

**Minutes of the May 8, 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
- ☒ Randy Neumann
- ☒ Marc Helwig
- ☒ Chuck Van Etten
- ☒ Brian Bisonette - virtual

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
John Pinnow
Lynn Fitch
Derek Leslie
Tweed Shuman

Others Present:

Public speakers listed
below
Doug Mrotek

Call to Order – County Clerk Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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

Elections – Clerk Fitch read the rules of the election for Chair and Vice Chair and opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Helwig nominated Mr. Kinsley for position of Chair; there being no further nominations a voice vote was called and Mr. Kinsley was appointed unanimously as Chair. Nominations were opened for Vice Chair. Mr. Kinsley nominated Mr. Helwig for the position of Vice Chair; there being no further nominations, a voice vote was called and Mr. Helwig was appointed unanimously as Vice Chair.

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer, Greg Olson, Gerald Wright, Rolfe Hanson Letter, Town of Hunter Board letter, Mary Seitz letter, Jim Strandlund, Chris Ruckdaschel

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 10, 2024

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

Maintenance Department Report -

A written report was provided by Mr. Hagberg

Sawyer County Airport Report -

A written report was provided. Mr. Leslie advised that airport operations have steadily increased last month. The runway project consultants held a recent meeting and it was noted that there are several contractors that have expressed interest in the project. Mr. Leslie provided a brief overview of the runway project in 2025. They are also currently working through the Airport Master Plan. Many airports in the state have been reporting significant decreases in activity but that is not the case with our airport. June 22nd will host the Young Eagles plane ride event, and the pancake breakfast will be July 7th.

Mr. Albarado provided a review in the change in Wisconsin personal property tax and its effects on the taxes collected on airport hangars which are privately owned on County land. We will need to develop the billing for the taxes and send the invoices out. The process will be the same for cell phone tower properties.

Highway Commissioner's Report -

A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Pinnow. He provided a written overview of the Highway Dept. to all board members. An update of highway crew projects was provided, including the brushing work completed at the airport. Road construction on Hwy 77 will begin May 13th with a completion date of July 3rd. Funding for the roundabout was not approved at the state level.

A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Neumann to approve the existing route renewal requests for 34 routes outside the LCO boundaries. Motion carried without negative vote.

A 2024 LCO temporary route request from Green Lake to Gurno Road on Hwy, NN was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Neuman to approve this request; second by Mr. Helwig. Motion carried without negative vote.

A list of routes within the LCO Tribal Boundaries was presented for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Van Etten; second by Mr. Helwig to approve these route requests. Motion carried without negative vote.

A list of 19 new routes outside the LCO boundary was presented for consideration. Mr. Pinnow advised that the data seemed compatible for ATV/UTV use. Sheriff Mrotek presented information on safety concerns that he gathered from state systems. Three years of in-house data was collected from 2020 to date for all calls for ATV/UTVs which totaled 101; for bicycles, the call total was 188 for the same time period. A motion was made by Mr. Neuman to approve all routes requested and forward to County Board; second by Mr. Van Etten. Motion carried with one "nay" vote from Mr. Helwig. It should be noted that the routes can be revoked by the Highway Commissioner at any point.

Courtroom Remodeling Update -

The date for the ribbon cutting is May 16th at 5:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Restroom Facilities at the Ojibwe Ambulance Station -

Mr. Kinsley advised that the Ojibwe building has only one building that was built to state approved building plans at the time of construction. We sometimes have 2-3 people working out of the building so alternatives for the bathroom situation are being sought.

Closed Session -

At 7:36 pm a motion was made by Mr. Van Etten; second by Mr. Neumann to enter closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) to enter closed session for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Acquisition of property. A roll call vote was taken and carried 5:0 with "yes" votes from Kinsley, Van Etten, Neumann, Helwig, and Bisonette.

A motion was made by Mr. Van Etten at 7:46 pm to enter open session; second by Mr. Neumann. Motion carried without negative vote.

Future Agenda Items –

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings –

Adjournment: 7:48 pm

Next Meeting: June 12, 2024 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk