

**Minutes of the January 18th 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	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
☒	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
☒ Chris Rusk	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, 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 –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: December 21, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Savitski

Motion carried without negative vote.

Appointments -

Northern Water Library Service – Mr. Albarado presented this appointment. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Mr. Helwig to re-appoint Diane DeLong for another term. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners – Mr. Albarado presented this appointment. A motion was made by Mr. Schleeter; second by Mr. Buckholtz to re-appoint Mike Stamp to fill the remaining term of retiring outgoing member Angie Ruid until July of 2025. Motion carried without negative vote.

District 10 County Board Supervisor – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Savitski to appoint Chuck Van Etten to fill the remaining term of Michael Maestri who resigned from District 10. Chuck Van Etten will then fill the remaining terms of these committees after the resignation of Michael Maestri. Motion carried without negative vote.

Recognition of Retiring K-9 Oscar – Sheriff Mrotek recognized retiring K-9 officer, Oscar, who was handled by Deputy Dennis Nelson. Deputy Nelson provided a summary of Oscar’s term, being deployed over 750 times during his service. A new K-9 is being assigned in this position.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Duffy advised that we are only weeks away from the 50th anniversary of the Birkebeiner and then introduced Ben Popp for an update of the race. Despite lack of snow, they have held six events thus far this year. There is a record 15,000 skiers coming; previously the highest was 11,000. With the making of snow, they are hopeful that with another 8-12” of snow, the trail would be usable. A re-enactment of the opening ceremony will take place downtown on the Wednesday of Birkie week, and a determination of events running can be made as late as February 17th. Mr. Duffy reported that HLVCB provided a written marketing report, the website traffic showed 98,000 users for the year. NWRP advised that the next waste collection will take place in September. SCLCO-EDC has applied for grant funds for projects.

Zoning Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz advised that the committee continues to work through an ordinance for tourist rooming houses. An analysis of the Fish Trap Dam will be conducted.

Zone District Map Amendment RZN #23-005 Steven Arnold Friendshuh Trust – This request was presented by Mr. Kozlowski; denied at Committee level. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to deny this rezone request. An electronic vote was taken and passed to deny this request by 14:1 with “yes” votes from Van Etten, Bisonette, Wilson, Savitski, Kinsley, Buckholtz, Shuman, Schleeter, Peters, Helwig, Duffy, Hessel, Weaver and Rusk; “nay” vote from Righeimer.

Zone District Map Amendment RZN #23-013 Cedar Falls Building Systems Inc. - This request was presented by Mr. Kozlowski; approved at Committee level. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Ms. Hessel to approve this rezone request. An electronic vote was taken and passed 15:0 with “yes” votes from Van Etten, Bisonette, Wilson, Savitski, Kinsley, Buckholtz, Shuman, Schleeter, Peters, Helwig, Duffy, Hessel, Weaver, Rusk and Righeimer.

Public Safety Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz advised that the judges have been meeting with the drug court team and it should be running soon. Collections operations have begun in the Clerk of Court office. Lynnette Poppe was recognized during her retirement from the Dispatch office. The 2024 dog license sales have begun.

Public Works Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that the Committee discussed the highway department holiday hour process, as well as the out-of-county vehicle policy. The Airport Master Plan discussion remains ongoing.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Peters reported that the year 2023 Register of Deed fees ended above budget. All tax bills have been printed and mailed from the Treasurer’s office. Recreational trails are open yet for ATVs since there was no snow at this time. Timber sales were high, ending 2023 over budget. The aquatic invasive species grant was approved by the DNR.

Sawyer County Forest 2024 Annual Work Plan – The Annual 2024 SCF Annual work plan was presented for review; it was approved at Committee level. Mr. Peters advised that the Committee accepted and approved the 2024 Annual Plan. A motion was made by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Helwig to approve the 2024 Annual work plan. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Sawyer County Forest/WDNR Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Buckholtz to approve these minutes. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Health & Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Ms. Wilson reported that a presentation was made by Doctor Malcom regarding the LCO daycare facilities that were closed due to RSV and other respiratory illnesses. The Senior Resource Center is looking for cooks for the Stone Lake Center. There are currently six individuals in transition facilities. YouthJustice is busy receiving referrals; FoodShare services statistics were shared. The 2023 budget continues to look like it will be on target.

Finance Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that they have moved the Elected Officials hours calculation to a 40-hour work week to base the next salary adjustment on. Mr. Albarado advised that plans for any 2023 surplus funds will come back to the Finance Committee for discussion next month; some ideas for excess funds may include dam repairs, increasing the highway department fund balance, designating a separate sales tax fund, and segregating some funds for the ambulance services.

Resolution to Establish a Trust Fund to Deposit Unexpended 85.21 Grant Funds – Mr. Albarado presented this resolution that satisfies the requirement to put any surplus 85.21 funds into a separate trust fund. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve the resolution to establish the trust fund for unused 85.21 grant funds. A voice vote was taken and carried without negative vote.

County Administrator's Report -

A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Albarado. He reviewed the remaining courthouse remodel projects that are underway. We will be recruiting for two part-time deputy positions. He reported on the grievance that was filed by Deputy Schick, and we are in the process of scheduling a meeting of the Administration Committee on this subject. A county-wide employee training day is being planned, specifically on safety training for active shooter events; the board will be invited. Corporate Counsel continues to work on ordinance projects. The Airport Master Plan public meeting has changed to Wednesday, March 6th, as well as a meeting with the advisory group. The County expects to receive \$98,814 to compensate the loss of tax revenue as a result of the Evers decision regarding taxation on tribal lands. A new radio communications company has been secured for our EMS services.

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Adjournment – 7:32 pm

Next Meeting: February 15, 2024 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk