

**Minutes of the May 13, 2024 meeting of the Sawyer County
Administration Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- ☒ Chair: **Ron Kinsley**
- ☒ Vice Chair: Ron Buckholtz
- ☐ Tom Duffy - excused
- ☒ John Righeimer
- ☒ Stacey Hessel – left the meeting at 11:30 am

Others Present:

Andy Albarado	Mike Coleson-virtual
Lynn Fitch	Linda Zillmer
Gary Elliott	Joey Johnson @ 10:45 am

Call to Order –Chair Ron Kinsley called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

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

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 11, 2024

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Buckholtz
Motion carried without negative vote.

Second by: Ms. Hessel

Veterans Service Department Report -

A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Elliott. Call and contact volume for April was included. There have been 67 disability claims submitted to date, receiving \$98,284.23 for claims decided in the Veterans' favor. Coffee and Conversation with Gary and Nicole is held every 1st Wednesday of the month. He provided a review of how veterans in our county receive health services and have to travel to Minneapolis for this care. In 2022, the office was able to return \$22M in veteran benefits to the County.

Van Services Update – Sharing drivers as part-time employees from Namekagon Transit may be an option to replace the van drivers who have left.

Information Technology Department Report -

A written report was provided. A time tracking system has been implemented to help follow projects and staff activities. A list of pending projects and those underway was included in the report. A list of IT department requests was included and there were 145 requests during the month of April. He reviewed with the Committee the cyber-security measures we have in place.

Human Resources Report -

No update at this time.

County Clerk Department Report -

A written report was provided of counter activity and general office updates. Ms. Fitch reviewed the components of the report and county activity. This week is Municipal Clerk Week, showing appreciation for all they do for the community.

Public Records Request Update – A written report was provided.

County Administrator's Report –

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is at 4:00 pm on Thursday, May 16th. The Code Enforcement Officer has been in training and is busy with many animal control incidents. We are advertising for a legal assistant position at the DA's office. We added a paramedic and nurse for ambulance positions. The grievance that has been filed through the Sheriff's Department held its arbitration meeting, after which briefs are being filed. Potentially, we can have a decision on that conclusion by the end of June. Mr. Albarado reviewed activities at the airport. A broadband BEAD program meeting was recently held and additional funding will likely become available. They have had communication with LCO regarding the ATV/UTV routes and the initial CJCC MOU had originally been denied by the TGB. Recent word indicates, they may reconsider and decide to jointly fund JusticePoint through the MOU. An MOU has been developed to put the Search and Rescue volunteers under the purview of the County. The radio network for EMS communications needs upgrading which will cost an estimated \$2M+. They are looking at establishing a county satellite office in Winter to offer selected services.

Senior Center Update --

A written report was provided. Ms. Joey Johnson advised that Winter has had 667 meals delivered year-to-date. They are adding 2-3 individuals each month for the home delivered meal program for a total of over 60,000/year. The trend is that 70% of meals provided will be home-delivered versus congregate meals.

Future Agenda Items – Resolutions for WCA Meeting

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings

Adjournment – 11:35 am

Next Meeting: June 13, 2024 **Time:** 10:00 am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk