ISPERN) dispatch was put out to area law enforcement for Fleeing and Attempting to Elude a Police Officer. Due to the deputy knowing the identity of the driver, he did not pursue the vehicle. Shortly thereafter, the Sheriff's Office received a tip regarding Payne's possible whereabouts at an address in Rock Falls. Officers from the Rock Falls Police Department located the offending vehicle in the 600 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Chad Payne was subsequently taken into custody and charged with Fleeing or Attempting to Elude a Peace Officer, Reckless Driving, and Speeding. Payne was released in accordance with pretrial release provisions of the Illinois SAFE-T Act.

**Staffing Update**

From the Corrections Division, two correctional deputies are still attending training at the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center in Decatur. They will graduate on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

From the Patrol Division, two other deputies are still attending the Basic Law Enforcement Officer Academy at the Sauk Valley Community College – Law Enforcement Academy. Both of those deputies are slated to graduate from the academy on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sergeant Matt McGrail is still away from the Department and on active military orders until the beginning of October. The Department was recently

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notified that another deputy will be called to active-duty service sometime in September. This deputy will likely be deployed for somewhere around one year. The Patrol Division is still down another deputy due to injury. These circumstances will continue to present some staffing issues for the remaining summer months and into fall.

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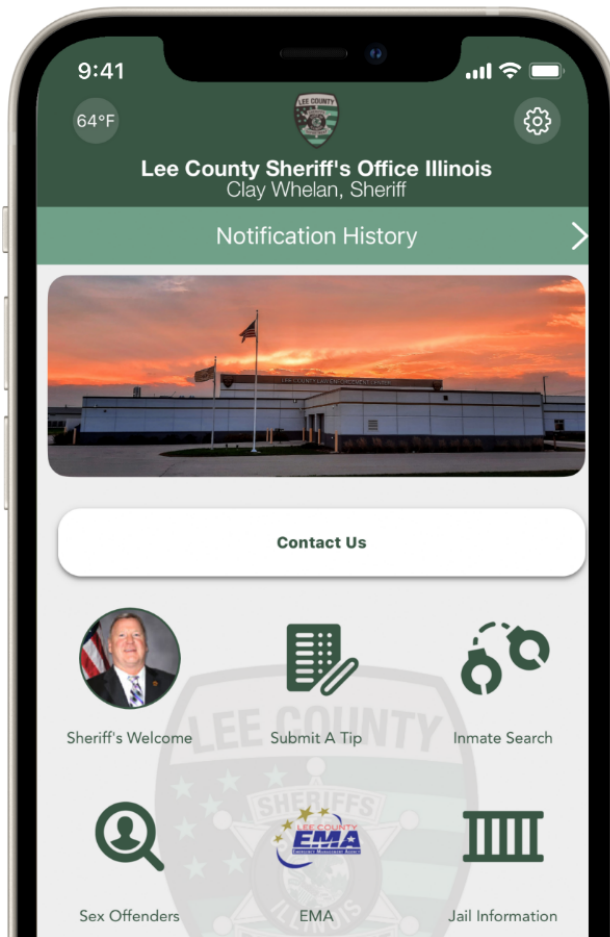
## Lee County Sheriff's Office Announces New Smartphone App

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Lee County Sheriff Clay Whelan is excited to announce the release of a custom smartphone application. The app will serve as an innovative way for the Sheriff's Office to connect with Lee County residents and visitors, providing information quickly and efficiently to anyone with a smartphone.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office app was developed by TheSheriffApp.com, a brand of OCV, LLC., which specializes in mobile app development for sheriffs' offices and public safety organizations across the country. The app offers quick access to items of public interest and is easy to use. In just a few clicks, users can access features such as:

- Sheriff's Welcome
- Search our Inmate Roster, See Charges and Inmate Information
- Deposit Funds to Inmate Commissary
- Search for other Jail Information and Rules
- Schedule Inmate Visits
- View all Sex Offender Names and Registered Addresses for the State of Illinois
- Emergency Management Agency Links
- Sheriff's Office Application for Employment
- National Weather Service Alerts for your location
- Access to other Alerts that may need to be given to the public
- Contact Us
- Submit A Tip
- Purchase Crash Reports
- Pay Traffic Fines
- County Directory for Phone Numbers and Addresses
- Much More!

“Over 80 percent of people in the United States own and use smartphones as their primary means of communication,” OCV Partner and CRO Kevin Cummings said. “Mobile apps offer agencies a better way to alert, inform and prepare the public. Apps allow public safety agencies the ability to reach and serve their citizens where they are: their smartphones.”

The app is now available to download for free in the App Store and Google Play by searching “Lee County Sheriff, IL”.

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