

**Minutes of the October 20th 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	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
☒ Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
☒ Thomas W. Duffy	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Marshal Savitski	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
☒ Brian Bisonette	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
☒ Michael Maestri - virtual	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
☒ Chris Rusk	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Hayward W-8, 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
☒ 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.

2023 Budget Presentation and Discussion – Written reports were provided. Mr. Markgren reviewed the highlights of the presentation. Bond Council is advising to not issue CIP debt in December, but to roll it into the second Courthouse Bond issue. A 2022/2023 comparison of key areas was shared. The budget is recommending approval of two of the four requested Sheriff Department positions. Much of the broadband ARPA funding is not yet disbursed; expected to expense in 2023. The total 2023 expected levy is \$14,000,698. The total administrative fund balance draw amount is \$1,688,359. Debt issuance will be in March 2023. The estimated 2023 Tax rate is \$3.09/\$1000. Mr. Albarado shared the 2023 fee schedule which includes all department recommendations. He shared the 2023 employee count reflecting a net change from 202.9 to 203.3 FTE. He advised that the Sheriff Department wage negotiations have not begun.

Public Hearing on 2023 Budget – A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Mr. Buckholtz to enter 2023 Budget Public Hearing. Motion carried without negative vote.

Heather Walley, Ann Larson, Cheryl Treland, Matt Ostrander, Joey Johnson, Karen Duffy, Karen Melasecca, Donna Knuckey, Linda Zillmer, Joan Jacobowski, Shirley Armstrong, Jenny Weregglund, Hazel Jonjak, David Gold, Molly Lank-Jones, and Howard Gold,

A motion was made at 7:10 by Mr. Buckholtz to close the 2023 Budget Public Hearing; second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried without negative vote.

2023 Budget Discussion – Mr. Markgren responded to the questions that were brought up during public comment. Any changes to this administrator's budget must now be approved through amendments before it comes back to the November meeting.

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Duffy; second by Mr. Rusk to approve the minutes of the September 15th County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

Appointments – Mr. Albarado reviewed the suggested appointments. A motion was made to approve the appointment of Andy Albarado to the NWREDF Board by Mr. Kinsley; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

A motion was made Mr. Rusk; second by Mr. Schleeter to approve the reappointment of Shirley Armstrong and Marv Mullet to the Ethics Committee. Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz reported we continue to see above-average zoning requests. Two rezone requests were reviewed by Mr. Kozlowski. Documentation was provided. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Ms. Hessel to approve the Resolution for Case #22-011 for Futurewood Corp. Motion carried without negative vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the request for the Resolution for Case #22-013 for Daniel Dean and Julie Ostrander. Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Safety Report – Mr. Buckholtz advised that the Sheriff's Department is still in need of staff and there has been an increase in calls. Highlights of remaining committee reports were shared.

Mr. Albarado presented a jail staffing and compensation Resolution for consideration. The proposal addresses the shortage in staff by providing a \$60 shift premium and proposes that the increase in the starting wage begins now instead of waiting until the first of the year. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the Resolution; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion passed without negative vote.

Public Works Committee Chair Report – Public Works – Mr. Kinsley reported that the Highway Department continues to work on the ATV/UTV ordinance. The Northwest Passage renewal was approved for another year. He reviewed the highlights of the committee reports.

Land, Water and Forest Resources – Mr. Boettcher reported that three pockets have been treated for oak wilt, the Brunet Dam project is on schedule but there is significantly more damage than originally anticipated. We continue with carbon credit negotiations.

Consider Forest Land Purchase Proposal for Richard and Denise Cooper – Written documentation was provided. Mr. Peterson presented the proposal to purchase two parcels owned by the Coopers. This 80-acre parcel is located close to Hatchery Creek Park surrounded by County land. The asking price is \$3,750/acre. The Resolution proposes that we apply for a State Trust Fund Loan to fund the purchase. We will apply for a Stewardship loan which could potentially pay for up to 50% of the purchase. A motion was made by Mr. Duffy; second by Ms. Hessel to approve the purchase and Resolution. Motion carried without negative vote.

Health & Human Services – Mr. Schleeter shared the highlights of the committee meeting and presented the Resolution for the 2022 85.21 grant. It is an annual request. A motion was made by Mr. Rusk; second by Mr. Boettcher to approve the Resolution authorizing the grant application. Motion carried without negative vote. He advised that the Senior Resource Center is seeing increased numbers in meal requests and costs in providing the meals.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee – Mr. Righeimer shared the highlights of the committee reports and advised that a Real Colors workshop is being offered by UW Extension to County employees. The Main Street Bounce Back \$10,000 grant program is still available to businesses. ATV trail traffic is constant and additional trail counters have been purchased by the Alliance.

Finance – Mr. Kinsley reviewed committee highlights, topics came before tonight's County Board meeting.

Administration – 2022 Advisory Referendum Prohibiting Outside Funding Sources for Elections – Mr. Albarado advised that amendments have been made to the Resolution which was approved at committee level. A motion was made by Mr. Righeimer; second by Ms. Hessel to approve this Resolution. Motion carried without negative vote.

County Administrator's Report – Mr. Albarado reported that the courthouse construction project is slightly behind schedule. The parking lot will not be available before winter. There are no major budget surprises; the contingency fund is still within budget. We received the 2nd installment of opioid funds today; CJCC is working on recommendations in conjunction with Public Health to determine future use of the funds. We are still in negotiations for the Carbon Credit project.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings –

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the County Board of Supervisors will be Tuesday, November 15, at 6:30 pm in the Large Courtroom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk