

**Minutes of the November 12, 2024, meeting of the Sawyer County
Board of Supervisors Special Meeting
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



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

Veterans' Service Commission Reappointment — Renee Brown — a motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the re-appointment; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

2025 Budget Discussion - Mr. Markgren reviewed the changes only since the presentations have been shared at numerous meetings previously. The \$15,000 additional funds for Namekagon was approved. Some 2026 CIP items were added to the 2025 CIP index since the radio communications system funds were removed until further decisions are made. The new total levy amount is \$14,872,693. Ms. Wilson requested an additional \$10,000 to the Hayward Weiss Library donation. Mr. Albarado reviewed all changes in the SC Courthouse fees schedule. The CIP summary, FTE county and 2025 grids were provided.

Public Hearing on 2025 Budget — Steve Beining, Donna Knuckey, Ann Larson — budget hearing concluded 6:53 pm

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: **October 17, 2024**

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Savitski

Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Comments - none

Finance Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Righeimer reported on the highlights of the November 7th Finance Committee meeting. Revenues and expenses are in line for 2024. Mr. Buckholtz left the meeting at 6:54 pm and returned at 6:55 pm. The Veteran's Honor Park proposal was presented at this meeting and a motion was made to approve; seconded and approved at Committee level.

2025 Budget Resolution – Mr. Markgren reviewed the two changes that would affect the proposed budget (the \$10,000 for the library for operating expenses (to be added to the levy) and the \$250,000 for the Honors' Park. A motion was made by Mr. Shuman to approve the \$10,000 for the Weiss Library and approve the budget resolution; second by Ms. Wilson. Motion carried 12:2 with "nay" votes from Hessel and Righeimer. A second roll call vote was taken and carried with "nay" votes from Hessel, Righeimer and Kinsley.

Resolution for CIP Borrowing - Mr. Markgren presented the resolution to approve a bank loan not to exceed by \$2,003,460. A motion was made by Mr. Righeimer; second by Mr. Helwig to approve this resolution. Motion carried without negative vote.

Allocating Funds for Veterans' Honor Park – Mr. Albarado presented this Resolution/request. The request was approved at the Finance Committee level using funds from the Community Development funds. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Helwig to approve the funds for the Veterans' Honor Park. Grant funds for reimbursement may be available to help fund the project. A voice vote was taken and passed 13:1 with a "nay" vote from Ms. Wilson.

Zoning Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz provided a review of the approvals at the November Zoning Committee.

Rezone Request #24-013 Brad & Wenda Whitacre – Mr. Kozlowski presented the rezone Case #24-013 in the Town of Meadowbrook for a small hobby farm. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Savitski. Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Works Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Helwig provided an update of the report-outs of department heads at the November meeting. Governor Evers stopped at the airport for a Hayward Hospital recognition. The highway commissioner will be using more brine on our roads than in the past.

Public Safety Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz reported on the activities of the November meeting. The jail population continues to decline.

Cooperative Tribal Law Enforcement Grant Resolution and Agreement – Mr. Albarado presented this agreement; it is a renewal item to help streamline the use of grant funds that we allow to go to LCO for their tribal animal control program. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the resolution; second by Mr. Buckholtz. Motion carried without negative vote.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Suralski provided a review of department head updates which included a petition to form a Callahan/Mud Lake District to save the Callahan dam. No action was taken at that meeting but a special meeting may be called. Six special events were approved for 2025.

Callahan/Mud Lake District Update – Mr. Albarado provided an update, reporting that the Board will need to decide in the near future regarding this petition request. The public hearing was held in November as the minimum number of petitions signed was achieved. Legal counsel is reviewing all petition items.

Health and Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Ms. Wilson provided a verbal report of the November meeting. Action items from the meeting are listed below. HHS staff will be having a staff meeting; and a retirement letter was received by Joe Bodo. It was noted that youth justice expenses are higher than normal.

Senior Resource Center DOT Grant Application – Mr. Albarado presented the annual 85.21 DOT grant resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Shuman; second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried without negative vote.

Tourist Rooming Housing Fees & Staffing Resolution – Mr. Albarado presented the proposed fee schedule for a TRH license. The fees are intended to pay for any additional staff required to perform duties as a result of the approved new ordinance. This would take effect January 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Shuman; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

Inpatient Behavioral Health Facility Resolution – Mr. Albarado presented the resolution to request State Legislators and the Governor to provide funding to establish an inpatient facility in northern Wisconsin so we could reduce fees. Mr. Helwig made a motion to approve the resolution; second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried without negative vote.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Righeimer provided an update of the November committee activity. There are some motorized trail closures expected due to upcoming hunting season.

County Administrator Report -

Hwy 63 Property Purchase Letter of Intent and Resolution – Mr. Albarado presented a Letter of Intent for Highway 63 Property Acquisition for \$154,977.80. A motion was made by Mr. Righeimer to approve the resolution; second by Ms. Hessel. A roll call vote to bring the resolution to the floor for discussion was made and carried 13:1 with a negative vote from Wilson. A roll call vote to approve the resolution was taken and carried 9:5 with “nay” votes from Wilson, Duffy, Helwig, Suralski and Shuman.

Mr. Albarado included a written report and reviewed the highlights with special attention to the radio communications progress to date.

Outside Committee Updates -

Mr. Shuman reported on the meeting with Namekagon Transit. Mr. Kinsley reported on the recognition of our veterans staff and Korean war veteran.

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Adjournment – 8:19 pm

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