

**Minutes of the October 10, 2024 meeting of the Sawyer County
Finance Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- ☒ Chair: John Righeimer
- ☒ Vice Chair: Stacey Hessel
- ☐ Marc Helwig
- ☒ Tom Duffy
- ☐ Jeff Hoehne excused

Others Present:

Andy Albarado	Mindy Simons
Liz Klein	Cheryl Treland
Mike Markgren	
Ron Kinsley	
Ron Buckholtz	

Call to Order – Chair Righeimer called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

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

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: August 8, 2024

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

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: September 12, 2024

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

Treasurer's Report - No report was provided

Namekagon Transit Update - Not present

HLVCB Update –

Cheryl Treland presented a Timeline for Tourism Development in Sawyer County report, from 1934 to the present time. The HLVCB's mission is to increase the number of visitors to the Hayward Lakes area. The umbrella style organization partners with organizations throughout the county to promote our unique resources. Ms. Treland noted the trend to divide resorts into condos. Mr. Albarado noted that the barrier to increased tourism growth in the county is labor, affected by a lack of affordable housing and transportation.

Finance Department Report -

Sales Tax Distribution – A written report was provided. Sales tax revenues have decreased slightly in the county and across the state in the past month.

2024 Budget Updates – Revenues and expenses are on track, variables are grant driven.

2025 Proposed Budget details were discussed. Investment interest rates are slightly down, net new construction is up 1.32%. The FTE count will increase by 1.5 net, with salaries step-adjusted for inflation. The 2025 Budget includes adjustments from the CIP and debt service funds to maintain the levy at a consistent rate.

Capital Improvement Plan Update – September CIP spending areas were IT, Maintenance and Sheriff's Department. 2025 CIP projects include cell towers and bridge work.

Investment Update -

Written reports were provided showing a total YTD interest earned of \$855,500.00 from all funds.

EMS-Ambulance -

A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Markgren. Ambulance calls by town were reviewed and the committee discussed the current shortage of paramedics and the viability of adding an ambulance to Round Lake. In a four-year comparison ambulance revenues are down, but the department is breaking even.

Future Agenda Items – None

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings –

Ms. Hessel and Mr. Buckholtz attended the WCA Conference. Mr. Buckholtz stated that found the legal seminars educational.

Adjournment – 9:59 am

Next Meeting: November 7, 2024

Time: 8:30 am

Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, Elected Officials Deputy