

**Minutes of the January 11, 2024 meeting of the Sawyer County  
Finance Committee  
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors  
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



**Voting Committee Members (X) Present:**

- ☒ Chair: **Ron Kinsley**
- ☒ Vice Chair, John Righeimer
- ☒ Stacey Hessel
- ☐ Tom Duffy - excused
- ☒ Dale Schleeter

**Others Present:**

Andy Albarado  
Lynn Fitch  
Mike Markgren  
Linda Zillmer  
Tweed Shuman  
Ron Buckholtz

**Call to Order** –Chair Kinsley called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

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

**Meeting Agenda –**

**Public Comments – Linda Zillmer**

**Minutes from the previous meeting dated: December 14, 2023**

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Righeimer Second by: Ms. Hessel  
Motion carried without negative vote.

**Elected Officials Wage Review -**

The 2024 WCA Constitutional Elected Officers Salaries and Benefits survey was included in the packet. A motion was made by Mr. Schleeter to move the wage rate to reflect a 40-hour work-week for these elected officials; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Finance Department Report -**

**Sales Tax Distribution** – A written report was provided and showed a slight decline but ended the year at \$2,958,021.

**Budget Updates** – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Markgren. Revenue budget goals were met for 2023; interest income and stumpage revenue helped greatly. We did not have to dip into the contingency fund for expenses as they came in at budget.

**Capital Improvement Plan Update – Purchases** – A list of planned purchases was provided; highway department equipment that was difficult to get in previous years was purchased and consumed most of the \$949,490.44 expenses.

**Resolution to Establish a Trust Fund to Deposit Unexpected 85.21 Grant Funds** – This resolution to establish a Specialized Transportation Trust Fund, separate from all other bank accounts, to deposit unexpended Section 85.21 grant funds at the end of each year was presented by Mr. Markgren. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve this resolution; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Investment Update -**

A written report through November 2023 was provided and reviewed identifying a YTD interest earned of \$1,001,055.

**EMS-Ambulance**

A written presentation was provided and reviewed by Mr. Markgren. Average calls per month remains higher than the previous cycle as is average billed per month. Ambulance staff training with LifeQuest was held to try to increase

our collection rates. Net income through November was \$355,406.19. A new graph showing write-offs was included showing an average of \$7,000 written off each month.

#### **Out-of-County Vehicle Policy -**

Mr. Albarado provided an update on how this topic has moved through various committees. Mr. Markgren provided a review of financial impact including vehicle replacement schedules, additional vehicle maintenance, and potential tax implications to the employee should we approve the policy. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to evaluate the policy and allow officers to take their squads home up to 25 miles; second by Mr. Kinsley. A vote was called and failed with a 2:2 tie; “yes” votes from Kinsley and Hessel, “no” votes from Righeimer and Schleeter.

#### **Future Agenda Items – Out-of-County Vehicle Policy**

#### **Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings -**

#### **Adjournment – 9:57 am**

**Next Meeting:** February 8, 2024      **Time:** 8:30 am      **Location:** Board Room  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk