



# Public Safety and Court Services Committee

## Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Mar 12, 2024 at 10:30 AM CDT

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, and Angie Shippert attended in person. Mike Pearson attended via Zoom video conferencing. Katie White was absent.

Also present: Reed Akre, Dean Freil, and Tom Kitson (Board Members), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Alice Henkel (Zoning Administrator), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), Clay Whalen (Sheriff), Teri Zinke (Animal Control Administrator), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

#### *Discussion during roll call:*

- Alice Henkel explained that during the hearing for Steward Creek Solar the use of battery energy storage was questioned because the County is currently under a moratorium for battery energy storage. Alice wanted to make sure that all the Board Members were aware that the moratorium was for stand-alone systems only. Last year when the state introduced their new citing standards for wind and solar, they allowed for battery energy storage as an accessory to a wind or solar project.

### III. Public Attendees

No members of the public were in attendance.

### IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (February 13, 2024)

Minutes from the February 13, 2024, Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting were approved as presented.

### V. Animal Control

#### A. *Monthly Report and Graphs from January and February 2024*

Teri Zinke walked the committee through the report and graphs that she submitted. The full report and copies of the graphs will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

### VI. Circuit Clerk

No one from the Circuit Clerk's Office was in attendance and no report was submitted.

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

No one was present from the Judges, Coroner, or Public Defender's Offices.

VIII. Emergency Management Agency

A. *Monthly Report*

Kevin Lalley was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a report. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

IX. Probation

No one from the Probation Office was in attendance and no report was submitted.

X. Sheriff

Clay Whelan walked the committee through the report that he submitted. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

XI. State's Attorney

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

Charley Boonstra was not able to attend the meeting but provided the figures for the Quarterly Update on the Collection of Unpaid Fines recorded below:

- Total collected during January 2024 - \$3,590.12
- Total collected during February 2024 - \$4,178.85
- Total collected so far in 2024 - \$7,768.97
- Total collected since the process started in 2019 - \$273,128

XII. Report of Abandoned/Nuisance Property Focus Group

Jeremy Englund reported that the Abandoned/Nuisance Property Focus Group met on March 8th to reorganize and refocus on what the committee's mission is and what needed to be accomplished. The list of properties was revisited, and priority actions were identified. The group included himself, County Board Members, and staff members from the Health Department and the Zoning Office. In the future the Sheriff's Office and the State's Attorney's Office may be contacted for assistance. He explained that he had been in touch with a demolition/recycling company that could potentially save property owners and the County money on larger projects. There are also several financial opportunities and grants that are being sought out to help mitigate costs to 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.

XVI. Adjournment

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

The next Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for  
10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Respectfully submitted by:  
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

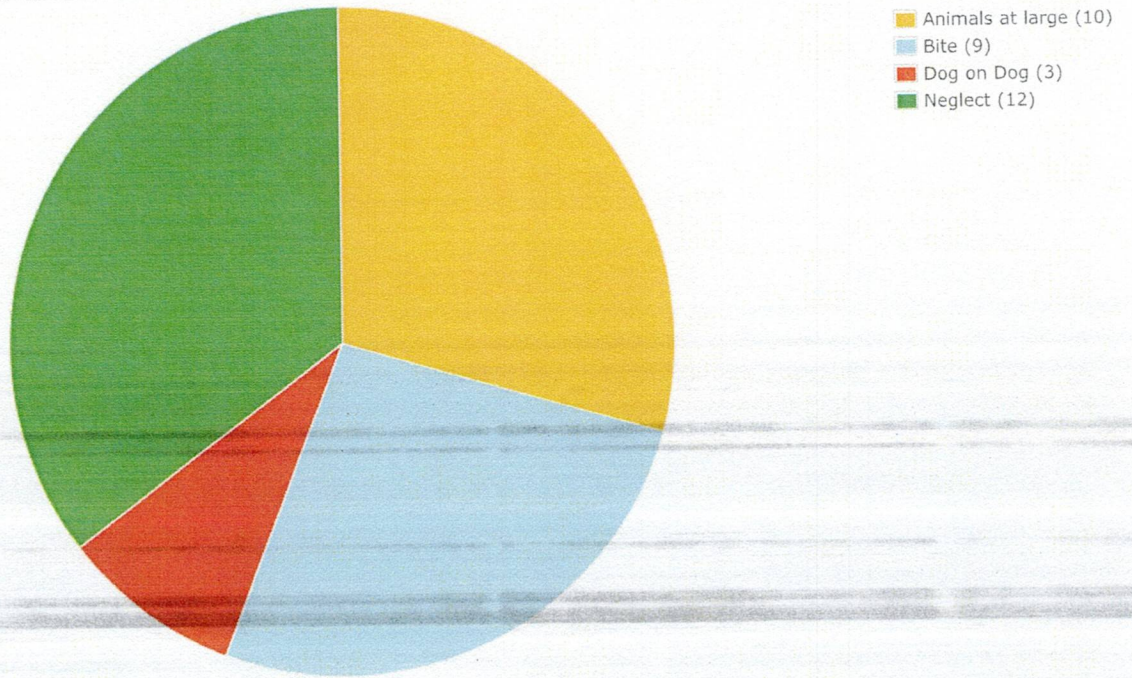


March 12, 2024

Animal Control report:

- 1-27-24 Damage to the front quarter panel-driver's side and front bumper. Insurance has been contacted and truck was taken to Dixon Auto Body for an estimate. Estimate was forwarded to insurance. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the date to be fixed, will be there for approximately 3 days.
- 2-17-24 There was an incident at the Animal Control building in regards to a dog. Insurance has been notified along with required paperwork.
- January and February graphs are included for viewing.

**\*\*INCIDENTS BY TYPE-GRAPH\*\***

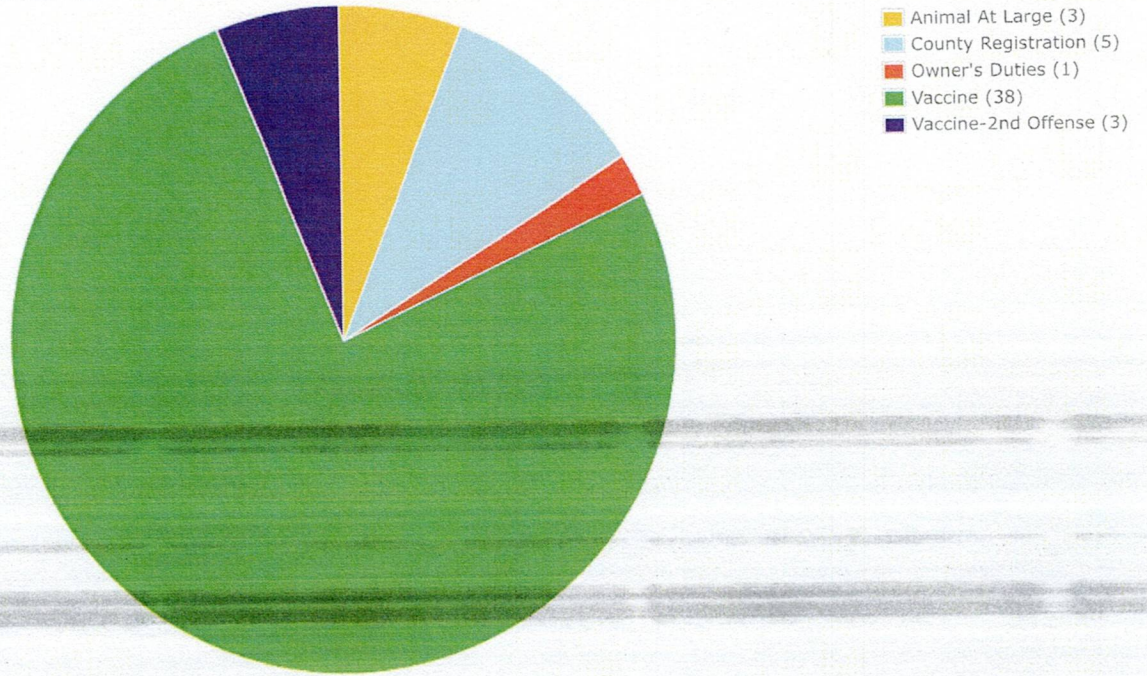


Criteria:

Enter the from date: 01/01/2024  
Enter the to date: 02/29/2024

Report: **\*\*INCIDENTS BY TYPE-GRAPH\*\***  
Generated by Animal Shelter Manager 48u [Sun 03 Mar 2024 10:01:38 AM UTC] at Lee County Animal Control on 03/04/2024 by tz2404

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

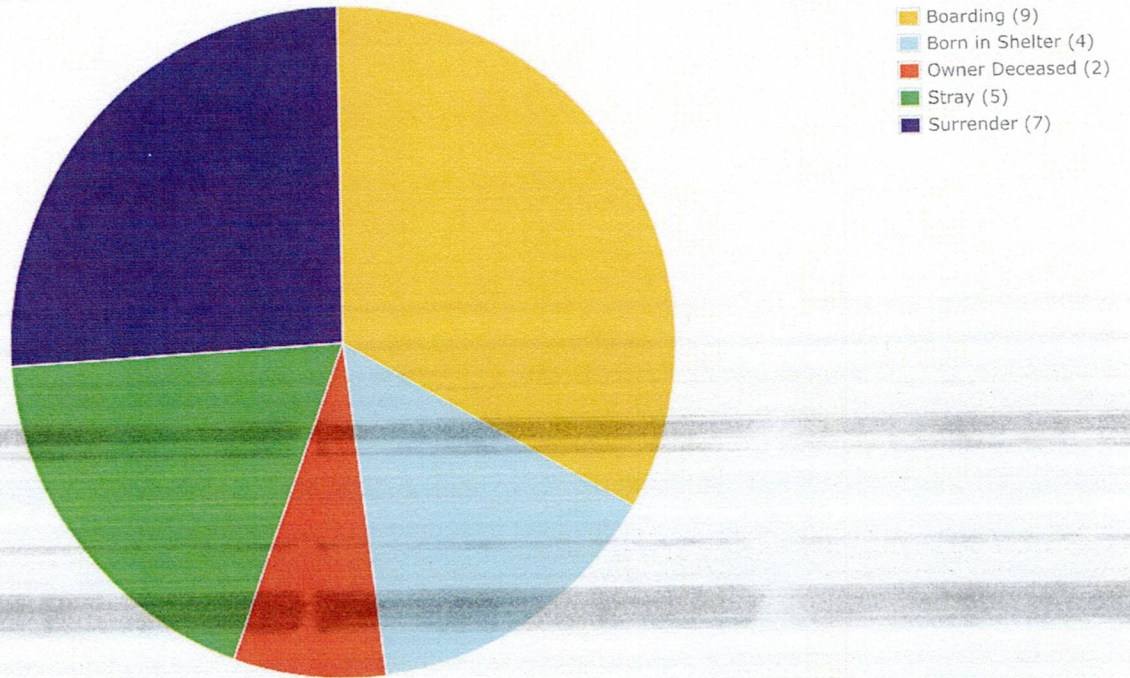


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**\*\*ANIMAL ENTRY REASONS-GRAPH\*\***

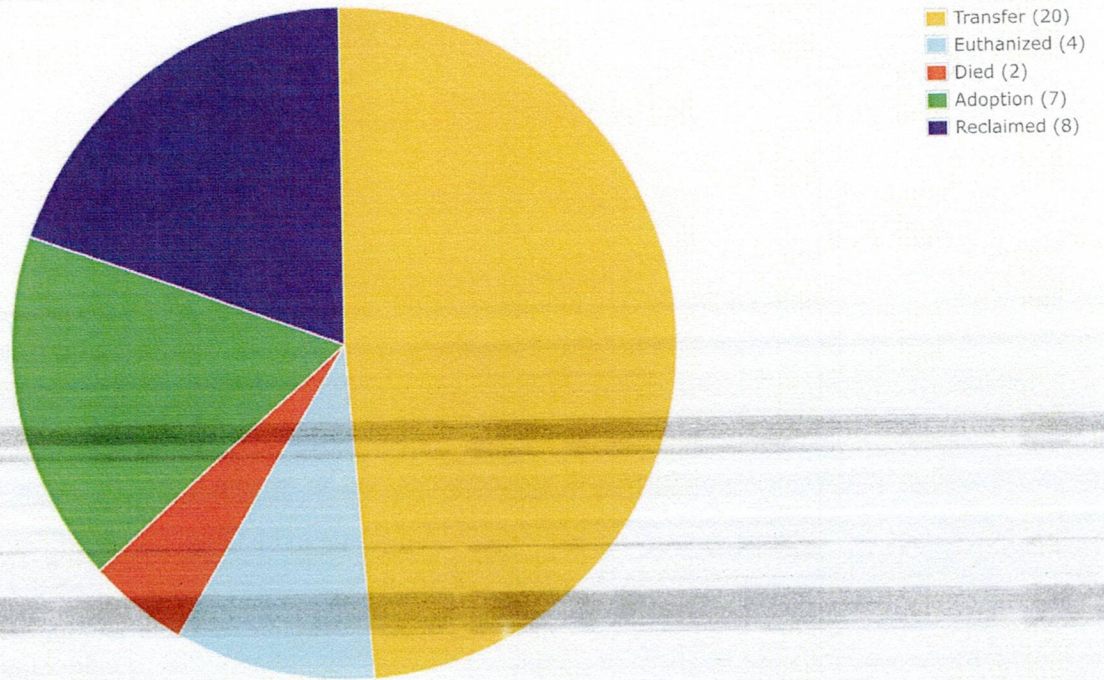


Criteria:

Enter from date: 01/01/2024  
Enter to date: 02/29/2024

Report: **\*\*ANIMAL ENTRY REASONS-GRAPH\*\***  
Generated by Animal Shelter Manager 48u [Sun 03 Mar 2024 10:01:38 AM UTC] at Lee County Animal Control on 03/04/2024 by tz2404

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



Criteria:

Enter from date: 01/01/2024  
Enter to date: 02/29/2024

Report: **\*\*ANIMAL EXIT REASONS-GRAPH\*\***

Generated by Animal Shelter Manager 48u [Sun 03 Mar 2024 10:01:38 AM UTC] at Lee County Animal Control on 03/04/2024 by tz2404



# Lee County Emergency Management Agency

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Report for the March 12, 2024, County Services Committee

- Lee County EM has been updating and adjusting the local plan, in accordance with the State plan in the event Asylum seekers arrive in Lee County.
- EM and Lee County Zoning office met to discuss plans that EM has and how those plans tie into the Zoning office.
- The EOC floor was used twice in the month of February by other departments.
- Conducted monthly maintenance on equipment to ensure assets are deployable when needed.
- Updated all Ubiquiti devices with latest firmware and software.
- Director Lalley attended the MABAS Summit in Bloomington for continuing education hours.
- Lee County EM assisted Ogle County with a search of the Rock River for a missing subject.

Kevin E. Lalley, Director  
Lee County Emergency Management

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Lee County Sheriff's Office

Public Safety and Court Services Committee

March 12, 2024

In the month of February, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 794 calls for service.

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

On February 14<sup>th</sup> at approximately 2:07 a.m., the Dixon Police Department received a report of an armed robbery that had just taken place at Casey's in Dixon. The subject was described as a white male wearing blue jeans, a black hoodie, and a black mask. He had displayed a handgun and made off with cash from the location. A Lee County Sheriff's Deputy was patrolling in the Dixon area when he observed a suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of West Everett Street in Dixon. The deputy was driving a fully marked squad car when he observed a truck park in the area and extinguish its lights. A subject emerged from the truck that matched the description of the offender. As the deputy turned his squad around to make contact, the subject took off running on foot. Additional officers converged on the area to search for the offender. A short time later, two Dixon Police Officers located the subject and held him at gunpoint until other officers could arrive. The subject was identified as 18-year-old Benjamin Kelley of Dixon. A black handgun was located on his person that was discovered to be a BB gun. Kelley was arrested and charged with the following:

- Aggravated Robbery, a Class 1 Felony
- Robbery, a Class 2 Felony

The charges against Kelley are pending in Lee County Case Number 24 CF 33, and he is currently detained at the Lee County Jail.

On February 18<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10:26 p.m., Deputies from the Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to Rock River Estates Trailer Park (291 Illinois Route 2) for a report of motor vehicle theft that had just occurred. The vehicle information was disseminated to other area law enforcement agencies, and it was located by the Dixon Police Department shortly thereafter. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was identified as 31-year-old William Whitford from Earlville, Illinois.

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It was discovered that Whitford was wanted on an outstanding parole warrant from the Illinois Department of Corrections. He was subsequently arrested and charged with the following offenses:

- Possession of a Controlled Substance – Class 1 Felony
- Unlawful Possession of a Stolen Vehicle – Class 2 Felony
- Aggravated Battery to a Peace Officer – Class 2 Felony
- Resisting/Obstructing a Peace Officer – Class 4 Felony
- Criminal Trespass to Vehicle – Class A Misdemeanor
- Driving while License Revoked – Class A Misdemeanor

The charges against Whitford are pending in Lee County Case Number 24 CF 44. He was turned over to the Department of Corrections on the parole violation.

After 29 years of service, Chief Bailiff Ed Stewart announced that he will be retiring in August. Chief Bailiff Stewart began his service to Lee County in 1995. He has been instrumental in managing the security operations at both the New Courthouse and the Old Courthouse since his appointment to this position in March of 2010. Command personnel spoke with Chief Stewart about his potential successor and are in complete agreement with his assessment. He believed that Sergeant Pat Bodmer would be the ideal choice as his replacement for a smooth and seamless transition. Sergeant Bodmer was approached with the appointment, and he graciously accepted. The plan is to have Sergeant Bodmer shadow Chief Bailiff Stewart to learn the various nuances of the position. This will provide for an opening in the Patrol Division that the Sheriff's Office would like to begin with the hiring and training process to maintain our staffing levels.

At the end of February, the Sheriff's Office went live with the implementation of body cameras in the Patrol Division. This was an unfunded mandate to law enforcement agencies that was required prior to January 1, 2025. The body cameras obtained have the capability to integrate with the WatchGuard in-car video systems as well as the Motorola records management system that we utilize.

The Sheriff's Office is currently in negotiations with the Villages of Ashton and Franklin Grove to provide law enforcement services. Ashton has not had a police officer in almost three years while Franklin Grove's police officer retired several months ago. It was discussed that we could provide each village 20 hours of law enforcement services if they decided to split the cost. We would track the hours in the same manner that we currently do for our services to the Village of Paw Paw. Both villages were very receptive, and they indicated that they would take the matter to their respect boards.

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