Minutes of the April 15, 2025 Meeting of the
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual

Voting Committee Members Present (X) Roll Call	District	Wards
☒ Steve Kariainen	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5
☒ Kay Wilson	02	T Lenroot W-2, T Round Lake W-1
☐ Tweed Shuman- Absent	03	T Hayward W-1 & 2
☒ Stacey Hessel	04	T Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Randy Neumann	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
☒ Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
☒ Thomas W. Duffy	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Marshal Savitski	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
☒ Jim Evans	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
☒ Chuck Van Etten	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
☒ Jeff Hoehne	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
☒ John Righeimer	12	T Spider Lake, T Round Lake W-2, T Winter W-1
☒ Ron Kinsley	13	T Hunter, T Radisson W-1, T-Ojibwa W-1, V Radisson
☒ Ron Buckholtz	14	T Radisson W-2, T Ojibwa W-2, T Weirgor, V Exeland, T Meadowbrook
☒ Dale Magnuson	15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter

Also present: Andy Albarado, Liz Klein, Jay Kozlowski, Mike Markgren, Julia Lyons, John Froemel-virtual, Rachel Thompson-virtual, Dale Knapp

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 – Set

Public Comments – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: March 20, 2025
Motion to approve made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Buckholtz
Motion carried without negative vote.

Recognition—
Outgoing County Administrator Andy Albarado was recognized for his service to Sawyer County.

Forward Analytics Presentation—Dale Knapp presented information to the board on Sawyer County demographics and statistics for use in the upcoming work on the strategic plan. Areas of future concern for the county are aging population, lack of affordable housing, and workforce challenges.

Zoning Committee—
Mr. Buckholtz gave the chair report on recent zoning committee cases.

Resolution to amend Sawyer County Official Zoning Map for RZN #25-004 Matthew Kormann and Steve & Ann Kormann was approved on a motion by : Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Hoehne
Motion carried without negative vote.

Resolution to amend Sawyer County Official Zoning Map for RZN #25-001 Eric & Cheryl Wilson was approved on a motion by: Mr. Righeimer Second by: Mr. Evans
Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Works Committee—
Mr. Helwig gave the Public Works Committee report. Mr. Kinsley stated that the county road bans will be lifted April 21.

Public Safety Report—
Mr. Buckholtz gave the Public Safety Committee Report.

The 2025 Opioid Settlement Funds were reviewed by Mr. Albarado and Ms. Lyons and the proposed 2025 Budget was approved on a motion by: Mr. Helwig Second by: Mr. Savitski
Motion carried without negative vote.

LWFRC Report—
Mr. Kariainen gave the LWFRC Committee report.

A Resolution for 2025 Recreational Trail Aids was approved on a motion by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Savitski
Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Albarado updated the board on a class action lawsuit filed against all counties in Wisconsin and subsequent updates proposed to the tax-deeded lands ordinance.

A proposed amendment to Sawyer County Ordinance on Tax-Deeded Lands was reviewed, discussed and approved on a motion by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Kariainen
Motion carried without negative vote.

Health and Human Services Board --
Ms. Wilson gave the HHS Committee report.
Ms. Lyons presented proposed amendments to the 2025 HHS Fee schedule.

A Resolution to Amend the Sawyer County Health and Human Services 2025 fee schedule was approved on a motion by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Evans
Motion carried without negative vote.

The Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan prepared by Public Health in collaboration with Tamarack Health were provided to the board.

Finance Report -
Mr. Righeimer provided an update of County finances and department budgets. Mr. Markgren explained a proposal to assign dental funds for future use.

Motion to approve a Resolution to Assign Fund Balance by: Mr. Righeimer Second by: Mr. Savitski

Motion carried without negative vote.
Mr. Albarado reviewed the Public Safety Radio System proposal and pricing from GenComm and stated that the project will be funded by debt service. Mr. Pelletier from GenComm confirmed the information. Markgren presented two 10-year debt service levy options; the final decision on funding will come at a later date.

A Resolution to Approve and Finance the Public Safety Radio System proposal was approved on a motion by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Helwig
Motion carried without negative vote.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee—
Mr. Righeimer gave the Economic Development and UW Extension Committee report.
The County Library Planning Committee met and reviewed the proposed plan, took public input at a public hearing, and presented a revised proposal before the board for adoption.

The 2025-2030 Sawyer County Library Plan was reviewed and discussed.

A motion to approve a Resolution to Adopt the Sawyer County 2025-2030 Library Service Plan was made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Ms. Wilson
Motion carried without negative vote.

County Administrator Report—
Mr. Albarado provided his last County Administrator report to the board, covering personnel, legal, Airport, ambulance, broadband, LCO, CJCC, contracts for service, facilities, the Public Safety Radio Network, carbon credits, cell phone tower leases, economic development, the county budget process, the state budget, TRH ordinance, strategic planning, and the County Administrator transition.

A County Administrator and Department Head Succession Policy was proposed by Mr. Albarado and discussed.

Motion to adopt the proposed County Administrator and Department Head Succession Policy was made by: Mr. Righeimer Second by: Mr. Buckholtz
Motion carried without negative vote.

Appointment of Interim County Administrator(s)—
Mr. Kinsley and the Administration Committee recommended appointing Mike Markgren and Rose Lillyroot Joint Interim Administrators with compensation set at $50 for administrative work.

Motion to approve the appointment of Mike Markgren and Rose Lillyroot Joint Interim Administrators with compensation set at $50 for administrative work by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Duffy
Motion carried without negative vote.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings- None

Board Appointed Committee Updates – Mr. Kariainen reported receiving an email that CEP may be affected by federal funding cuts.
Mr. Kinsley outlined the PAA recruitment timeline with special meeting dates planned, and reminded the board members to let someone know if they will be absent for meetings.

Future Agenda Items- CJCC Presentation

Adjournment – 8:22 pm
Next meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2025 Time: 6:30pm Location Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk