

**Minutes of the December 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	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	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
☒ Chris Rusk virtual	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 - virtual	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 –

Sheriff Department Recognition – Sheriff Mrotek and Chief Sajdera presented lifesaving awards Carley Donahue (not present), Deputies Logan, Price and Halbur and Jail Sgt. Spurlock. Also recognized were Chief Sajdera and Deputy Woller for outstanding coverage during times of transition.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Ms. Hessel to approve the minutes of the November 15th County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

Winter Storm Emergency Update -- Ms. Lyons and Sheriff Mrotek made an update on the recent storm outages and timeline. It was difficult to get a power outage assessment through the power companies. She reviewed the relocations of some residents and housing shelters, specifically residents with O2. They are now beginning next steps which includes bringing radios in to communicate better with power companies, identifying which private lanes are not now plowed, and preparing cots in case another usage is needed. They continue to target power outages where residents are occupying before moving to vacant homes/cabins. DNR wardens and deputies have been doing door-to-door checks.

Disaster Declaration Resolution -- Mr. Albarado presented the Disaster Declaration to assist in recovering cleanup costs and advise the State of Wisconsin of our emergency conditions. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to approve this resolution. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Rusk, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. No vote registered for Schleeter.

Zoning Committee Chair Report – Mr. Boettcher reported on the highlights of the zoning committee mentioning that members voted in favor of keeping the zoning ordinances as an appendix in Municode.

Public Safety Report – Mr. Buckholtz reviewed the highlights of the Public Safety meeting which included receiving an update on determining who qualifies for electronic monitoring. Mr. Albarado presented the appointment of John Froemel to the position of Ambulance Director/Medical Examiner. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Savitski to approve this appointment. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. Mr. Rusk had lost connection and did not vote.

Mr. Albarado presented the Tribal Law Enforcement Grant Resolution for \$38,000 to establish a Tribal Animal Control program. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Weaver to approve this resolution. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. Mr. Rusk had lost connection and did not vote.

Public Works Committee Chair Report – Public Works updates were provided by Mr. Albarado. The ATV/UTV ordinance remains under work. Mr. Gedart was recognized for many years of service as he is retiring. The courthouse construction remains on target and turnover of the building should be March 10th.

Land, Water and Forest Resources – Mr. Boettcher advised that discussion with towns and LCO is still in process for the ATV/UTV ordinance. Timber sales are on track.

Health and Human Services – Mr. Boettcher reported that CPS worker staff members are down 40%; covid numbers remain low while other illnesses are on the rise. Testing of ground water is underway in Town of Round Lake.

Finance Committee Chair Report – Mr. Albarado presented the reasoning for developing county signatory authority in that a policy relating to the review and approval of contracts identifies who can obligate the County and is a process that auditors have requested. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve this resolution. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. Mr. Rusk did not cast a vote.

Mr. Albarado presented a Resolution Establishing a County Investment Policy that was reviewed at the Finance Committee. An amendment to the original policy designates the Finance Committee as the official members of those approved to oversee the County investments. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve the amendment. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. No vote was cast by Mr. Rusk. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve the Resolution Establishing a County Investment Policy. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. No vote cast by Mr. Rusk.

Mr. Albarado presented a Resolution Establishing 2023 Employee Wages and Personnel identifying a 2% increase to all non-represented employees effective the first full payroll of 2023, and an additional 1% adjusting effective the first full payroll after July 1, 2023. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve this resolution. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. No vote was cast by Mr. Rusk.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee – Mr. Righeimer reviewed highlights of the committee meeting; the Bounceback program is about to end and Sawyer County received many local \$10,000 grants. A placemaking event

was held at LCO and the SC/LCO Development Corp welcomed Andy Albarado as a new board member at large. Trails are now transitioning to snowmobiling.

Municode – Mr. Albarado advised that the most current version of Municode in the packet is for documents recorded through December 16, 2021. Additional ordinances approved since that date have been submitted for recording and new ordinances will be submitted as they are approved. Zoning ordinances will remain in the appendix at this time. This is a living document that will constantly change. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to approve this ordinance. Voice vote was taken and passed 10-0. No vote was cast by Mr. Rusk.

County Administrator's Report – Mr. Albarado advised that administration will be reviewing all employee benefits and union negotiations have begun. The County held its first wellness day today. He has held department reviews with department heads. A grant has been submitted for a \$2M project on housing in collaboration with Northwoods Technical College.

Closed Session – Namekagon Transit – At 7:11 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to enter closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; and (f) considering financial medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of changes against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with “yes” votes from Schleeter (voice vote), Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver by electronic vote. Mr. Rusk had lost connection and did not vote.

At 7:40 pm a motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to enter open session. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried without negative vote.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings –

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk