

**Minutes of the August 20, 2026 Meeting of the
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



Voting Committee Members Present (X)	Roll Call	District	Wards
☒ Steve Kariainen	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5	
☒ Kay Wilson	02	T Lenroot W-2, T Round Lake W-1	
☒ Steve Longtine	03	T Hayward W-1 & 2	
☒ Stacey Hessel	04	T Hayward W-3 & 4	
☒ Randy Neumann	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6	
☒ Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2	
☒ Jim Miller	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4	
☒ Marshal Savitski- Virtual	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2	
☒ Jim Evans	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4	
☒ Chuck Van Etten	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1	
☒ Jeff Hoehne	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay	
☒ John Righeimer	12	T Spider Lake, T Round Lake W-2, T Winter W-1	
☒ Ron Kinsley	13	T Hunter, T Radisson W-1, T-Ojibwa W-1, V Radisson	
☒ Ron Buckholtz	14	T Radisson W-2, T Ojibwa W-2, T Weirgor, V Exeland, T Meadowbrook	
☐ John Minto- Absent	15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter	

Also present: Doug Mrotek, Mike Markgren, John Pinnow, Jay Kozlowski, Bryan Deyo, Atty. Roeker

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance—Chairman Kinsley called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Roll call was taken; quorum was met. Presentation of Colors was made by Civil Air Patrol.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met.

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments – Ginny Chabek, Hazel Jonjak, Dennis Erickson, Jim Sosniak, Danielle Dale, Randy Eytheson, Heather Vabilitis, Linda Zillmer, Letter from Martin Hanson

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: July 16, 2026

Motion to approve by: Mr. Evans

Second by: Mr. Helwig

Motion carried without negative vote.

Review District 15 Supervisor Position—

Chairman Kinsley stated that the District 15 Supervisor Minto came to the first meeting and one committee meeting and stopped attending. Atty. Roeker advised the board that there is a statutory process for removal and recommended sending a letter and getting a resignation in writing.

Mr. Miller made a motion to have the sheriff serve a letter, second Mr. Evans. Ms. Hessel stated it was a discussion-only item on the agenda. Mr. Miller withdrew his motion.

Mr. Van Etten reported on the Public Works Committee meeting and stated that the Hwy 27 construction project is the state, not the county.

Public Safety Committee —

Mr. Buckholtz reviewed the Clerk of Courts, Sheriff's Department, Jail, Emergency Management, Dispatch, Child Support, Code Enforcement and Emergency Services and Tower reports for the board.

Land, Water and Forest Resources Committee— Mr. Kariainen reviewed the Register of Deeds, Land Records, Surveyor, Forestry, Zoning Conservation and Trails reports.

Finance Report -

Mr. Righeimer provided an update on county finances and department budgets.

HHS Report—Ms. Wilson gave the August HHS Board report.

Resolution 2026-____Mental Health Funding was approved on a motion by: Mr. Miller Second by: Ms. Hessel
Motion carried without negative vote.

Resolution 2026-____Public Health Funding was approved on a motion by: Mr. Helwig Second by: Ms. Wilson
Motion carried without negative vote.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee—

Mr. Righeimer gave the August Economic Development and UW Extension Committee report.

Administration Report—

Mr. Kinsley reported that the Administration Committee met and talked about how to handle District 15, appointed the Medical Examiner and discussed public comment. The committee heard reports from the County Clerk, Veterans, IT, and HR departments. The HR department will look for new County Administrator candidates from within Wisconsin and Minnesota and the Admin Committee will conduct the interviews.

County Administrator's Report—

Mr. Markgren shared that Mr. Priester submitted the Opportunity Zone application, the 2027 Budget is coming together, Net New Construction and valuation is high, five departments have moved within the courthouse and Oasis buildings, and the radio tower project is progressing.

CJCC— Justice Point is yielding good results, the RCORPS grant has been submitted and the county received confirmation of receiving approval for the TAD Grant pre-application.

Board Appointed Committee Updates— Mr. Kariainen reported that the CEP 2027 budget is finalized and ICAA is meeting in Sawyer County Monday 8/24 in the Board Room. Ms. Hessel reported that the NWRPC meeting will be in Park Falls next week with a tour of the St. Croix Rod Company.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings- Mr. Kinsley said the County Fair was well attended.

Future Agenda Items- Ben Poppe, 2027 Budget, Public Comment Rules, Rule 10 Board Policy

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2026 **Time:** 5:00 pm **Location:** Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk