

Manitowoc County Public Safety Committee

Manitowoc County Communications and Technology Building

August 13, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance: Present: Chairperson James Falkowski, Supervisor Mike Grambow, Supervisor Tim Jadowski and Supervisor Nicholas Muench. Excused: Supervisor Dylan Hammel.

Others in attendance: Clerk of Court Angela Linderud, Supervisor Mickey Lillibridge, Board Chair Tyler Martell, Supervisors Hacker and Naidl.

Chair James Falkowski called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Roll call circulated and introductions made.

Minutes of prior meeting: Chair James Falkowski asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes of the July 9, 2025. No changes offered and the minutes were approved upon motion of Supervisor Jadowski and seconded by Supervisor Muench, all voted in favor.

Chair Falkowski addressed the corrections confinement report and financial reports and summaries pursuant to the July 9th report.

Monthly reports were sent previously to all members. There were no questions regarding the reports.

Chair Falkowski opens the floor to public comment. No comments. Comments closed.

Presentation and Question and Answer with State Rep. Paul Tittl and Rep. Shae Sortwell.

Tittl is Assembly District 25 Representative and chairman of the mental health committee and Substance Abuse Prevention. He is also part of numerous committees including Corrections, Campaigns and Elections.

Sortwell is Assembly District 2 Representative and serves on the Committee on Criminal Justice and Vice chair of Public Safety and Committee on Government Operations, Accountability and Transparency and Chair of Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform.

Enquiries to the legislators were pertinent to the committee's departments of oversight and the fiscal impact of proposed or existing legislature.

Chair Falkowski noted that the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant and the Strategic Prevention Framework had ended, and the Manitowoc County Substance Use Prevention Coalition will be affected. Rep Tittl asks to send him more information for his staff to investigate.

Topic of DOC jail inspections were discussed, and Chair Falkowski opined it should be relative to the construction codes in place when the facility was built. Imposing today's normative standards on an older facility creates a significant burden on local governments, forcing them to chase ever-changing requirements. Inspections should focus on mitigating imminent harm, not be leveraged as a means to nudge toward the construction of entirely new correctional facilities.

Manitowoc County has consistently accommodated reasonable changes to standards; however, such accommodations have practical limits. Once those limits are reached, counties can be forced into costly capital projects solely to meet state-imposed normative standards.

Chair Falkowski asked about issues with how to deal with open records requests that are not specifically for the Clerk of Courts office, or open records requests that do not exist. Rep. Tittl will provide the Clerk of Courts with additional information on handling open records requests.

Rep. Sortwell discussed approval of 2 new ADA's in the District Attorney's office as well as overcrowding in current prisons along with the outline of modifications and closings including the upcoming closure of GBCI.

Rep. Sortwell also discussed recent bills that have been signed, including increased penalties for battery or threats of battery to jurors and their families. Sortwell also discussed the necessity of regulation of synthetic THC as it relates to the sale to minors, as well as disclosure of what is actually being ingested with synthetics. There is currently no statutory authority regulating this.

Rep Sortwell expanded his thoughts about legalization of Marijuana and the difficulties structuring the correct legislation and current leadership obstacles. Supervisor Jadowsk shared his experience and observations while residing in Colorado and the undesired outcomes.

We thanked the legislators for their time and willingness to continue this type of briefing to our committee. This is now included at a minimum, an annual outreach for pertinent discussion about the impact state legislation has on local government departments of the committee of oversight.

Next meeting will be September 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. District Attorney Jacalyn Labre is scheduled to present.

Motion to Adjourn by Supervisor Jadowski and seconded by Supervisor Grambow.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela A.P. Linderud
Clerk of Court
For the Committee Chairman James Falkowski