

**Minutes of the March 14, 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
- ☒ Dale Schleeter

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Mike Markgren
Linda Zillmer
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 – Laurie Martin, Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: February 8, 2024

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

Finance Department Report -

Sales Tax Distribution – A written report was provided and reviewed. February tax settlements came in high; January's were under.

Budget Updates – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Markgren. There will likely be some small revenues still to come in. We are at 18% expenses used in the 2024 budget; we pay out most of our outside agency funding in January which is depicted in this figure.

Capital Improvement Plan Update – A February itemized list of CIP purchases was provided totaling \$124,577.00. Two of the new Sheriffs' squads were included in these purchases.

Resolution Designating Fund Balance – A resolution to fund 20 to 30% of unassigned funds for the two items includes \$358,021.40 from assigned sales tax and \$355,673.09 for ambulance assigned fund balance. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the resolution and forward to County Board; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

Construction Project Finance Report – An itemized report of courthouse construction costs and revenue sources was reviewed by Mr. Markgren. There is a total associated cost of \$10,325,266.67 and total revenues of \$10,336,724.52 with a surplus of \$11,457.85. We still have some IT expenses yet to pay.

Investment Update -

A written report was provided in the packet and reviewed. Total YTD Interest earned was \$91,956. He heard that there is talk of rates beginning to go down.

EMS-Ambulance -

A written report was provided and reviewed. Mr. Markgren and Mr. Froemel had a call with LifeQuest about the aging report slowly increasing. The difference between this year and last year is that we hadn't been with LifeQuest long enough to show the shift differential. That is now beginning to even out since we've been with them a year.

Medicaid and Medicare are carried at the full amount due, not the anticipated amount to be collected. Mr. Albarado advised that we have continued to adjust staffing to reflect where calls are coming from and they are working on adding another sleeping room in the Hayward site so that two 24-hour crews can be manned at paramedic level. LifeQuest is working with our EMS staff to ensure we are billing correctly. We are at 40% collection rate at this time; our collections by call are at the highest rate we've yet to achieve.

Airport Master Plan Update -

Mr. Albarado advised that the public meetings were held last week and they were well attended. The airport is growing whereas many others have seen declines. The size and speed of the planes coming in have grown and this starts to change the required safety features of the airport. The next public workshop will be in the fall and then the Master Plan gets sent to the County Board.

Elected Officials Wage Review -

A Resolution Establishing Official Wages was presented by Mr. Markgren. The proposed 2025 base wage is set at \$70,491, 2026 is \$72,253, 2027 is \$74,060 and 2028 is \$75,911. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the resolution and forward to County Board; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried with one negative vote from Mr. Kinsley.

2023 Legal Fees by Department -

Mr. Markgren provided a handout of 2023 legal fees by department and provider. The total expense was \$243,920.56. He would like to develop project codes to better track this information going forward.

Future Agenda Items –

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings -

Adjournment – 9:38 am

Next Meeting: April 11, 2024 **Time:** 8:30 am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk