

**Minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting of the Sawyer County
Public Works Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members Present:

- ☒ Chair: Ron Kinsley
- ☒ Marc Helwig
- ☒ Ed Peters– Vice Chair
- ☒ Chris Rusk - virtual
- ☒ Brian Bisonette

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
John Pinnow
Lynn Fitch
Derek Leslie
Linda Zillmer virtual

Others Present:

Call to Order – Chair Ron Kinsley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call was taken; quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments – Nancy Schryer, Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: December 13, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Peters Second by: Mr. Helwig
Motion carried without negative vote.

Consideration of Mail-in Correspondence Procedure -

Mr. Albarado advised that whoever receives such communication, they forward it to the department head most capable of handling the correspondence to see if they can respond. When it is a student project, the department head may contact the class to see if a visit to the class is appropriate.

Maintenance Department Report -

A written report was provided highlighting project and call activity. The HVAC system in the new addition is still experiencing problems; all fleet vehicles for 2024 have been ordered. To have heated sand available for the runway, we had to make room in the maintenance garage to build a sand bin. We also constructed a sand bin behind the maintenance garage to store enough sand to last through a normal winter.

Sawyer County Airport Report -

A written report was provided and reviewed. Barnum Gate Service came to the facility to service the four gates this week. The Master Plan website is up to date on progress thus far. Our first Public Involvement meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm in the Board room on Tuesday, March 5th. Mr. Albardo addressed the next steps of the process of the Master Plan where they will begin gathering public and user input. An additional public meeting will be held later this spring. The MP consultants will meet with the newspaper to develop an article on the process, as well. The public meetings will be noticed in the paper and mailers will go out via USPS with information.

Highway Commissioner's Report -

A written report was provided. Crews have been patching holes, fixing signs and performing winter storm cleanup. There is currently a vacancy for a driver/operator in the Radisson and Hayward shop, and interviews were conducted for summer help. The year was finished at ~\$800,000 in 2023. Meetings on the potential roundabout at Hwy K/B continue; LCO may apply for grant funding to help cover the county's portion of the 50% requirement. Our contractor is not doing any future bridge inspections so interviews with new contractors will begin.

Holiday Hours – Mr. Albarado advised that some employees are voiced concern regarding the hour differentiation during holiday pay periods since they work 10-hour days whereas holidays are paid at 8 hours. A couple different options have been created and presented to staff. They have chosen the option of taking vacation time to fill out

their full 40-hour work schedule or opt to not use it, thus not have a full 40-hour pay period instead of being required to fill out their 40 hours with vacation time. A motion was made by Mr. Peters to accept the option to voluntarily use vacation/comp time to complete a 40-hour week during a holiday or choose not to and thus not fill out their 40 hours; second by Mr. Bisonette. Motion carried without negative vote.

Out-of-County Highway Dept. Vehicles Review – Mr. Albarado advised that there has been recent discussion regarding the possibility of allowing out-of-county staff in the Sheriff's Department and Highway Department to take home County vehicles if they live outside of Sawyer County boundaries. Current policy manual prohibits this option. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to allow Highway Department staff to take County vehicles home to residences outside of County boundaries up to 25 miles and on a case-by-case basis in the future; second by Mr. Peters. Motion carries without negative vote.

Courtroom Remodeling Update -

Dedication and Ribbon Cutting – A ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony will be scheduled for a future date this May. A plaque will also be placed in the new foyer. Several punch list items are still being worked on.

Future Agenda Items – Resolution to allow County Hwy work done for Towns; March 5th Master Plan Update

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings -

Adjournment – 7:25 pm

Next Meeting: February 7, 2023 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk