Minutes of the August 15, 2024, meeting of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Organizational Meeting
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual

SAWYER COUNTY

Voting Committee Members Present (X)	Roll Call	District	Wards
☒ Steve Kariainen	Y	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5
☒ Kay Wilson	Y	02	T Lenroot W-2, T Round Lake W-1
☒ Tweed Shuman	Y	03	T Hayward W-1 & 2
☒ Stacey Hessel	Y	04	T Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Randy Neumann	Y	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
☒ Marc D. Helwig	Y	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
☒ Thomas W. Duffy	Y	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Marshal Savitski	Y	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
☒ Brian Bisonette	Y	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
☒ Chuck Van Etten	Y	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
☒ Jeff Hoehne	Y	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
☒ John Righeimer	abs	12	T Spider Lake, T Round Lake W-2, T Winter W-1
☒ Ron Kinsley	Y	13	T Hunter, T Radisson W-1, T-Ojibwa W-1, V Radisson
☒ Ron Buckholtz	Y	14	T Radisson W-2, T Ojibwa W-2, T Weirgor, V Exeland, T Meadowbrook
☒ John Suralski	Y	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 – Ben Kurtzweil, Linda Zillmer, Steve Beining

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: July 18, 2024
Motion to approve made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Ms. Hessel
Motion carried without negative vote.

Indianhead Community Action Agency – No Update

Zoning Committee -
Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz updated the Board on department approvals and busy activity.

Zoning District Map Amendment RZN #24-009 David Freund to rezone approximately 2.01 acres from RR-1 to C-1. This was presented by Mr. Buckholtz for consideration, as it was approved at Committee level and at the Town of Hayward. A motion was made by Mr. Shuman; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning District Map Amendment RZN #24-010 John Badagliacco to rezone approximately 3.25 acres of A-2 and 1.44 of RR-1 to RR-2. This was presented by Mr. Buckholtz for consideration, as it was approved at Committee level and at Town of Hunter. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Shuman. Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Works Committee --
Chair Report – Mr. Helwig reviewed the highlights of the August committee meeting. The courthouse building has been undergoing painting on the outside. Highway Department crew projects were identified. Mowing operations still continue throughout the county.

Mr. Albarado introduce a Resolution – Safe Streets 4 All on behalf of the Public Works Committee which is a template resolution provided by the Safe Streets 4 All program in order to receive grant funds. We would be partnering with LCO for a safety plan, as well as with Rusk and Washburn Counties. The public will have input on this plan through a questionnaire that would be compiled toward the end of the year. A motion was by Mr. Helwig to approve the resolution as presented; second by Mr. Shuman. Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Safety Committee --
Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz provided a review of the August meeting. JusticePoint staff and county staff have been successful in reducing the jail population to date. Patrol volume calls increased for the month but were still less than the previous year. There is an increase in the number of dogs impounded.

Public Safety Radio Communication Presentation (GenComm & BugTussel) – Mr. Albarado introduced the radio network assessment and potential means to improve service to all areas of the county. There are two current options which include a project with GenComm and the other is a combination of GenComm/BugTussel equipment and service. GenComm representative, Gary Pelletier, reviewed the Simulcast Enhancement Options presentation. Mitchel Olson from BugTussel provided an overview of the company origins and proposed bond and service options. Legal counsel provided a review of funding ramifications, paydown, and shared risk between the ten counties involved. Mr. Righeimer left the meeting at 8:00 pm. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Shuman to move ahead with building a new public safety network. Motion carried without negative vote.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee -
Chair Report – Mr. Suralski provided a review of the August meeting. Mr. Buckholtz left the meeting at 8:07 pm and returned at 8:09 pm. Water levels are being monitored by staff on the seven county-owned dams.

Health and Human Services Board --
Chair Report – Ms. Wilson reported on the August meeting highlights. The HHS staff will have a training day on November 20th when the department will be closed part of the day. Behavior health care benefits are offered on a limited basis due to staff shortages.

Resolution – Mental Health – requesting the State of Wisconsin provides additional funding to cover the non-federal share of MA CSP and crisis services to support mental health care costs for counties. A motion was made by Mr. Shuman to approve the resolution as presented; second by Mr. Helwig. A roll call vote was taken and passed 14-0 without negative vote.

Finance Committee -
Chair Report – Ms. Hessel provided a review of the August meeting. Mr. Shuman left the meeting at 8:16 and returned at 8:18 pm. Interest earned YTD is $629,000+.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee --
Chair Report – Ms. Hessel provided a review. The County Fair is going on this weekend. The new HLVCB director, Mindy Simons introduced her self to the committee and shared her goals. There were over 2,000 ATV survey respondents compiled on trails in the area. Enbridge and Arclin are donating funds to the SC/LCO EDC.

County Clerk Update for November Election -
County Clerk Fitch provided documentation from the FBI and CISA regarding threats that pertain to upcoming elections

County Administrator Report -
Mr. Albarado provided a written report and verbal recap. He presented a resolution to support a realistic federal definition of "rural" which has come through many counties already. This would lower the population requirement from 200,000 to 20,000 for consideration of grant funds. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Van Etten to approve this resolution. Motion carried without negative vote.

Board Appointed Committee Updates --
Mr. Shuman provided a review of the Namekagon Transit update. The CJCC committee can report a decline in the jail population. Distribution of Narcan is on the rise. Mr. Savitski invited all to the County Fair. Mr. Kariainen provided a review of ICAA and NWCEP meetings.

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Adjournment – 8:37 pm

Next Meeting: September 19, 2024 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk