

Minutes of the March 17th meeting of the Sawyer County
Board of Supervisors
Large Courtroom; Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual



Voting Committee Members

Present (X)	District	Wards
☒ Dale Schleeter	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5
☒ Jesse Boettcher - Virtual	02	T Lenroot W-2, T Round Lake W-1
☒ Tweed Shuman	03	T Hayward W-1 & 2
☒ Stacey Hessel	04	T Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Jason Weaver - Virtual	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
☒ Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
☒ Thomas W. Duffy	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Bruce Paulsen	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
☒ Brian Bisonette-Virtual	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
☒ Chuck Van Etten	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
☒ Dale Olson	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Hayward W-8, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
☒ Dawn Petit-Virtual	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
☒ Ed Peters	15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance– Chair Tweed Shuman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll call was taken; quorum was met.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met.

Public Comments – Steve Beining

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Duffy; second by Ms. Hessel to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2022, County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee Chair Report – Chair Buckholtz advised that public hearings will be held tomorrow regarding the new RV park request.

Public Safety Report – Chair Buckholtz reported that Judge Yackel provided an update of the busy court schedule. Chief Sajdera requested a moment of silence for previous Sheriff, Jim Meier, who passed away. Chair Shuman requested a moment of silence, as well. Judge Yackel provided an update on the scheduling difficulties for the courtroom that also puts a burden on the public in performing their court requests.

Public Works Committee Chair Report – Chair Kinsley reported that the Veterans Center is moving into the Oasis Building. Mr. Leslie reviewed the purpose of the Airport Master Plan which outlines the State's method of helping the County plan for the future. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Helwig. Motion carried without negative vote.

Xcel Energy Overhead Distribution Easement – Xcel has to perform work before we can continue courtroom construction. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the Resolution; second by Mr. Buckholtz. Motion carried without negative vote.

Courthouse Construction Update – Mr. Keefe provided the background of the bid timeline. Andrew Daniels of Miron Construction was present to answer questions.

Land, Water and Forest Resources – Chair Paulsen presented a Resolution for Annual Trail Aids renewal– A motion was made by Mr. Duffy to approve the resolution; second by Mr. Buckholtz. Motion carried without negative vote.

Carbon Credit Updates – Mr. Paulsen reported that we have the ability to sell carbon credits to collect about \$1M per year if we sell credits; funds coming in later part of 2023 or early 2024. Mr. Greg Pederson advised that we have attorneys that will review the process; our numbers look encouraging; this project would not impact our harvesting process. There are no restrictions on the use of the income. No action taken tonight.

Health and Human Services – Chair Schleeter advised that the latest COVID report was positive. Ms. Lyons has requested an increase in water testing fees due to increased costs to the County. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the fees and Resolution as presented; second by Mr. Olson. Motion carried 14-1; nay vote by Mr. Boettcher. The Senior Resource Center needs a new bus due to rising repair costs. A resolution written by Mr. Van Etten, and supported by Supervisors Olson and Helwig; A roll call vote was taken to discuss this request and passed 15 – 0, “aye” votes from Schleeter, Boettcher, Shuman, Hessel, Weaver, Helwig, Duffy, Paulsen, Bisonette, Van Etten, Olson, Petit, Kinsley, Buckholtz, and Peters. Ms. Joey Olson reviewed the need for the board. Karen from Namekagon Transit reported that she has found a bus for purchase and shared the vehicle information with Board members. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the Resolution; second by Ms. Hessel; motion passed 14-1; Duffy being “nay” vote.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee – Chair Duffy reported that our local sport shows remain popular, the Birkie had over 13,500 skiers, and a Hayward High School student has raised over \$20,000 for Historical Society.

Administration Committee – Chair Shuman provided an overview of the Administration meeting. Mr. Keefe presented the Resolution Establishing Salaries of and Providing Health Insurance Information Regarding the Clerk of Courts and Sheriff. A motion was made by Mr. Duffy; second by Kinsley to approve the Resolution. Motion carried without negative vote. Mr. Van Etten abstained from the vote. Mr. Keefe presented a Resolution Authorizing Coroner Compensation for the next term. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Shuman reported that an ad hoc committee for the purpose of identifying priorities for the use of the remaining ARPA funds has been requested. Mr. Shuman has chosen five board members for this appointment. A motion was made by Mr. Schleeter; second by Mr. Paulsen to approve the appointment of these individuals to the ad hoc committee. A roll call vote was taken and failed 6 – 9. “Aye” votes from Boettcher, Shuman, Hessel, Duffy, Paulsen and Peters. “Nay” votes from Schleeter, Weaver, Helwig, Bisonette, Van Etten, Olson, Petit, Kinsley and Buckholtz.

Mr. Kinsley reported that the ad hoc recruitment committee has found a successful candidate. Mr. Bretl, of PAA described the process the committee went through, reviewed the successful candidate’s qualifications, and explained the contract that has been offered. The recommendation of the ad hoc committee and with full support of the staff was to offer the contract to Mr. Andy Albarado who is currently the Rusk County Coordinator. Mr. Kinsley made a motion; second by Mr. Schleeter to accept the contract and offer employment to Mr. Andy Albarado. Motion carried without negative vote.

Administrator's Report - Mr. Keefe presented the County Administrator's Report – The Opioid Settlement is moving forward, the Brown County Sales Tax case was finalized and sided with Brown County. Municode should be finalized for the April board meeting.

Mr. Andy Albarado introduced himself via ZOOM.

Finance Committee Chair Report –Mr. Nate Dunston advised that the annual rate review was performed for ambulance fee collections and the County asked LifeQuest to recommend fees. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Van Etten to approve the Resolution to Authorize a Rate Increase as suggested by the rate survey. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Keefe introduced Brian Della of PMA Securities who has been working with the County to develop the five-year financial plan and who has helped us through the bonding phase of the courthouse construction. Mr. Della reported that the County had a good bond sale; Piper Sandler & Co. being the winning bidder. Mr. Shuman left the room at 8:01 pm and returned at 8:03. Sawyer County is in the Aa3 rating which is very attractive to investors.

A motion was made by Mr. Paulsen; second by Mr. Schleeter to approve the Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$8,000,000 General Obligation Building Bonds, Series 2022. A roll call vote was taken and passed 15-0, with "aye" votes from Schleeter, Boettcher, Shuman, Hessel, Weaver, Helwig, Duffy, Paulsen, Bisonette, Van Etten, Olson, Petit, Kinsley, Buckholtz, and Peters. Mr. Shuman asked Clerk Fitch to read the requirement to call a special board meeting according to Board Plans & Policies, Rule 2(4). Supervisors were asked to submit in writing a request to hold a special meeting to review final construction bids at a meeting to be held March 31st.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings, Other Matters for Discussion --

Meeting Date/Time – The next regular meeting of the County Board of Supervisors will be Tuesday, April 19th at 6:30 pm in the Large Courtroom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

County Board Member Roll Call

Date of County Board Meeting : 3/18/2022

Agenda Item : Vote to discuss the resolution presented to approve the Senior Resource Center bus purchase using ARPA funds.

Motion by: _____
Second by: _____

District	Name	Present	Yes	No	Abstain
1	Dale Schleeter		x		
2	Jesse Boettcher		x		
3	Tweed Shuman		x		
4	Stacey Hessel		x		
5	Jason Weaver		x		
6	Marc D. Helwig		x		
7	Thomas W. Duffy		x		
8	Bruce Paulsen		x		
9	Brian Bisonette		x		
10	Chuck Van Etten		x		
11	Dale Olson		x		
12	Dawn Petit		x		
13	Ron Kinsley		x		
14	Ron Buckholtz		x		
15	Ed Peters		x		
Total			15	0	

Carried ☐ Carried 15-0
Defeated ☐
Amended ☐

Voice Vote ☐
Roll Call ☐

County Board Member Roll Call

Date of County Board Meeting : 3/18/2022

Agenda Item : Motion to create an ad hoc committee for the purpose of creating an ad hoc meeting to set priorities for the use of ARPA fund requests.

Motion by: Schleeter
Second by: Paulsen

District	Name	Present	Yes	No	Abstain
1	Dale Schleeter			x	
2	Jesse Boettcher		x		
3	Tweed Shuman		x		
4	Stacey Hessel		x		
5	Jason Weaver			x	
6	Marc D. Helwig			x	
7	Thomas W. Duffy		x		
8	Bruce Paulsen		x		
9	Brian Bisonette			x	
10	Chuck Van Etten			x	
11	Dale Olson			x	
12	Dawn Petit			x	
13	Ron Kinsley			x	
14	Ron Buckholtz			x	
15	Ed Peters		x		
Total			6	9	

Carried ☐
Defeated ☒ Defeated 6-9
Amended ☐

Voice Vote ☐
Roll Call ☐

County Board Member Roll Call

Date of County Board Meeting : 3/18/2022

Agenda Item : Motion to approve the Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$8M General Obligation Building Bonds, Series 2022.

Motion by: Schleeter
Second by: Paulsen

District	Name	Present	Yes	No	Abstain
1	Dale Schleeter		x		
2	Jesse Boettcher		x		
3	Tweed Shuman		x		
4	Stacey Hessel		x		
5	Jason Weaver		x		
6	Marc D. Helwig		x		
7	Thomas W. Duffy		x		
8	Bruce Paulsen		x		
9	Brian Bisonette		x		
10	Chuck Van Etten		x		
11	Dale Olson		x		
12	Dawn Petit		x		
13	Ron Kinsley		x		
14	Ron Buckholtz		x		
15	Ed Peters		x		
Total			15	0	

Carried ☐ Carried 15-0
Defeated ☐
Amended ☐

Voice Vote ☐
Roll Call ☐

