

**Minutes of the February 15th 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 @ 6:36 pm	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
☒ Marc D. Helwig - virtual	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
☐ Thomas W. Duffy-exc	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Marshal Savitski	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
☒ Brian Bisonette	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
☒ Chuck Van Etten	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 – Carol Martin, Linda Zillmer, Nicole Clapero

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: January 18, 2024

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

Motion carried without negative vote.

Birkie Week Update – Ben Popp

Mr. Ben Popp provided an update as to Birkie events and route changes that have been made as a result of the lack of snow. Over 90% of the original participants registered still plan to come, stay, spend time in the area, and compete in the events as revised.

Zoning Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz advised that the public hearing will be held tomorrow. They approved five provisional use permits, and the department continues to work on the TRH process and required documentation.

Zone District Map Amendment RZN #24-001 Timberdoodle Land Col., LLC. – A request to rezone approximately 6.42 acres from Forestry-One to Residential/Recreational-One was presented by Mr. Kozlowski. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz made a motion to approve the rezone request; second by Mr. Righeimer. A voice vote was taken and motion carried without negative vote.

Zone District Map Amendment RZN #24-001(S) Town of Spider Lake, Lee & Lori Seibert – A request to rezone approximately 5.38 acres of Forestry-One to Residential/Recreational-One was presented by Mr. Kozlowski; approve unanimously at the Spider Lake Town Board. A motion was made by Mr. Righimer; second by Ms. Hessel. A voice vote was taken and motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Zoning Floodplain Ordinance Amendment referenced as Sawyer County Code of Ordinances – Appendix A – Floodplains Sec. 1.5(2)(b)(4) amending official map section for the adoption of the dam failure analysis (DFA) for Fishtrap Lake Dam was presented by Mr. Kozlowski. Approval of the dam failure analysis gets Sawyer County more points for the approval process. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the adoption of the ordinance; second by Mr. Peters. A voice vote was taken and motion carried without negative vote.

Public Works Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that the maintenance department have the heat pumps working correctly and the remodel is considered complete. The airport master plan public meeting is on March 6th; road bans are on, and LCO has communicated with the Highway Department to work through the road bans for their construction project. There is a new contractor for bridge inspections. A ribbon cutting date is to be scheduled for the building for May.

Resolution 2024- Approving Highway Ordinances – Mr. Albarado presented the proposed ordinance that would grant the County the ability to assess fees for permits. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Peters to approve the resolution with an effective date of April 1st. A voice vote was taken and carried without negative vote.

Resolution 2024 – Establishing Highway Permit Fees – Mr. Albarado presented the Resolution to establish highway fees for the permits. An electronic vote was taken and passed 13:0.

Public Safety Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz reported that the first drug court has been held; there are six jury trials scheduled for February. The Sheriff's Department had been working with the Birkie on plans. Joint Powers Agreements with municipalities were approved and sent.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Peters reported a grant has been submitted to help get records land records online. Updating of assessments is ongoing. All lakes have been un-staked. Extensions are being requested from loggers due to the early road ban assignment. Emergency fire wardens were renewed. Our tree inventory is almost sold out, and the committee approved wildlife damage payments. A draw down of Nelson Lake was approved for boat ramp repairs. LCO continues to work with the ATV/UTV Alliance on trail route resolution.

Release of Reserved Rights for Flowage Easements & Gravel Pits on a Parcel in the Town of Winter – Mr. Peters advised that this item has been postponed due to a potential change in buyer.

Resolution for Participation in the Department of Natural Resources Municipal Dam Grant Program. A resolution was presented by Mr. Kozlowski as part of their capital improvement process. This is the next dam identified for repair/replacement. Work would be scheduled for end of 2025/2026 and the resolution gives him the authority to write for grant funds for the project. A full replacement would be about \$700,000, 50% would paid by grant reimbursement. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the resolution; second by Mr. Weaver. A voice vote was taken and motion carried without negative vote.

Health & Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Ms. Wilson provided an update; the Senior Resource Center will receive a meal reimbursement increase from Inlusa. Staff training continues and staff were recently recognized. We were advised that 76% of our youth referrals are considered high risk, and there were 135 total crisis contacts in 2023. We now have 960 tourist rooming house units in the county.

Finance Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that sales tax revenue is decreasing slightly from previous years. We are in good position closing out the 2023 budget. Mr. Markgren provided an analysis on tourism revenues. CIP advances were identified. We anticipate collecting some of the ambulance billings that are over 120 days old.

Resolution Designating 2023 Fund Balance – Mr. Albarado presented the resolution to designate funds for the following items as of the end of 2023: \$500,000 to Resource Development Fund- Dam Projects, \$450,000 to Highway Fund, and \$150,000 to Courthouse Addition Fund. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Ms. Wilson to approve this resolution. An electronic vote was taken and passed 13:0.

Resolution Establishing Salaries for Election Officials – Mr. Kinsley presented a Resolution to establish the next 4-year wages for the Elected Officials Treasurer, County Clerk, and Register of Deeds. However, new information has been obtained to warrant further consideration. Ms. Hessel made a motion to postpone this item until next month; second by Mr. Schleeter. Motion carried without negative vote.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee -

Mr. Righeimer advised that a UW Extension presentation was made regarding Sawyer County's population and effects on our economy. Remote workers increased significantly since the onset of the Covid period; unemployment patterns follow the rest of the state and nation. Populations of people over 65 continue to increase in our area; Sawyer County is one of the highest counties with seasonal housing units. Mr. Lamoreaux also advised that we need to be more creative in developing housing options in our county.

Out-of-County Vehicle Policy -

Mr. Albarado provided some background of this item that would involve changes in our personnel policy. Both Finance and Administration approved the policy of allowing squads to be taken home. He provided a resolution that would allow this change and reviewed it in detail. A copy of the resolution that outlines the applicable changes in our policy will be attached to the packet. The change would result in an annual expected cost of approximately \$26,000 starting in 2025; \$7,000 in 2024. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Kinsley to approve this resolution with the edit of adding the word "vehicle" in line 18. An electronic vote was taken and passed 13:0.

Employee Paid-Time-Off Policy -

A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley to postpone this item until March; second by Ms. Hessel. A voice vote was taken and carried without negative vote.

County Administrator's Report -

A written report was provided and reviewed in detail by Mr. Albarado.

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Adjournment – 7:44 pm

Next Meeting: March 21, 2024 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk