



# Public Safety and Court Services Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Tuesday, August 13, 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 10:31 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 the meeting in person.  
Michael Pearson attended via Zoom.

Also present: Dean Freil and Tom Kitson (Board Members), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Kevin Lalley (EMA Director), Staci Stewart (Director of Probation and Court Services), Clay Whalen (Sheriff), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

### III. Public Attendees

No members of the public were in attendance.

### IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (July 9, 2024)

Minutes from the July 9, 2024, Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

### V. Animal Control

Teri Zinke was not able to attend the meeting, and no report was submitted.

### VI. Circuit Clerk

Amy Johnson was not able to attend the meeting, and no report was submitted.

### 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

#### A. *Monthly Report*

Kevin Lalley submitted a detailed report from the EMA Office. Kevin reported that his office is currently focused on planning for Depot Days in Amboy. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the August County Board agenda packet.

### IX. Probation

Staci Stewart reported the following information from the Probation Office:

- Last month Staci reported that an employee that had worked in her office for 25 years would be leaving on July 31st. Another employee in the office stepped up and filled that vacant position. To get back to full staff, Staci hired Scott Brinkmeier, a gentleman that had formerly worked as a bailiff for Lee County at the

New Courts Building. Scott will be covering Drug Court and Veteran's Treatment Court.

- Last month the office recorded the highest number of pre-trial cases since the program started eight years ago.

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 August County Board agenda packet. Clay also reported that Chief Bailiff, Ed Stewart would be retiring at the end of the week. Pat Bodmer, currently a Sergeant with the Lee County Sheriff's Office will be stepping up to fill the Chief Bailiff's position. He has been working with Ed for the last couple weeks to get acclimated to the job. Clay also reported that Sam Ramirez will be recognized during the August 22<sup>nd</sup> County Board meeting for his 25 years of part-time employment with the Sheriff's Office.

XI. State's Attorney

Charley Boonstra also reported an increase in the caseloads and arrests due to the Pre-Trial Fairness Act that were discussed during the reports given from Probation and the Sheriff's Office.

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

- Total collections received for the month of July - \$5,985.45
- Total collected so far in 2024 - \$32,671.63
- Total collected since the beginning of the process - \$305,810.

XII. Report of Abandoned/Nuisance Property Focus Group

Jeremy Englund reported that the Abandoned/Nuisance Property Focus Group meeting that was scheduled for August 6, 2024, was cancelled due to budget hearings. Progress is still being made on multiple commercial and residential properties.

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 10:43 a.m. **Moved** by Keane Hudson. **Second** by Angie Shippert. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next Public Safety and Court Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for  
10:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 19, 2024

Respectfully submitted by:  
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

# Lee County Emergency Management Agency

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## Lee County EMA Activity Report for July 2024

The traffic control support trailer was enhanced by adding a steel tube frame to the front to haul additional type II barricades. A design was developed, materials purchased at a cost of \$103.84 and fabricated by a local certified welder at no cost. The trailer is quickly deployable to any type of event requiring traffic control.

Lee County EMA assisted the City of Dixon with operations during the Dixon Petunia Festival on July 3, 4, 5, 6, and July 7. Light towers, camera system and the Critical Incident Command Trailer were utilized in support of law enforcement. The festival was successful, without major incident. During recovery of the EMA light tower, due to weathered and old tires, a tire failed. Both tires were replaced on the light tower at a cost of \$231.54.

Background checks were completed on recent applications to the Lee County Volunteer Corps (LCVC) Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) team. Twenty-five new members were accepted. The LCVC GSAR Team conducted its monthly training at Lowell Park on Wednesday July 10. During the training, the Lee County EMA UAS was requested for a subject who ran from Law Enforcement. The drone was flown, the subject was located, and location monitored and shared with Lee County Sheriff's deputies. The subject was taken into custody.

The EOC was opened for four days to a Level 2 to monitor the severe weather predicted by the National Weather Service Chicago Office. A line of thunderstorms moved across northern Illinois during the night of Sunday, July 14 and Monday July 15 producing swaths of wind damage, several embedded tornadoes, and torrential rainfall leading to flash flooding in areas. The level of the Rock River was monitored, and river forecasts were sent to those critical partners who would be affected by flooding and the forecast was posted on the EMA Facebook for public awareness. Daily SitReps were forwarded to primary agencies.

The National Weather Service recorded over thirty-five tornados in northern Illinois, a new record for the two days. A Local weather station in eastern Ogle County recorded winds of 101 MPH. Lee County was spared severe damage. Reports of damage within the County amounted to trees and wires down. No structural damage was reported. Winds in Lee County did not exceed 45 MPH. Approximately 600 ComEd customers were without power. Some power outages lasted for 4 and 5 days.

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# Lee County Emergency Management Agency

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Lee County EMA was requested in the early hours of July 16<sup>th</sup> to assist in the evacuation and relocation of residents of the Polo Rehab Center due to a lightning strike and subsequent smoke in the building. Nineteen residents were evacuated and moved to Polo High School without issue. An After-Action meeting was held, and the staff of the facility were pleased with the help provided by assisting agencies. Assisting in events such as this provides valuable experience for similar events if they occur in Lee County.

The EMA Drone was requested for a lost 4-year-old on the outskirts of Dixon. Before arrival, the subject was located outside on a day with temperatures in the 90s and high humidity.

The EM office received a question on what residents should do if they live in a mobile home park during severe weather. Information was provided and subsequently posted on the Lee County Facebook page.

It was discussed with the Facilities Director and Chief of Court Security on the disposition of EM items stored in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor expansion space. Items will be inventoried, logged, disposed of, or stored in an agreed location. Files from previous grants and other documents that are required to be retained were moved from a room where the Treasurer Office has items stored on the second floor into a small closet in the basement.

A switch failed in the UTV. The replacement was ordered on-line and replaced without using a vendor/mechanic.

The Director attended the Regional IEMA meeting in Kewanee. An exercise was developed for later this year in preparation for task book certification as required by FEMA.

The Lee County EM Office in combination with the Lee County GIS Office is working on an app powered by ERSI Survey 1-2-3 to assist in reporting of damage due to severe weather. The program will have a Windshield Survey for first responders to report during, and immediately after severe weather. A Self-Reporting damage assessment survey will be linked to the Lee County Sheriff's Office App and Lee County EMA Facebook Page for citizens to self-report. Both initial surveys will assist in determining if a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) is needed. The PDA data is required to submit a Disaster Declaration Request. The PDA requires staff to go door to door and interview home and business owners on the type and severity of damage to their property including insurance coverage. The data is compiled in a format required by the State, substantiating Lee County meets the uninsured level of damage to apply for aid.

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A letter to State and Federal Elected Officials representing Lee County was sent encouraging them to restore FEMA funds to at least FY23 levels. Not only is the budget being cut at the Federal level, but Illinois plans to change the formula on how the Federal Funds are allocated to locals (County EM). These actions will have a direct impact on Lee County.

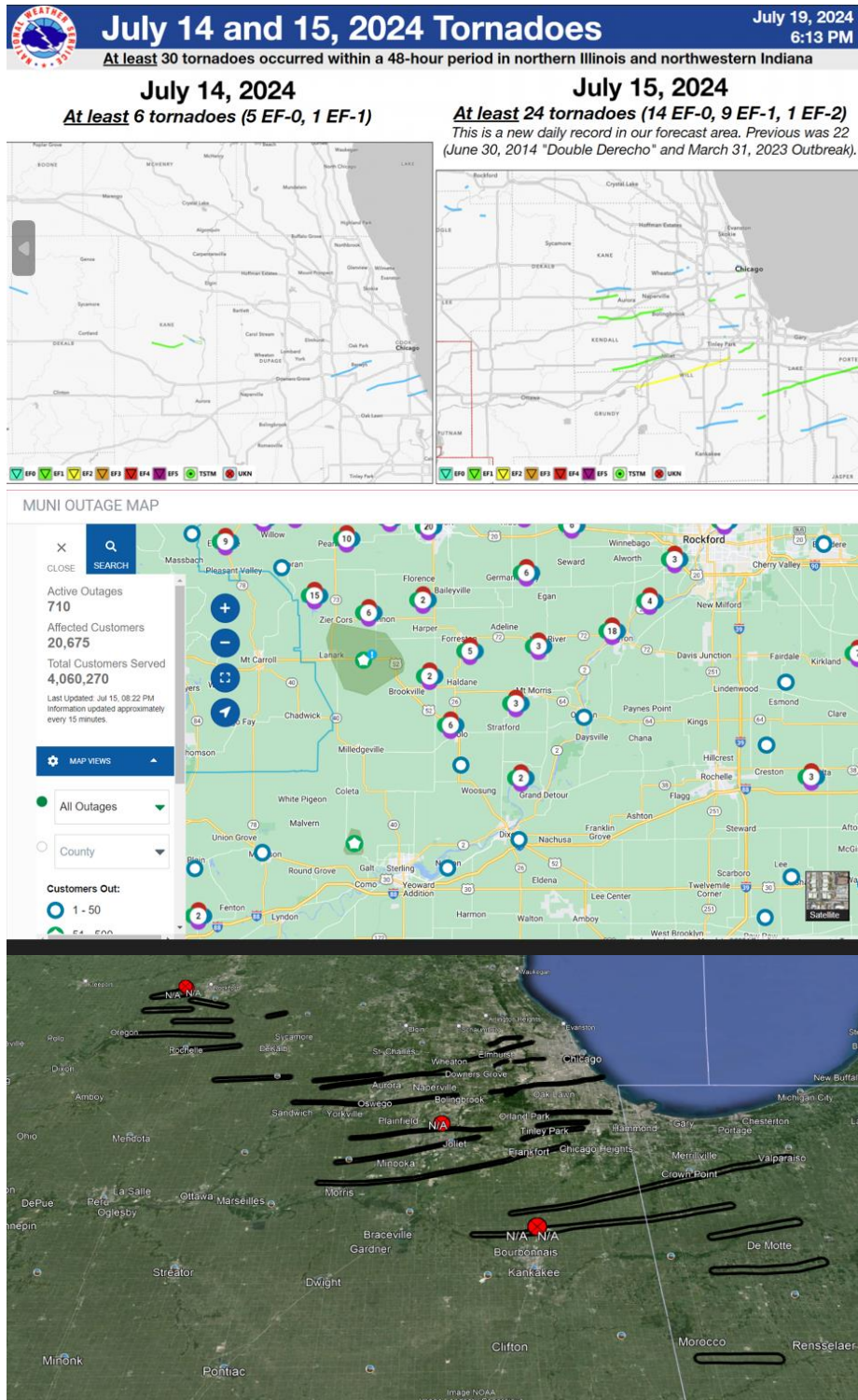
Attached are screenshots of the severe weather and impacts on Lee County and surrounding areas.

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**Lee County Sheriff's Office**

**Public Safety and Court Services Committee**

**August 13, 2024**

In the month of July, the Lee County Sheriff's Office logged 877 calls for service.

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

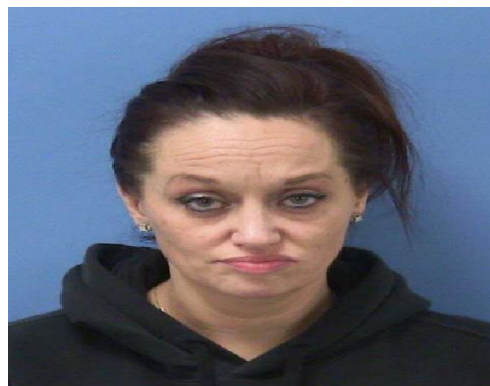
On June 30<sup>th</sup>, a month-long methamphetamine trafficking investigation culminated in the arrest of James L. Ballard, age 46, and Lisa R. Johnson, age 42, of 320 Canal Street in Woodland Shores Subdivision. During the investigation, controlled purchases of methamphetamine were made at the residence which subsequently led to the execution of a search warrant. The search of the residence revealed approximately 185 grams (6.5 ounces) of methamphetamine.

James Ballard and Lisa Johnson were both charged with the following offenses:

- Possession of Methamphetamine (100 - 400 grams) w/ Intent to Deliver (Class X Felony)
- Delivery of Methamphetamine (15 - 100 grams) – (Class X Felony)
- Delivery of Methamphetamine (5 - 15 grams) – (Class 1 Felony)
- Possession of Methamphetamine (15 - 100 grams) – (Class 1 Felony)



James L. Ballard



Lisa R. Johnson

**CORRECTIONS/WARRANTS**

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Both James Ballard and Lisa Johnson were detained on the charges in Lee County Case Numbers of 24CF165 and 24CF166, respectively.

The Dixon Petunia Festival took place from July 3<sup>rd</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>. The Lee County Sheriff's Office assisted with patrolling the venues over the event and provided foot patrol during the evening of July 7<sup>th</sup> for the fireworks.

On Wednesday evening, July 10<sup>th</sup>, Lee County Deputies were dispatched to the area of US Route 30 and Walton Road in rural Dixon, for a Burglary in progress. Two individuals wearing masks were observed running from a residence and into a black GMC Sierra pickup. The vehicle then left the residence and was seen traveling north towards the City of Dixon. A witness observed a passenger exit the vehicle just south of Dixon on Pump Factory Road. Dixon Police Officers were in the area and located the black GMC Sierra. A traffic stop was conducted near Rock Island Road and Atkinson Road, and the driver, identified as Michael E. Miller, was detained. A short time later, Lee County Deputies located an individual walking west on Interstate 88 just outside of Dixon that matched the description of the passenger. As a result of the investigation, deputies arrested the two individuals on the following charges:

Michael E. Miller, 42-years of age, from Monmouth, Illinois was charged with:

- Residential Burglary (Class 1 Felony)
- Theft (Class 3 Felony)
- Driving While License Suspended (Class A Misdemeanor)
- Criminal Trespass to Real Property (Class B Misdemeanor)
- Operating a Motor Vehicle with Registration Suspended (Business Offense)

Michael E. Miller is currently on felony probation from Whiteside County. He was charged on January 10, 2024, with the offenses of Burglary (Class 2 Felony) and Retail Theft Greater than \$300 (Class 3 Felony) in Whiteside County Case Number 24CF31. On June 12, 2024, Miller pleaded guilty to felony Retail Theft and was placed on 24 months of probation.

Julian J. Belmonte, 30-years of age, from Monmouth, Illinois was charged with:

- Residential Burglary (Class 1 Felony)

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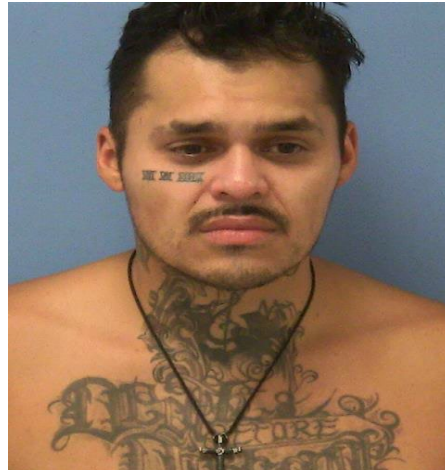
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- Theft (Class 3 Felony)
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (Class A Misdemeanor)
- Criminal Trespass to Real Property (Class B Misdemeanor)

Julian J. Belmonte is currently on pretrial release conditions out of Warren County on charges of Child Pornography (Class 3 Felony). The charges were filed on February 16, 2024, in Warren County Case Number 24CF23. Additionally, Belmonte has pending charges of Retail Theft (Class A Misdemeanor) that were filed on February 15, 2024, in Whiteside County Case Number 24CM44.



Michael E. Miller



Julian J. Belmonte

In accordance with provisions of Illinois SAFE-T Act, Michael Miller and Julian Belmonte were again released the following day on July 11<sup>th</sup> with pretrial conditions in Lee County Case Numbers of 24CF181 and 24CF182, respectively.

Michael Miller and Julian Belmonte both failed to appear at their court date on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Arrest warrants were issued for them, and Michael Miller was apprehended by the Sterling Police Department on July 29<sup>th</sup>. There is still an active arrest warrant for Julian Belmonte.

On July 14<sup>th</sup> the "No Wake" ordinance was put into effect due to the amount of rain received the previous evening in northern Illinois. The Lee County Sheriff's Office was in contact with the Ogle County Sheriff's Office and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office to coordinate its institution in their respective counties. The ordinance can be put into effect when flooding or other adverse weather

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conditions on the Rock River necessitate it for safety purposes. The ordinance states, "No person shall operate a motorboat at a speed exceeding five (5) miles per hour while traveling in a 'no wake' area." On July 24<sup>th</sup>, the "No Wake" was lifted due to the receding river level.

The Lee County 4-H Fair took place from July 25<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>. Deputies periodically monitored the event and conducted traffic control during the peak volume times.

**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 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. On a positive note, the injured deputy from last month's report has been released back to full and unrestricted duty.

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