

**Minutes of the February 13, 2025 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

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Liz Klein
Gary Elliot
Mike Coleson- Virtual

Call to Order –Chair Ron Kinsley called the meeting to order at 10: 00 am.

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

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: January 9, 2025

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

Second by: Mr. Buckholtz

County Board Appointments—

Motion to appoint Dale Magnuson Supervisor for District 15, to LWFR and Zoning Committees and Sawyer County & LCO Transit Commission by: Mr. Buckholtz **Second by:** Ms. Hessel
Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion to appoint Mr. Evans to Public Safety Committee and LCO Library Board by: Mr. Righeimer **Second by:** Ms. Hessel
Motion carried without negative vote.

2025-2030 County Library Plan—

Mr. Albarado explained the need for a committee to develop the 2025-2030 County Library Plan. The Resolution was approved by the Economic Development & UW Extension Committee. Mr. Albarado recommended the following individuals for appointment to the Library Planning Committee:

Ron Buchholtz – Northern Waters Library Service
Diane DeLong – Northern Waters Library Service
Jim Evans – LCO Library Board
Kay Wilson – Sherman / Weiss Library Board
Ron Buchholtz – Winter Library Board
Caryl Pfaff – LCO Library Director
Ann Larson – Sherman / Weiss Library Director
Donna Knuckey – Winter Library Director
County Administrator – Advisor
Director Northern Waters Library Service - Advisor

Motion to approve the Resolution to Establish a Library Planning Committee and appoint the members as presented by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Righeimer.
Motion carried without negative vote.

Veterans Honor Park –

No updates- still looking for land. Ms. Hessel has been speaking to Veterans, Mr. Elliot of Veterans Services will create a survey and assist the effort to gather input from area Veterans.

Veterans Service Department Report -

A written report of department activity and budget for January 2024 and 2023 were reviewed and compared by Mr. Elliot.

Mr. Elliot delivered Valentines the office collected for Veterans- they were received with appreciation.

Mr. Kinsley attended the monthly Coffee and Conversation and was very impressed.

Information Technology Department Report -

Mr. Coleson provided a written report.

Human Resources Report -

A written report was provided.

County Clerk Report -

Written reports were provided and reviewed by Ms. Klein. The majority of Public Records requests continue to be for the Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Klein addressed concerns about the County's Elections Relier MOU which renews March 31. The number of town clerks relying on the County to provide WisVote entry and election reconciliation, training, and other responsibilities continues to increase and is now at 13 out of 21, with the potential to see several more added after April. Ms. Klein stated the idea was to help clerks until they were trained in WisVote, and that is the direction the County should move in. The electors are paying twice for services. The committee asked for a follow up report on this issue.

Resolution- Requesting Legislative Changes to Lake District Statute—

Mr. Albarado discussed suggestions that arose following the Lake District webinar, and Sawyer County is proposing several changes to the current statute. The proposed changes would seek to limit the length of time and scope of Lake Districts as a taxation entity by adding conditions, time limits and oversight to the statute.

Motion to approve the Resolution Requesting Legislative Changes to Lake District Statute by: Mr. Righeimer

Second by: Mr. Duffy.

Motion carried without negative vote.

County Administrator's Report –

Mr. Albarado provided information on County Strategic Planning; a presentation by UW Extension Ariga Grigorian will be made at the full County Board meeting on February 20. The County Board would meet with Ms. Grigorian and work on the implementation of a variety of directional steps to create a sound Strategic Plan with a five-year scope.

The Birkie will be coming through on Main Street and there is a jury trial set for Thursday so parking will be a challenge. Law Enforcement staffing is good. HR is interviewing candidates for four HHS LTE positions. The Mental Health Therapist and Real Property Lister positions are still open. Ambulance crews are staffed. The CJCC-LCO MOU has expired and needs to be renewed. Public Safety is back to the October GenComm Radio Network plan and the County is looking for towers to lease.

Future issues include looking at how much the County is subsidizing the state court and conservation systems and seeing increased state assistance to cover costs. News of the Lake District has reached members of the state legislature. There is a need to amend County Board Policy regarding signing up/attending seminars and the way written comments are handled when submitted in lieu of public comment.

Board Appointed Committee Updates – None

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings - None

Future Agenda Items- Elections Relier MOU follow up

Adjournment – 11:17 am

Next Meeting: March 13, 2025

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk