

SAWYER
COUNTY

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

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: January 16, 2025

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

Motion carried without negative vote.

Strategic Planning Presentation-

Ariga Grigorian gave a presentation on upcoming work sessions for the county board to prepare a 5 year strategic plan. Steps are to set a mission and vision statement, outline processes and goals, identify potential threats and establish planning objectives. These sessions will tentatively start in March and lead into the 2026 Budget planning timeframe.

Zoning Committee -

Mr. Buckholtz gave a brief review of zoning and Multi-Dwelling Committee meetings.

Mr. Kozlowski presented a request for Case #25-001, Longtine & Anderson Enterprises LLC- Request of rezone 1,299 sq. ft. from Residential-One (R-1) to Commercial-One (C-1) and 1,572 sq. ft. from C-1 to R-1.

Motion to approve Resolution to Amend Sawyer County Official Zoning Map- Case RZN #25-001, Longtine & Anderson made by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Savitski Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Kozlowski presented a Zone District Map Amendment for Case #25-003, owner William & Ashley Strabel, request to rezone 1.25 acres from Residential One (R-1) to Commercial-One (C-1). Atty. Roeker addressed the legal issues related to a Resolution of Disapproval made by Town of Hayward which requires the county to deny the rezone. The applicants must wait 12 months to reapply.

Motion to deny Resolution to Amend Sawyer County Official Zoning Map- Case RZN #25-003, William & Ashley Strabel by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Neumann Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Works Committee --

Mr. Kinsley stated that the county maintenance department is doing an excellent job and reported that the February 12 , 2025 Public Works covered updates on maintenance, the airport and the highway department.

Mr. Albarado stated that it is time to reappoint Commissioner Pinnow and presented a **Resolution for an Ordinance Establishing the Term of the Sawyer County Highway Commissioner**. The provisions were discussed.

Motion to approve the Resolution as presented by: Mr. Van Etten Second by: Mr. Neumann Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Safety Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz shared updates from the Public Safety Committee meeting.

Sawyer County Radio Proposal—

The September GenComm proposal was provided for review. The proposed cost is \$2.825 million for 90% coverage of the county. Alternative options Rapid Radios and Starlink were mentioned. Mr. Pelletier from GenComm stated that LTE communications are not suitable as a primary system for emergency communications.

Motion to approve Resolution- Proceeding with Public Safety Radio System by:

Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Evans Motion carried with Mr. Van Etten and Mr. Neumann opposed.

Proposed amendments to the Sawyer County Animal Ordinance to remove enforcement of cats was approved on a motion by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Hoehne Motion carried with Ms. Wilson opposed.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee -

Chair report- Mr. Kariainen reported on County, DNR, and USFS projects and timber sales, oak wilt, and 2024 Wildlife Damage claims. The LWFR Committee approved Town of Winter's request for assistance to purchase a temporary bridge.

Health and Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Ms. Wilson provided a report of the February 11, 2025 HHS meeting with information and statistics on the HHS programs and services the county is providing to the public.

Finance Report -

Mr. Righeimer provided an update of the February 13, 2025 Finance Committee meeting: interest revenues started to fall in January, the Ampersand CD was a good investment choice, ambulance billing aging report is at 36%. The Finance Committee approved Town of Winter's request for assistance to purchase a temporary bridge.

Mr. Albarado presented information about the Thornapple Grade bridge, which was condemned and closed and will take 3-5 years to replace. The bridge provides access to a large tract of County forest crop and public recreational use of county land. Town of Winter has requested aid to purchase a temporary bridge structure: the total cost is \$140,000 for the bridge, transport and setting.

The county could purchase the bridge for \$85,000 and reuse it in the future for other locations, lease it out to neighboring counties, or use it to access hard to reach logging areas.

Motion to approve Resolution- Allocating Funds and Approving Purchase of a Temporary Bridge Structure to Assist Town of Winter by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Hoehne
Motion carried without negative vote.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee –

Chair report- Mr. Righeimer presented updates from the recent committee meetings.

Mr. Albarado stated that every five years the county is required to adopt a library plan. Sawyer County does not have a committee to review and adopt a library plan and recommends establishing a committee and appointing eight members from the current list as presented.

Motion to approve Resolution- Establishing a County Library Planning Committee and appoint the members as presented by: Mr. Evans Second by: Mr. Neumann
Motion carried without negative vote.

Fiber Presentation--

The board discussed the Bertram Communications proposal.

Motion to approve a BEAD Endorsement for Bertram Communications by: Mr. Buckholtz
Second by: Mr. Righeimer
Motion carried without negative vote.

County Administrator Report -

Mr. Albarado covered the items in the Administration committee report throughout the meeting. He reviewed the CJCC Meeting and stated that the CJCC-LCO MOU has expired and needs to be renewed.

After viewing the WCA Lake District webinar, some ideas for changes to the Wisconsin statutes were written into a Resolution: suggestions to set limits on the scope and duration of lake districts and allow for more oversight may improve the process of boards who have to consider creating lake districts in the future. This Resolution and

proposed changes does not affect the current lake district consideration; Mr. Albarado stated it may take several years before the legislature would act on the suggestions.

Motion to approve Resolution- Requesting Legislative Changes to Lake District Statute

Motion by: Mr. Righeimer Second by: Ms. Hessel

Motion carried without negative vote.

Board Appointed Committee Updates –

Mr. Buckholtz gave a Namekagon Transit update and announced a new day trip route from Loretta-Draper to Rice Lake.

Mr. Kariainen reported on CEP and Indianhead Community Action Agency committees. He is currently serving on the Strategic Planning, Insurance, Community Needs Assessment and Finance committees, and will attend the next meeting on February 24th.

Ms. Wilson stated that the Sherman Weiss library has a \$32,000 deficit and is planning fundraisers this summer.

Ms. Wilson and Mr. Buckholts are on the Housing Authority committee: the Housing Authority owns 82 properties and manages 13. They have three openings, with a one year waiting list.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings-

Mr. Kinsley stated that the County receives emails from citizens asking them to be read at the meeting: the Clerk has the letters on file in the Clerk's office.

Mr. Kinsley asked the Clerk to read the names:

Scott Schultz, opposition to the Strabel rezone; Arv and Carol Olson- Support for Callahan and Mud Lake District;

Boudreau Family Trust- Support for Callahan and Mud Lake District; Lake District Organizing Committee- Support for Callahan and Mud Lake District.

Letters received have been uploaded to the Sawyer County website under Zoning-Conservation- Lake District.

Mr. Albarado stated that the letters are forwarded to the board and there is no verbatim record to read them into.

Future Agenda Items- Lake District will be on March agenda and on the LWFR March agenda

Adjournment – 8:44 pm

Next Meeting: March 20, 2025 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk