

**Minutes of the August 8, 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
- ☒ John Righeimer
- ☒ Stacey Hessel

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Gary Elliott
Rose Lillyroot

Others Present:

**Public Comment Speakers are
listed below:**

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: July 11, 2024

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

Second by: Ms. Hessel

Veterans Service Department Report -

A written report with the budget, and 2023 Annual Report were provided and reviewed. The office submitted 127 disability claims to date and has received retroactive payment of \$230,935.20 for claims decided in Veterans' favor. The office co-managed & hosted six individual group counseling sessions with the LaCrosse Vet Center. For the year 2023, the office received over \$24M in retroactive claims for veterans, according to the Annual Report.

Information Technology Department Report -

A written report of calls by department for the month of July was provided showing 86 requests responded to.

Human Resources Report -

A written report was provided. Ms. Lillyroot reported on the open positions at the County; we are seeing an increase in incoming applications. Regarding the grievance that has been ongoing, the arbitrator has ruled in favor of the County and the County is owed repayment of \$50,017.90 in wages and benefits paid out.

County Clerk Department Report -

Written reports were provided of counter activity and general office updates. Municipalities are ready for the August 13th Partisan Primary Election, and the NextRequest software is working well. Marriage license activity has increased for the summer months. The office is receiving alerts from the FBI and Intelligence Department regarding election interference attempts throughout the world.

Ordinance Addressing the Protection of County U Municipal Election Workers – Mr. Albarado presented a rough draft of the ordinance that would provide some financial penalties for disorderly conduct towards election officials.

Radio Communications Project Update -

Details of this project have been reviewed in previous meetings and will be coming to County Board in August.

Realistic Federal Definition of "Rural" -

Mr. Albarado presented a Resolution Supporting a Realistic Federal Definition of “Rural” that would go to our legislators encouraging them to adopt a more reasonable definition of rural that would make us and other small counties more eligible for funding programs. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to forward this Resolution to the full County Board. Motion carried without negative vote.

Outside Committee Updates -

No updates

County Administrator’s Report –

Mr. Albarado provided a verbal update – he reported that the TRH ad hoc meeting is addressing changes to the draft ordinance which will be sent back to committee. The airport Master Plan has not had an update recently, and he has started management contract discussions with Mr. Leslie. We are still short on paramedics in the ambulance service, and he continues to look at the Town of Round Lake ambulance location request. The State of Wisconsin has approved the BEAD funding project and we will now see which companies will be interested in applying for these funds. The Highway Commissioner has met with TGB and making inroads on joint projects. He presented a draft of the RFP for newspaper legal ads and/or official newspaper designation.

Future Agenda Items – Absentee Ballot Process

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings

Adjournment – 10:55 am

Next Meeting: September 12, 2024 **Time:** 10:00 am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk