

**Minutes of the September 21, 2023 meeting of the Sawyer County
Board of Supervisors
Board; 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	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 - virtual	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
☒ Michael Maestri - virtual	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	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 – Ernest Martinson, Tom Jewell, Laurie Martin, Linda Zillmer, Carol Aumann

Namekagon Transit Outgoing Staff Recognition – Karen Melasecca presented by Mr. Helwig and Mr. Peters

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: August 17, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Peters

Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz provided a review of the September meeting; activity in the department remains at an all-time high. He thanked Jay Kozlowski and his staff for all the hard work in the department.

A rezone request and resolution were presented for Case #23-006, Gregory & Mandy Baune; rezoning from RR1 to C1 for commercial storage buildings. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Ms. Wilson to approve this request and resolution. An electronic vote was taken and passed 15 – 0.

Public Safety Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz provided a recap of the Public Safety meeting; three court rooms are now often running at once with the traveling judge caseload. Excerpts of the September Public Safety meeting were shared.

Public Works Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that maintenance is preparing for winter. The airport has had the busiest summer they've had so far; the runway project should be completed in 2025.

An ordinance to reduce the speed zone from 55 mph to 45 mph on County Road C from Ortwig Lane to a point 2,640 feet south of Ortwig Lane was presented. This request had previously been approved at the Traffic Safety and Public Works committee levels. A motion to approve this request was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Peters. An electronic vote was taken and passed 14-0; "nay" vote by Mr. Schleeter; "aye" votes from Weaver, Wilson, Hessel, Righheimer, Savitski, Kinsley, Buckholtz, Shuman, Peters, Helwig, Maestri, Bisonette, Rusk, and Duffy.

An ordinance to reduce the speed zone from 55 mph to 45 mph on County Road W from Armstrong Street to a point 2,800 feet North of Turcotte Road was presented. This request had previously been approved at the Traffic Safety and Public Works committee levels. A motion by Mr. Helwig was made; second by Mr. Weaver to approve this request. An electronic vote was taken and passed 15-0.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Peters advised that the survey crews continue to work on road repair, we are hitting our timber sales target, and progress is being made on the carbon credit project. A Washburn private deer farm has reported a case of CWD, and a feeding ban has been placed on Sawyer, Washburn and Barron counties that will begin in October. The LCO Hatchery will soon close for the year.

Health & Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Mr. Schleeter reported that the HHS training session held this month was held and was successful. Adult Long-Term Care unit has an upcoming Caregiver conference in September. The energy assistance program is taking clients. The fentanyl awareness program continues to reach more areas of the community.

Finance Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that the ambulance collection service is doing a good job on collection efforts. Mr. Markgren presented a preliminary 2024 budget update. The tax situation for this budget is better than last year. Staff step increases for non-union employees was included at 2%/1%. Health insurance is anticipated at a 5% increase. Sales tax revenue continues to grow, and our investment accounts are receiving good yields at over 5% return. He reviewed the 2024 budget staffing requests and requests from partner organizations. 2024 preliminary revenues, expenditures and tax levy were identified. [October public hearing notice and agenda](#)

Land Sales – A copy of the Treasurer's report to Finance Committee outlining the In Rem process was provided and reviewed along with a list of current properties currently on the In Rem list for 2018 through 2015.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Duffy reported on the September committee highlights. Discover Wisconsin has been in the area in September covering local activities.

County Administrator's Report -

A detailed written report was provided in the packet and reviewed by Mr. Albarado. A map of the current broadband coverage in place from ARPA funds is also included along with a map of tax exempt properties in the County.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Adjournment – 8:07 pm

Next Meeting: October 18, 2023 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT