

**Minutes of the July 18, 2024, meeting of the Sawyer County
Board of Supervisors Organizational Meeting
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



Voting Committee Members Present (X)	Roll Call	District	Wards
☒ Steve Kariainen		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-vir.		03	T Hayward W-1 & 2
☒ Stacey Hessel		04	T Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Randy Neumann		05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
☐ Marc D. Helwig		06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
☐ Thomas W. Duffy		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
☒ Jeff Hoehne		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
☒ John Suralski		15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance— Chair Kinsley 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.

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: June 20, 2024

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

Motion carried without negative vote.

Appointments -

ITBEC Replacement Appointment – Mindy Simons – Mr. Albarado advised that due to a retirement of Sherry Beckman, Mindy Simons is replacing her on this board. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Buckholtz. Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz advised that the committee approved remains extremely busy. Two new employees have begun training in the office.

Zoning District Map Amendment RZN #24-008 Rodney & Chyrl Pearson. Mr. Kozlowski presented the request that had been approved at the Zoning Committee meeting. It is unclear as to why this property was originally zoned as

Industrial-1. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve this request; second by Mr. Kariainen. Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Works Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that the July committee meeting was a tour of the airport and on county roads to view projects. No action was taken at this meeting.

Public Safety Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz provided a verbal update of department head updates. The Sheriff Department patrol calls decreased in the month of June, and they continue to try to recruit to fill empty positions. Our 911 call hang-ups increased over last year and training in the communications department continues. Call distribution for the entire county is being collected before we make any decisions regarding change in ambulance locations.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Suralski provided a review of the July meeting identifying department activities and updates. Timber sale volume is on target to meet revenue goals for the year. Class-1 E-bikes were approved to use CAMBA trails. Plans for the FishTrap Lake Dam project are beginning and they continue to monitor water levels at all other county dams.

Health and Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Ms. Wilson reported that a public hearing was held for the 2025 Budget hearing and there was no public comment provided. The Senior Resource Center is still looking for a cook, and they continue to fund raise. Polk County has reached out to encourage counties to draft resolutions to increase funding for mental health needs. Drug awareness training in the community continues and the School Pulse program will be in all schools in the county by this fall. We continue to determine how we can cover transport coverage for mental health payments. Out-of-home youth placements continue to increase in number and severity of cases.

Finance Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Righeimer provided a review. Mr. Righeimer advised that sales tax revenue was down for the month of June but July has been reported as very busy. CIP showed little June activity, and we are in the middle of the 2025 budget process with a preliminary proposed budget coming in August. Authority was given to Mr. Markgren to lock in up to \$3M in funds in a 12-month CD at current rates.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Righeimer provided a review. A letter of support was approved in favor of turning the Apostle Islands into a National Park. HLVCB reported a record year of room tax sales in 2023. The economic development corporation continues to look for land to build a housing project. The historical society is working on new display items at the building.

Outside Committee Updates --

Mr. Kariainen reported on the Indianhead Community Action Agency will be providing an orientation meeting. He also advised that he attended a conference call with NWWIB and NWCEP. The Executive Director of NWCEP provided an overview of their services and financial situation which was in part negatively affected by cuts in state funds. Ms. Hessel reported on a group of individuals who are holding a suicide awareness walk. Mr. Buckholtz will attend the Northern Waters Library meeting next month

County Administrator Report -

Mr. Albarado provided an update on the radio communications project involving Bug Tussel. A resolution approving the project revenue bond financing was included; this does not bind us to the project but allows us to continue with them as an option as part of our project. He then reviewed the project options and the presentations that have been shared at Public Safety, Finance and Administration Committee meetings. Included in the project are new tower site recommendations to increase coverage and a possible partnering with Bug Tussel to share their existing fiber

network services. We are comfortable in believing we will get the desired coverage we are seeking. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the Resolution and Notice of Intent with Bug Tussel; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

Resolution for Provision of short-term financial assistance for NWCEP - Mr. Albarado presented a request to provide a \$5,000 loan to NWCEP that would be due by the end of 2025. Five neighboring counties have already approved this same request. A motion was made by Mr. Righeimer; second by Ms. Wilson to approve this loan request. Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Records Request Fee – Mr. Albarado presented a proposed public records fee schedule and a Resolution to Adopt the schedule; documentation was included in the packet. He reviewed the specific fee areas and how they would be assessed for requests. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the fee schedule and Resolution. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Albarado provided a verbal review of his written report; the report is attached to the packet.

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Adjournment – 7: 59 pm

Next Meeting: August 15, 2024 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk