

**Minutes of the March 13, 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
- ☒ Ed Peters– Vice Chair - virtual
- ☒ Marc Helwig
- ☒ Chris Rusk - virtual
- ☒ Brian Bisonette

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
John Pinnow
Lynn Fitch
Derek Leslie
Tweed Shuman

Others Present:

Public speakers listed
below

Call to Order – Chair Ron Kinsley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second Mr. Peters to change the order of the agenda to allow #10 to follow the minutes.

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

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments – Cathy LaReau, Chris Witburn, Bob Lonacher, Amanda Wilson, Don Mrotek, Tim Davison, Jane Schroeder, Craig Sashae, Jim Strandlund, Kevin Kroll, Jeff Erdman, Harold Treland, Jim Taylor, Dan Palmer, Ron Ullmer, Joseph Schnering, Roland Christianson, Tim Butterfield, Linda Zillmer, Keith Freel, Barry Thornton, HLCVB letter read into public comment

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: February 7, 2024

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

Maintenance Department Report -

A written report was provided and included projects completed; accepted as presented.

Sawyer County Airport Report -

A written report was provided and reviewed. The Airport has seen a slight increase in traffic due to favorable flying weather but is still down year over due to a lack of seasonal recreation. The Airport Master Plan public meetings were held last week. Mr. Leslie reported that revenue has been down due to the poor economic winter. The runway rehab project is still tracking for funding; conditions of the runway held up well with the spring thaw. They are considering bringing back the “fly-in” for the Civil Air Patrol fundraiser.

Airport Master Plan Update – Mr. Albarado advised that per the FAA direction, public meetings are not required but the County wanted transparency in the process so it decided they were important. The FAA requires that the Master Plan be updated; thus, we continue to move through this process. The consultants will continue to work through plan alternatives. Board action will likely not take place until January 2025 and their recommendation is not binding, but are recommendations for consideration. Safety criteria, size of business equipment and what it means to be a sponsor will be areas under deliberation.

Highway Commissioner’s Report -

A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Pinnow. Brushing continues and road bans are still in effect. The county staff will be completing bridge inventory soon. Highway paving will take place on CTH D from STH 27 to Lund road, and CTH C from STH 48 to Bobcat Hill road this summer. Asphalt and pavement marking bids are due March 28th. Mr. Pinnow has been working with some towns to help update ATV/UTV signage. The roundabout application awards have been moved to the end of April.

ATV/UTV Road Routes – Mr. Kinsley advised that the route renewal will be completed in May and that is also the time to hear new route requests. The current County ordinance states that the towns must approve routes that the County approves; possible wording changes were presented by Mr. Helwig. The new trail maps identify township lines.

Courtroom Remodeling Update -

Mr. Albarado shared information regarding the financials of the project. The total cost was \$10,325,266.67 and revenues were \$10,336,714.52 resulting in a surplus of \$11,457.85. Information on the ribbon cutting ceremony was shared. May 16, 2024, at 5:00 pm the ribbon cutting will held with a dedication.

Future Agenda Items – ATV/UTV County Road Routes, airport master plan

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings – Mr. Albarado provided a review of the March 6th staff Training Day.

Adjournment: 8:12 pm

Next Meeting: April 10, 2024 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk