



Sawyer County

Agenda

County Board of Supervisors Meeting

Thursday, June 15, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

Sawyer County Board Room

Revised: Monday, June 19, 2023 8:07 AM

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. To view or participate in the **virtual meeting** from a computer, iPad, or Android device please go to <https://zoom.us/j/95015680309>. You can also use the dial in at **1-312-626-6799** with the Webinar ID: 950 1568 0309. Use *9 to Raise/lower hand and *6 to Unmute/mute. If additional assistance is needed please contact the County Clerk's Office at 715-634-4866 prior to the meeting. This meeting will be recorded and will be available on our website at: <https://sawyercountygov.org>.

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW

5. MEETING AGENDA

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. At this time, members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the Board. Please adhere to the following when addressing the Board:
 - Comments will be limited to 3 minutes or less per individual.
 - Comments should be directed to the Board as a whole and not directed to individual Board members.
 - The Board cannot respond to your comments during this time.
 - Please sign in and fill out a public comment sheet if you wish to speak on an item.

7. APPEARANCE BY CIRCUIT COURT REPRESENTATIVES - STAFFING NEEDS/REQUEST

4 - 6

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. [5.18.23 County Board Minutes DRAFT](#)

9. APPOINTMENTS (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

- a. Sawyer County Board of Appeals - Al Gerber (3 year term renewal)
- b. Sawyer County Board of Appeals - Jim Tiffany (3 year term renewal)

10. ZONING COMMITTEE

- a. Chair Report

11. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- a. Chair Report
10a(1) Child Support MOU

12. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

7 - 13

- a. Chair Report
- b. Courthouse Remodeling Update
- c. LaBarre Amendment to Sawyer County Airport Hangar Area Lease Renewal (discussion and possible action)
[1\) LaBarre Request for Airport Hangar Renewal](#)
[2\) 2023 Hangar Lease Amendment \(Renewal\) - Ben LaBarre](#)

14 - 17

- d. County KK Speed Reduction Update (discussion and possible action)
[County KK Speed Reduction](#)

13. LAND, WATER, AND FOREST RESOURCES COMMITTEE

18 - 19

- a. Chair Report
12a(1) County Land Sale - parcels #29, 36, 37, 44, 45, 46, 04, 05 approved; 01 met minimum bid & did not need a vote
- b. Act 216 Tax Deed Resolution (discussion and possible action)
[Res 2023- Request State of Wisconsin to Address Concerns of Act 216](#)

14. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

- a. Chair Report

15. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. Chair Report

16. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & UW EXTENSION COMMITTEE

- a. Chair Report

17. RESOLUTION LCO VS EVERS WCA6-23 (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

20 - 22

- a. [Res 2023- LCO vs Evers WCA6-23](#)

18. POLICY MANUAL REIMBURSEMENT UPDATE (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

23 - 25

- a. [2022-Policy-Manual-Reimbursements](#)

19. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

26 - 28

- a. [Administrator's Report 2023-06](#)

20. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

21. ADJOURNMENT

DISCLAIMER:

Copy sent via email to: County Clerk and News Media. Note: Any person wishing to attend whom, because of a disability, requires accommodation should call the Sawyer County Clerk's Office (715.634.4866) at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Mission Statement: *The Sawyer County Board of Supervisors will strive to provide excellent services and responsible leadership to protect and enhance Sawyer County citizens, businesses, and resources, while preserving our unique heritage.*

**Minutes of the May 18th 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
☒ Kay Wilson	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-Exc	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
☒ Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
☐ Thomas W. Duffy-Exc	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
☐ Marshal Savitski-Exc	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
☒ Brian Bisonette - virtual	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.

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: **April 18, 2023**

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Buckholtz

Motion carried without negative vote.

Sheriff's Address -

Sheriff Mrotek recognized the sheriff's staff and telecommunications staff. This week is Police Week honoring law enforcement, including those lost in the line of duty. Wisconsin is currently leading the way in the number of law enforcement officers lost in the line of duty. Deputy Jensen and Supervisor Helwig provided a demonstration using simulation rounds and lag time in reactions.

Appointments -

County Surveyor – Chris Gregory; Land Information Officer/GIS Specialist – Brian DeVries – Mr. Albarado reviewed the appointments presented. A motion was made by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Schleeter to approve the appointment of Chris Gregory as County Surveyor. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Mr. Rusk to approve Brian DeVries as GIS Specialist. Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Health Director – Julie McCallum – Mr. Albarado reviewed the recommendation for the new Public Health Director. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the appointment; second by Ms. Wilson. Motion carried without negative vote.

Ad Hoc Formation

Formation of Sawyer County Tourist Rooming House Ad Hoc Committee – Mr. Kozlowski presented a Resolution to Establish an Ad Hoc Committee Called “Sawyer County Tourist Rooming House Committee” and a list of 12 voting members (including three County Board Supervisors) and 8 non-voting members from various stakeholder areas. Documentation is provided. This recommendation came through both HHS and Zoning committees. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Helwig to approve the formation of the subcommittee; Ms. Wilson recused herself from this discussion and vote. An electronic vote was cast and passed without negative vote.

Zoning Committee -

Chair Report – Ms. Wilson recused herself from this portion of the board meeting. Mr. Buckholtz advised that zoning permits remain above last year, approving five conditional use permits.

Zone District Map Amendment RZN #23-001 - Written documentation was provided. A request to rezone property in the name of Fred C. Scheer II from Forestry One (F-1) to Residential/Recreational One (RR-1) was presented. A resolution to approve this request was provided along with a staff report for the County Board. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve this request. An electronic vote was cast and passed 11-1, with “yes” votes from Shuman, Hessel, Helwig, Bisonette, Maestri, Rusk, Righeimer, Kinsley, Buckholtz and Peters; one “no” vote from Schleeter. Ms. Wilson recused herself from this vote.

Public Safety Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz reported that the new board room is using a temporary AV solution. The Sheriff’s Department reported progress in hiring and continued training. The rabies clinic will return next year. Mr. Froemel reported an increase in ambulance runs for the month of April over last year.

Public Works Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that the Airport will have a public hearing at 6pm next month. The airport is developing its Master Plan. Our new highway commissioner advised that we will be able to blacktop repair only 8 miles of county roads this year due to increased costs.

Courthouse Remodeling Update – A written report was provided. The contingency fund is at zero and the contractors are requesting additional funds for the remodel project.

ATV/UTV Route Request – Amend ATV/UTV Ordinance – A route request from Badger Bay Lane going south on Cty Rd F terminating at Birch Lake Resort was approved at committee level and presented to the Board for final approval. A motion was made by Mr. Rusk; second by Ms. Hessel to approve the request. A voice vote was held and passed with one nay vote from Ms. Wilson.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Peters reported that the timber sales are on track and the new bids were approved at committee level. A new DNR liaison, Brody Fischer, was introduced. Tree sales have been completed and went well once again. The Upper Brunett Dam post-construction inspection revealed one item that needs correcting. Permit numbers are higher than in 2022. The gates at the dam at Lake Winter are now functional. Bear complaints are up in the reservation area.

Health & Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Mr. Schleeter advised that Kay Wilson was elected as Vice Chair of the Committee. Department reports were shared. Ms. Lyons and Mr. Albarado are working on reorganizing some departmental duties, filling empty positions, and working with outside agencies in areas where we are short-staffed.

Finance Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley reported that the committee has been reviewing the avenues of incoming revenues and expenditures. Our investments are generating good interest income at this time.

Courthouse Expansion/Remodeling Update – A written update was provided. Mr. Albarado provided an overview of the areas needing additional work or fixes. An example is that the asbestos removal was three times its original quote to be removed. There are no contingency funds available at this time. Delays in the project caused additional expenditures. The new projected total cost of the project is \$10,200,000+. Additional items that were not within the original scope of the project were also outlined with a cost ranging \$50-\$60,000.

Resolution Authorizing the Borrowing of not to Exceed \$4M; and Providing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2023 – Mr. Markgren presented a review of the borrowing plan. Reasoning for combining our debt issues were identified in the presentation as well as a review of the debt previously authorized by Sawyer County Supervisors. A repayment schedule and chart of property tax effect were provided. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve the Resolution as presented. An electronic vote was cast and passed 12 – 0.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee -

Chair Report – Vice Chair Righeimer advised that HLVCB provided results of a branding study, indicating that the predominant demographic visiting the Hayward area is coming from Duluth and Minneapolis. The SC/LCO EDC are looking for a director at this time. Library updates were provided. The Birkie will host its 50th anniversary next year, and summer hours will begin on June 1st at the Historical Society.

County Administrator's Report -

A written report was provided, reviewing the courthouse renovation, personnel updates including union negotiations, contracting staff, municode and corporation counsel involvement. Progress on the treatment and diversion court and opioid settlement status was reviewed as well as broadband, tribal land taxation changes, and the state budget update.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -**Adjournment – 8:02 pm**

Next Meeting: June 15, 2023 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

Lynn Fitch

From: Ashley LaBarre <ashleyclabarre@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:25 AM
To: Lynn Fitch
Subject: LaBarre Hangar Renewal

[You don't often get email from ashleyclabarre@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lynn,

We would like to do the 10 year extension on our current hangar lease when the original 20 year lease is up this year. As we talked about today. This is regarding hangar located at Lot 4 CSM# 5432.

Thank you,
Ben and Ashley LaBarre
602-402-6391

This message is from an external email source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you are certain the content is safe. If you have any doubts or concerns about an email, don't hesitate to contact Sawyer County IT.

**AMENDMENT TO SAWYER COUNTY AIRPORT
HANGAR AREA LEASE**

THIS AMENDMENT TO SAWYER COUNTY AIRPORT HANGAR AREA LEASE (this “Amendment”) is dated as of August 17, 2023, by and between Sawyer County (“Lessor”), and Ben LaBarre (“Lessee”). Lessor and Lessee may be singularly referred to herein as a “Party” or collectively as the “Parties”.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.52(6), the County has statutory authority to own and lease real property for public purposes, including but not limited to, property for airport purposes;

WHEREAS, the County owns property located at the Sawyer County Airport (“Airport”), which includes a parcel of real property upon which Lessee’s personal property/aircraft hangar sits, as more fully depicted and described in **Exhibit A**, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein (the “Leased Premises”);

WHEREAS, Lessor and Lessee entered into that certain Sawyer County Airport Hangar Area Lease dated October 1, 2003 (the “Lease”) for the Leased Premises; and

WHEREAS, the Lease provided for an initial 20-year term with the option to renew the Lease for an additional 10-year term;

WHEREAS, the 20-year Lease term expired on September 30, 2023 (“Initial Expiration Date”);

WHEREAS, Lessee continued to occupy the Leased Premises after the Initial Expiration Date and now wishes to formally exercise the 10-year renewal term; and

WHEREAS, Lessor and Lessee mutually desire to amend the Lease to reflect the extension of the Lease term from ten (10) years past the Initial Expiration Date.

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Recitals. The Parties acknowledge and agree that the Recitals set forth above are true and accurate, and are hereby incorporated into this Amendment.

2. Extension of Term. Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of the Lease, Lessee hereby exercises the right to renew the Lease for one (1) additional successive ten (10) year period under the same terms and conditions set forth in the Lease. Unless earlier terminated in accordance with the terms of the Lease, the Lease shall terminate on October 1, 2033, Lessee shall surrender all portions of the Leased Premises upon termination of this Lease unless Lessor and Lessee

execute a new lease agreement, the terms of which shall be mutually agreed to by the Parties and are not bound by the terms of the Lease or this Amendment.

3. Laws and Regulation. The Parties agree that Paragraph 6 of the Lease be amended as follows:

Lessee agrees to observe and obey during the term of this Lease all Applicable Laws (as defined in the Minimum Standards Ordinance) and all other rules and regulations promulgated and enforced by Lessor and by other proper authority having jurisdiction over the conduct of operations at the Airport. This includes, but is not limited to, compliance with Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") regulations and guidance, Department of Transportation ("DOT"), FAA Policy on the Non-Aeronautical Use of Airport Hangars, 81 Fed. Reg. 38906 (Jun. 15, 2016) and DOT, Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on FAA Policy on Use of Hangars at Obligated Airports (2016), as is updated and adopted by the DOT from time to time, regarding permissible and impermissible hangar use, as follows:

a. Permissible aeronautical uses of a hangar include – storage of active aircraft; shelter for maintenance, repair, or refurbishment of aircraft, but not the indefinite storage of non-operational aircraft; construction of amateur-built or kit-built aircraft provided that activities are conducted safely; storage of aircraft handling equipment, e.g., tow bar, glider tow equipment, workbenches, and tools and materials used to service, maintain, repair or outfit aircraft, or items related to ancillary or incidental uses that do not affect a hangar's primary use and purpose – the storage of active aircraft; storage of materials related to an aeronautical activity, e.g., balloon and skydiving equipment, office equipment, teaching tools, materials related to ancillary or incidental uses that do not affect a hangar's primary use and purpose – the storage of active aircraft; storage of non-aeronautical items that do not interfere with the primary use and purpose of the hangar – the storage of active aircraft; a vehicle parked at the hangar while the aircraft usually stored in that hangar is flying.

b. Impermissible uses of a hangar include – use as a residence; operation of a non-aeronautical business, e.g., limo service, car and motorcycle storage, storage of inventory, and non-aeronautical business office; activities which impede the movement of the aircraft in and out of the hangar or other aeronautical contents of the hangar; activities which displace the aeronautical contents of the hangar or impede access to aircraft or other aeronautical contents of the hangar; storage of household items that could be stored in commercial facilities; long-term storage of derelict aircraft and parts; storage of items or activities prohibited by local or state law; fuel, and other dangerous and Hazmat materials; storage of inventory or equipment supporting a municipal agency function unrelated to the aeronautical use.

4. Rent. The Parties acknowledge that the current annual rent amount is \$473.77. The rent shall be adjusted pursuant to Paragraph 4 of the Lease.

5. No Other Changes to Lease Terms. Unless expressly amended in this Amendment, all other terms and conditions contained in the Lease shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect, and are hereby ratified and confirmed. The Lease and this Amendment shall be considered one complete agreement. To the extent of any conflict between the provisions of this Amendment and the Lease, the provisions of this Amendment shall control. This Amendment shall be binding on and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.

6. Authority to Enter Into Amendment. Lessee represents and warrants to Lessor that it has full legal right, title and authority to enter into this Amendment. Lessee shall indemnify and hold Lessor harmless for any costs, damages, fees or other amounts incurred by Lessor as a result of Lessee's predecessor in interest to the Lease failing to properly assign or otherwise properly transfer any interest in the Lease as intended. This Paragraph 6 does not amend or modify Lessee's obligations to indemnify and hold Lessor harmless, as set forth in Paragraph 7 of the Lease.

7. No Waiver. Nothing in this Amendment is, or shall be construed to be, a waiver by either Party of any default under the Lease by the other Party.

8. Counterparts. This Lease may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be an original, and all of which together shall constitute a single instrument.

9. Recording. This Amendment shall be recorded. The cost of recording shall be paid by Lessee.

(Signatures Appear on the Following Pages)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Lessor and Lessee have caused this Amendment to be duly executed as of the day and year first above written.

LESSOR:

LESSEE:

SAWYER COUNTY

Ben LaBarre

By: Andy Albarado
Its: County Administrator

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS.
COUNTY OF SAWYER)

Before me, a Notary Public is and for said County and State, personally appeared Andy Albarado, Sawyer County Administrator, on behalf of Sawyer County. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Hayward, Wisconsin, this ____ day of _____, 202_.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires: January 6, 2025

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS.
COUNTY OF SAWYER)

Before me, a Notary Public is and for said County and State, personally appeared Lynn Fitch. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at _____, this ____ day of _____, 2023.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My commission expires: January 6, 2025

Exhibit A
Leased Premises

(See attached)

[ATTACH LEGAL DESCRIPTION HERE]

May 17, 2023
Traffic Safety Committee Minutes

Present: Sheriff Doug Mrotek, Chief Deputy Joe Sajdera, Sawyer County Highway Commissioner John Pinnow, WI DOT/BOTS Daniel Kontos, WI DOT Aaron Christ, WI State Patrol Sgt. Tatsuo Anduze-Bell, Sawyer County Transit Karen Melasecca, City of Hayward Police Chief Joel Clapero, City of Hayward Public Works John McCue, Hayward School Superintendent Craig Olson,

1. **Meeting called order: 9:00AM**
2. **Introductions:** Introduction of John Pinnow as new Sawyer County Highway Commissioner.
3. **Review of Minutes:** February 15, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed. Motion by Olson, to approve February minutes second by McCue, motion passed.
4. **Old Business:** None
5. **New Business:** Speed reduction on CTH KK from the stop sign on CTH K to the first corner. Commissioner Pinnow advised that due to public complaints and a review of the area he would suggest a 10mph speed reduction from the stop sign to the corner (approximately 4873 feet) to include the addition of farm equipment signs. This would reduce the speed from 55 mph to 45 mph in the described area. Motion by Sajdera to approve the suggested speed reduction. Motion second by Mrotek, motion passed.
6. **WI DOT:** Kontos presented 2023 preliminary traffic crash and map data for state and county. DOT updates.
 - State wide preliminary numbers for the first quarter indicate 27,853 crashes state wide. There were 95 reported fatalities for the time period which is down from last year. In the first quarter Sawyer County reported a total of 60 crashes with 20 crashes involving injury and 1 reported fatality.
 - Review of statistics regarding causes of crashes.
 - Discussion regarding the use and importance of the Government Property Damage Tag when crashes involve damage to government property. Tags aid in recovery of costs.
 - New feature to Community maps is the Crash Comparison Dashboard. Allows users to create graphic representation of crash comparisons over a date range.
 - Upcoming driver safety campaigns: Click it or Ticket – May 15-June 4. Impaired Driving (Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving) – July 4th. Region 5 National Speed Awareness Campaign – July 26. Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over – August 16 – Sept 04.
 - Update on the Governor’s Conference on Highway Safety. The conference will be held August 28-30 at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells.
 - Legislative Updates of interest – 2023 AB-56/SB-92 Reckless Driving Impoundment and AB-55/SB-90 Reckless Driving Penalties
 - Community Maps Users Group online ZOOM meeting – September 27.
 - Updates to the Community Maps & TSC
 - 2023 DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) classes. Classes will be held July 11 – Aug 11 and again Oct.3 – Nov. 3. Bureau of Traffic Safety funding the entire training.

7. **Round Table/Report Outs:**

Melasecca: Continuing to hire more non CDL drivers but continuing with the current training program. Ridership and bus fare rates have increased covering about 12% of the annual budget.

Sajdera: Discussion regarding STH 40 south of Radisson. Previous discussions at Traffic Safety meetings included the addition of chevron signs on the corners as a temporary aid until the highway project is completed. Signs have not yet been installed.

Pinnow: Starting repaving projects on CTH E from Jonans Rd to Thoroughfare Rd and STH 70 from the Price County line to the Flambeau River Bridge. Projects will start at the end of June.

Sgt. Tatsuo Anduze-Bell: Trooper Rizzo will officially start on Tuesday as the new trooper in the area. Trooper Rizzo is also trained in crash reconstruction which will benefit the area. State Patrol can assist in any areas in the county with speed enforcement if needed.

Olson: Graduation is schedule for May 26th and will take place at the football field with parade route to be determined. Building project starts ground breaking soon. Construction to take place over the next two years and should not include any reroute of traffic.

Clapero: Working with the school district to assist in providing another School Resource Officer. Inquiry about speed zone signs.

Christ: Smith Lake Creek construction project underway. The STH 63 detour completed on Monday – Project scheduled to be completed by June 21.

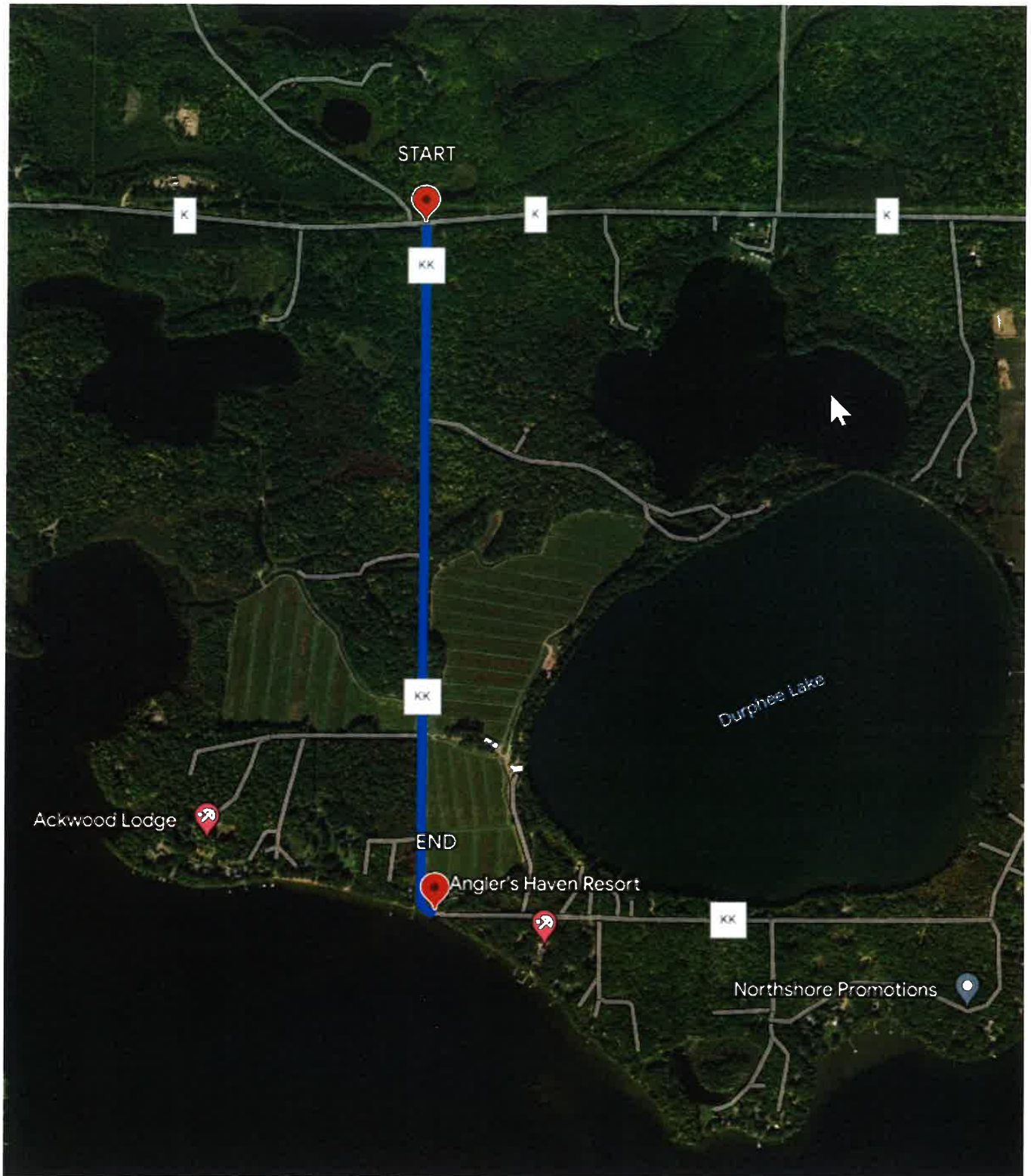
McCue: Detour for the Smith Lake Creek construction project was changed. Farmers Street now a one-way street to Railroad Street. Discussed the possibly of installing temporary stop lights at STH 77 and Rail Road Street during the construction project.

Mrotek: Receiving many complaints regarding the condition of STH 70 from Radisson to Ojibwa especially near the Chippewa River Bridge area.

8. **Next Meeting Date:** August 16, 2023 @ 9:00am

9. **Meeting Adjourned:** 9:50am

Minutes drafted by Chief Deputy Joe Sajdera



Ordinance # _____

Establishing a Speed Zone on County Road KK

WHEREAS, The Sawyer County Traffic Safety Commission, The Sawyer County Public Works Committee, and The Sawyer County Board of Supervisors have determined and established that 45 miles per hour shall be the maximum speed at which vehicles may travel on County Road KK, from County Road K to a point 1,400 feet south of Y.M.C.A. Road, and

WHEREAS, This 45 mile per hour section totals .98 miles in length and this speed has herein been established as the reasonable and safe maximum speed to travel, pursuant to section 349.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes;

THEREFORE, The Sawyer County Board of Supervisors hereby ordains, with the approval of federal and state agencies, and upon the erection of standard signs giving notice thereof, as follows:

Section 1 – 45 miles per hour shall be the maximum permissible speed for vehicles operated on County Road KK in Sawyer County, from County Road K to a point 1,400 feet south of Y.M.C.A. Road, a distance of 5,180 feet (.98 miles) in length.

Section 2 – Any person violating any provision of this ordinance may suffer forfeiture of no less than \$30.00 nor more than \$300.00, plus costs, or imprisoned not more than 30 days upon failure to pay such fine or forfeiture and costs.

Resolution 2023 - _____

Request the State of Wisconsin to Address Concerns of Act 216, Relating to Distributing the Proceeds from the Sale of Tax Delinquent Property to the Former Owner

WHEREAS, under the previous State law addressing sale of tax delinquent property, counties retained the net proceeds from the sale unless the property was the homestead of the former owner(s) and the former owner(s) requested such payment; and

WHEREAS, before a tax delinquent property is foreclosed upon, the property must be delinquent for a minimum of three years; and

WHEREAS, before a tax delinquent property is foreclosed upon, the owner receives notice of the pending action and is given the opportunity to pay the back taxes, including the potential for a payment plan; and

WHEREAS, if the sale of the tax delinquent property does not cover the past due taxes, other associated costs and costs of processing the foreclosure, the county taxpayers are ultimately responsible to absorb the loss; and

WHEREAS, Act 216 purportedly requires a county to pay the net proceeds of the sale of tax delinquent property to any former owner, regardless of whether the former owner requests the payment and regardless of whether the former owner used the property as his or her homestead, and hold such proceeds for five years if the former owner does not request payment; and

WHEREAS, the Act further attempts to require a county to pay off any lien placed on the property at the time of the foreclosure sale, notwithstanding the fact that all liens are discharged at the time of the foreclosure judgment, causing confusion for counties and courts; and

WHEREAS, the Act is further imprudent for the following reasons:

1. most often in tax foreclosure cases, property owners are not responsive;
2. it shifts the risk of loss onto the county causing the county to have an incentive to NOT exercise its authority to foreclosure, leading to many blighted properties throughout the county;
3. the Act purported to cause counties to act as realtors for private parties;
4. the Act requires treasurers to make complex ownership decisions between parties, tenants-in-common; LLCs, corporations and decedents' estates.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors urges the Legislature to repeal the changes implemented by Act 216, or, in the alternative, to modify the law to take away the risk to counties and consider a provision to place any proceeds from the sale of tax delinquent properties in a segregated account established by the county to be used for clean-up of blighted properties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers, Legislators representing Sawyer County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all Wisconsin Counties.

This Resolution is recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on June 15, 2023, by this Sawyer County Land, Water, and Forestry Committee, this 9th day of June, 2023:

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Ed Peters, Chair

Brian Bisonette

Jason Weaver

Marc Helwig, Vice-Chair

Kay Wilson

This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of June, 2023.

Tweed Shuman, Sawyer County Board Chair

Lynn Fitch, Sawyer County Clerk

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LCO vs EVERS DECISION

WHEREAS, In August of 2022 the Federal Court of Appeals in LCO v Evers ruled that lands owned by tribal members on reservation are not taxable, regardless of the chain of custody. This decision settled a decades long claim that tribal members were not subject to property tax on reservation lands; and,

WHEREAS, this decision overturned a long-standing practice of Tribal Land taxation as established by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. This has had significant tax implications for the Counties with these tribal lands for the five years before the 2022 decision. Going forward it will create structural taxation challenges for local governments; and,

WHEREAS, the LCO V. Evers Tribal Taxation decision is not a town, school district or county issue. Rather it is an issue created by state and federal governments; and,

WHEREAS, the Court of Appeals held the 1854 treaty between the Chippewa Indians of Lake Superior and the Federal Government guaranteed reservation lands to tribal members in exchange for millions of acres of land in Northern Wisconsin. The court held that taxes conflicted with the treaty as originally agreed; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the decision by the Court of Appeals, both the Federal and State Governments wholly reversed their position on the taxability of tribal lands. The State and Federal Government should now take ownership of the difficult position they have placed the counties, towns, schools, and technical colleges in; and,

WHEREAS, by state law, counties guarantee annual taxes to taxing entities (towns, cities, schools, counties, and technical colleges) regardless of payment by property owners. This is known as the settlement process. When taxes are not paid, counties make taxing entities whole. This ensures sufficient operational funds for the coming year for these entities. These out-of-pocket county payments are recouped after the tax delinquent property is sold by the County. The LCO v. Evers decision prohibits the county from taking ownership, meaning no tax sale, leaving counties unreimbursed for settlements. Of the five Wisconsin counties impacted by the decision, \$3.6 million was paid to taxing entities by counties between 2015 and 2022. The counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Iron, Sawyer and Vilas will not be reimbursed for these payments as a result of the decision. Counties are bearing the financial consequences of enforcing a tax policy created by the State that was found to be illegal. The State should be responsible for the policy created and enforced on municipalities and counties to follow.

WHEREAS, Tribal properties removed from the tax roll because of this decision substantially impacts the local tax base. In Bayfield County this represents approximately 25% reduction in total valuation in the Town of Russell, and in Ashland County the Town of Sanborn, an approximate 80% reduction. This means local government operational costs will be spread over a smaller tax base and a reduced number of property owners. The impact will be increases in local mill rates; and,

47 **WHEREAS**, Across the five counties the reduction in tax collections due to the court decision is
48 anticipated to be over \$900,000 annually or approximately \$1.8 million over the next two years.
49 This amount is expected to increase as additional parcels are removed from the tax roll; and,
50
51 **WHEREAS**, Communities, schools, roads, and other infrastructure were planned and built based on
52 the financial viability and stability of the established tax structure. The recent court decision has
53 changed the situation dramatically for communities with Indian reservations. The Federal
54 Government currently pays local governments payments in lieu of taxes for Federal Forest
55 lands/parks. We request the Federal Government do the same for properties no longer subject to
56 tax but still in need of tax-funded assistance; and,
57
58 **WHEREAS**, the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors, assembled this 15th day of June 2023 respects
59 the decision of the Federal Court on this long-standing tribal taxation argument. In accordance with
60 the court decision and direction from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Sawyer County
61 promptly acted implementing the court's action in 2022; and,
62
63 **WHEREAS**, that Sawyer County understands that this is a major change impacting the lives of those
64 living on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation in many ways. Sawyer County is committed to
65 understanding and listening to the interests of all parties on this matter. The County also
66 understands this is a complex issue impacting Tribal members, the LCO Tribe, non-tribal members
67 on the reservation, the Towns of Hayward and Bass Lake, and taxing entities; and,
68
69 **WHEREAS**, that the County urges patience and respect and commits to hearing out all those
70 impacted.
71
72 **NOW THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED**, Sawyer County asks of the Wisconsin Counties Association
73 to assist with legislation providing:
74
75 1. That the State of Wisconsin reimburse counties for un-recoupable settlement payments
76 (\$3.6 million) made in accordance with state law, between 2015 and November 2022.
77
78 2. That the State of Wisconsin makes aid payments over the next two years equal to the tax on
79 the valuation lost as a result of the decision in the amount of \$1.8 million, until a permanent
80 solution can be developed.
81
82
83 Recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on June 15,
84 2023, by this Sawyer County Administrative Committee June 8, 2023.
85
86
87 _____
88 Tweed Shuman, Chair
89
90 _____
91 Ron Kinsley, Member
92
93 _____
94 Tom Duffy, Member

_____ Ron Buckholtz, Vice Chair
_____ Dale Schleeter, Member

95 This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of June,
96 2023.

97

98

99 _____
Tweed Shuman, Chair, Sawyer County Board of Supervisors

Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

TRAVEL AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

1. Purpose. To establish a uniform system for determining county responsibility for expenses incurred by employees and officers while performing official county business.
2. Definitions.
 - a. Authorizing Party - The County Administrator with respect to Department Directors and the Department Directors with respect to subordinate employees
 - b. Budgeted - Appropriated by the county board or otherwise allocated in the department budget.
 - c. Person - All public officials and employees of the county.
 - d. Vehicles - All motor drive surface forms of transportation.
 - e. Personal Automobile Insurance - All county employees who drive their personal vehicles on county business will be required to maintain, at a minimum, personal automobile insurance in the amount of \$100,000/\$300,000/\$50,000 or \$300,000 combined single limit auto coverage.
 - o The employee will provide their insurance documentation verifying such insurance amounts annually to their Department Director.
 - o Mileage will not be reimbursed to any employee who has not provided the current insurance documentation.
 - o Sawyer County Insurance Coverage can be excluded if you are engaged in gross or willful negligence.
 - o Sawyer County coverage is considered secondary coverage when an employee is driving their personal vehicles on county business.
3. General Travel Policy. Each person will be reimbursed for reasonable, necessary and actual travel expenses incurred in the performance of authorized official duties as long as reimbursement requests are made on the appropriate county forms and receipts must be shown and attached for all expenses, excluding alcoholic beverages.

Department Directors will determine departmental travel and training needs and authorize expenditures.

All out of county travel at county expense must have the prior approval of the Department Director.

4. Hotel/Motel Registration and Lodging Expense. When registering in hotels or motels or signing for any official purposes, persons will use their business address.

The choice of lodging will be based primarily on cost with consideration given to accessibility in conducting business. When traveling alone, a person will make use of a single room rate. Only travel expenses for the authorized person will be reimbursed, and at the rate for a single room.

- Lodging at convention, seminar, or meeting sites will be fully paid for by the County up to the state rate currently in effect or an amount pre-approved based on the seminar or meeting arrangements.
- All lodging expenses will be supported by the original receipts.

5. Transportation Expenses. Employees are eligible for mileage reimbursement for any position related duties and conference or training that they are required and/or allowed to attend per policy. Employees using their personal vehicle will be reimbursed mileage from home or their worksite whichever is closer.

~~Transportation should~~ Employees are encouraged ~~first be~~ to use a County Fleet vehicle before attempting personal owned vehicles or the next most economical type or route.

Employees will follow all state and local traffic laws at all times whether a County or Personal Vehicle while on County business.

- a. Fleet Car Rate will be ~~\$.10 less the current county rate~~ 80% of the IRS Rate per mile for official county use, chargeable against the requisitioning department, and the state rate for incidental personal use.
- b. Private Vehicle Mileage Rate - County employees ~~will~~ are encouraged to use a fleet car, if available. Reimbursement of the use of a personal vehicle will be 80% of the IRS Rate per mile.
- c. Employees ~~should~~ ~~will~~ request a fleet car once they become aware of the need for travel.
- d. If travel is related to a medical assistance program, a county fleet car will be used.

~~Privately owned automobiles may be used when fleet cars are not available. Employee will receive a signed form stating a fleet vehicle was unavailable and the employee will be reimbursed at County mileage rate.~~

6. Meals. Employees will be reimbursed for meals if the employee is attending an approved meeting, convention or seminar.

The claim for meals will represent actual, reasonable and necessary costs expended for meals as established by the County Board.

Paid under the following guidelines:

- a. Breakfast – the employee must leave before 6:00 a.m.
- b. Lunch – the employee must leave prior to 11:30 a.m. and return after 1:30 p.m.
- c. Supper – the employee must leave prior to 4:30 p.m. and return after 6:00 p.m.
- d. Expenses may be paid in aggregate of a maximum daily total of ~~\$25~~ \$35. If the employee is required to purchase one meal while on county business, they will be limited to the amount stated per meal. If more than one meal is purchased, the employee will be allowed the total of these meals with the total being split among the meals at the employee's option.

- e. County Credit Card(s) or purchase cards cannot be used to pay for employee meals.
 - f. Receipts are required for all meal reimbursement requests.
 - g. No reimbursement will be made for the cost of alcoholic beverages.
 - h. No meal advancements will be made except for Sheriff Department training for five or more consecutive days.
7. Claiming Reimbursement of Authorized Expenditures. All claims for reimbursement of authorized expenses must be submitted within 30 days on a Travel and/or Meal Expense Reimbursement Form provided by the Accounting Department.

d

County Administrator's Work Report

June 15, 2023



Courthouse Renovation

\$7.425 million of work completed with pay orders submitted. Approx \$1.464 million remaining.

Original Construction/Project Manager agreement total of \$8,618,746 plus change order of \$55,903.67 for an amended agreement of \$8,674,649

Owner Contingency fund currently at \$0 (original \$395,789).

Construction work still on track for August 1 completion. A/V to be completed by August 14. No significant issues in last month.

East parking lot concrete and paving to be completed by June 16.

Moving ahead with smaller items needed (Flags, Podiums, State Seal, Ramp Railings)

Finance –

2024 Budget Process Underway

Finance Department has sent out budget timeline and preparation instructions to Departments.

Personnel

Union Negotiations – no progress – no update.

Recruiting for

HHS – Adult Long Term Care Supervisor

HHS – Children, Youth, Family Supervisor

HHS – Family Services Coordinator (CPS)

HHS – Administration Fiscal Assistant

HHS – Mental Health Therapist (Assessing)

Highway – Driver/Operators (Radisson and Hayward)

Sheriff – Dispatch, Jailer, Deputy (Court Services)

Ambulance - All positions, but primary need is Paramedic.

Process continues of rebuilding HHS – CYF/CPS – due to loss of staff.

Have all positions hired, except Supervisor.

New position request- Judicial Assistant

I had heard this may be requested, and pushed to bring out the conversation now as we also will have a vacancy coming up in our Register in Probate/Juvenile Court Clerk position. I have understood that there might be different understandings of what, if any, additional staffing might be related to the new courtroom.

The Clerk of Courts staff, Judicial Assistant, and Register in Probate/Juvenile Court Clerk positions are all very related, and do the work that supports the Court system. These are all locally funded (levy) positions. I'm putting together options on how the JA and RIP/JC work could be done, the potential of splitting duties, at various staffing levels.

Employee benefits – New benefits consultant/Health Insurance Broker – Brown & Brown. Working on reviewing current employee benefits, and what changes could look like. Survey out to employees.

Training – With a number of new managers, we are planning a Supervisor/Management training. Currently working with Northwood Tech on a 15-20 hour training (split of 4-5 sessions) customized for County.

Sponsoring Training

Moving ahead on sponsoring existing employees to go through training/school. At this time it would be a pilot project type effort.

This would include **Existing AEMTs to become Paramedics, and Sheriff's Dept. sponsoring to Law Enforcement Academy.**

Starting with a couple employees for each, and includes an employment contract to require minimum years of future service as well as successful completion of training.

Corporation Counsel –continued work on a number of items with Counsel- includes Zoning related items, ordinance reviews.

In addition, there have been a couple Ethics issues that have been reviewed. An Ethics Committee meeting will be scheduled (reschedule to prior to board meeting) to review these items and the outcomes of Corporation Counsel reviewing them.

One recommendation is to improve Conflict disclosure form for elected officials and managers.

Criminal Justice Collaborating Council

Opioid Funding/Overdoes strategy and budget still being formulated. Slight delay due to staffing changes with Public Health/HHS

Recovery (Treatment) Court workgroup established and attended State Treatment Conference in anticipation of Court starting as soon as second Judge is seated.

With the 2nd courtroom and judge being seated later this year, and the Treatment and Diversion programs being fully functional, I think you'll see CJCC expanding its scope and opening up some new conversations.

Opioid Settlement Status

No updates on Settlement.

Treatment and Diversion

Justice Point continues work, and County has TAD grant for \$225,000 for 2023 for fully implementing Treatment Court and continuing Diversion work.

Policy & Ordinances –

Reviewing current policies and identifying gaps. Encouraging departments to review Ordinances and identify areas that need addressing.

Outstanding Items involving LCO

Child Support MOU – approved.

Requesting a discussion with LCO on Road Ban resolution passed by TGB in April, as well as other road jurisdiction issues.

Airport

Runway rehabilitation project has been delayed until 2025, due to availability of funds. An application for federal discretionary funds has been submitted. Other avenues to bring project back up to 2024 being pursued.

Process has started on a new petition to BOA to make outdated items current and add new items to be eligible for. Public Hearing will be held in July.

Broadband

BEAD – Regional group has started meeting. PSC held a Broadband listening session in Hayward earlier this month.

Two additional PSC grants received by Norvado and BevComm for work to be done

Tribal land taxation changes –

Resolution considered tonight.

Road Ban issue.

State Budget –