Minutes of the October 17, 2024, meeting of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Special Meeting
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual

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

2025 Budget Discussion –
Documents were included in the packet and presented by Mr. Markgren. He reviewed the Budget Presentation, the County Fee Schedule, the CIP Summary, Employee FTE, and 2025 Budget Hearing Grids. The resulting CIP debt issue is $1,638,460 with an estimated tax rate in 2025 of $2.46.

Public Hearing on 2025 Budget –
At this time, members of the public were given the opportunity to address the board to provide comments on the 2025 Budget. Public Comments – Doug Kurtzweil, Linda Zillmer, Mindy Simons, Benjamin Kurtzweil, Karrie Sabin.

Mr. Shuman made a motion to increase Namekagon Transit budget amount to $180,000; second by Mr. Suralski. A voice vote was taken and carried without negative vote. Budget Hearing ended at 7:10 pm. Mr. Shuman left the meeting at 7:14 pm and returned at 7:15 pm.

Public Comments – Mary Stuebe, Nancy Shryer, Ron Ullmer, Wayne Williamson, Ginny Chabek, Ben Kurtzweil, Doug Kurtzweil, Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: September 17, 2024
Motion to approve made by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Suralski
Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Works Committee --
Chair Report – Mr. Helwig provided a verbal update of the October Committee meeting identifying projects of the various reporting departments. Ms. Hessel left the meeting at 7:45 pm; returned at 7:46 pm.

Airport Master Plan Update – Recommended Development Alternative – Mr. Albarado advised that the consultant has developed an alternative layout of the airport for the future. There is a potential of shifting the runway, potential acquisition of property and expansion. The County owns the land where the airport resides and we are the sponsors, granted the authority to operate an airport in which we must adhere to FAA governance. Mike Dmyterko and Mr. Kemper spoke to some of the details of the revised Master Plan. Environmental analyses will be completed along the way for improvements that the County does approve in the future. Mr. Righeimer made a motion to move forward with the Recommended Development Plan Alternative; second by Mr. Neumann. A roll call vote was taken and carried 12:0.

Ron Kothals Hangar Sale – Resolution to Approve Assignment of Lease of Hangar to James Robert Fox – Mr. Albarado presented the Hangar 10-year lease option and the Resolution to assign the lease to Mr. James Robert Fox. Ms. Hessel made a motion to approve the lease extension request; second by Mr. Helwig. A voice vote carried without negative vote. The Resolution Waiving the Right of First Refusal and Approving assignment was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Shuman to approve the resolution; second by Mr. Van Etten. Motion carried without negative vote.

Airport Management Contract with Hayward Aviation – Mr. Albarado advised that the current contract is up for renewal at this time; he has been working with Mr. Leslie who would like to proceed with a 5-year extension of the current contract with the exception of a 10% increase in compensation for the first year then 2.5% for years 2-5. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the extension with the proposed compensation changes; second by Mr. Neumann. A voice vote was taken and carried with one negative vote from Mr. Shuman.

Health and Human Services Board --
Chair Report – Ms. Wilson provided a verbal report of the October Committee meeting. Mr. Scott Johnson was introduced as the new director of the medical facility. LCO will be developing their own TRH ordinance. Mr. Albarado will be working with local law enforcement to see if transport opportunities exist with LE staff.

Mr. Albarado briefly reviewed the process of the TRH Ordinance. A Resolution was available to Accept the Amendment to the Ordinance – Health and Human Services Chapter 14 – TRH and Short-term Rentals. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the Resolution Amendment that was presented; second by Ms. Wilson. A Roll Call vote was taken and carried 9:3 with "nay" votes from Van Etten, Savitski and Hoehne.

Public Safety Committee --
Chair Report – Mr. Helwig provided a verbal report of the October meeting. Mr. Righeimer and Mr. Van Etten left the meeting at 8:39 pm; returning at 8:42 pm.

Public Safety Radio Network and Resolution Authorizing Proceeding with Public Safety Radio System Improvements – Joint MOU Between LCO and Sawyer County Regarding CJCC – Mr. Albarado presented the resolution to move ahead with the public safety radio system as was originally proposed with GenComm at a budgeted cost of $2.75. Clerk Fitch left the meeting at 8:54 pm and returned at 8:55 pm. A motion was made by Mr. Savitski to send this back to Economic Development; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

Joint MOU with LCO – Mr. Albarado provided a revised MOU between LCO and Sawyer County to support CJCC. Changes include changing to 1-year agreement, to designate tribal member status be returned to monthly reports and to have JusticePoint make regular reports to TGB. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Hoehne to approve the MOU. Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee -
Chair Report – Mr. Shuman provided a verbal update with department statistics and activity.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee -
Chair Report – Mr. Suralski provided an update of the October meeting. Mr. Savitski left the meeting at 9:21 pm and returned at 9:24 pm

Resolution for AIS Authorization Grand – Aquatic Invasive Species – Mr. Albarado presented the resolution that would allow the zoning department to apply for DNR grant funds. A motion was made by Mr. Shuman to approve the resolution; second by Ms. Wilson. Motion carried without negative vote (Mr. Savitski was absent for this vote.)

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee --
Chair Report – Mr. Righeimer provided an update of committee member reports. Mr. Van Etten left the meeting at 9:24 pm and returned at 9:25 pm.

Finance Committee -
Chair Report – Mr. Righeimer provided an update. Sales tax revenues have decreased slightly and across the state for the past month.

Board Appointed Committee Updates -
Mr. Kariainen provided an update regarding the meeting with NWCEP. Mr. Shuman reported on the Namekagon Transit meeting.

County Administrator Report -
Mr. Albarado provided a written report and verbal recap.

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Adjournment – 9:37 pm

Next Meeting: November 12, 2024 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk