

**Minutes of the February 13, 2025 Meeting of the Sawyer County
Finance Committee
of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- ☒ Chair: John Righeimer
- ☒ Vice Chair: Stacey Hessel
- ☒ Marc Helwig
- ☒ Tom Duffy
- ☒ Jeff Hoehne

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Liz Klein
Mike Markgren
Ron Kinsley
Ron Buckholtz
Brian Lehner

Call to Order – Chair Righeimer called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

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

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: January 9, 2025

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Ms. Hessel

Motion carried without negative vote.

Treasurer's Report –

Mr. Lehner provided a written report: 42 parcels will enter the INREM process, January and February tax settlements have been in progress since January.

Town of Winter- Request for Assistance for a Temporary Bridge-

Mr. Albarado explained the Thornapple Grade bridge closure and the impact on the county forest crop and recreational traffic for 3-5 years. A temporary bridge structure can be purchased for \$85,000, transported and set for an additional \$55,000 to be paid by Town of Winter. The county could purchase the bridge and reuse it in the future over a stream, to access logging areas, or lease it to neighboring counties. Funds are available in the Forestry budget from excess stumpage revenues in 2024.

Motion to approve a Resolution to purchase the temporary bridge for \$85,000 and move forward to the County Board by: Mr. Righeimer Second by: Mr. Hoehne

Motion carried without negative vote.

Finance Department Report -

Written reports on sales tax revenues, the 2024 Budget Performance Report, and December CIP spending were provided and reviewed by Mr. Markgren. HHS and Highway spending were over budget in 2024 and need funding from the general fund. The 2025 Budget was adjusted to anticipate increased expenses.

Investment Update -

Mr. Markgren reviewed written reports showing interest earned on the County's accounts. Rates started to fall in January but are still good. The Ampersand CD is yielding good interest returns.

CIP Purchases-

A new ambulance, the email migration project and Sheriff's Dept. taser upgrade project are recent CIP expenses.

Legal Fees by Department-

Zoning and general government saw the largest outlay in legal fees in 2024.

EMS-Ambulance -

Mr. Markgren reviewed written reports on Ambulance billing. The county continues to see about 36% collection rate in the aging report. Detailed statistics were reviewed. The new ambulance billing company, EMS MC, will be providing an improved report starting next month.

Board Appointed Committee Updates - None**Future Agenda Items – None****Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings – None****Adjournment – 9:10 am**

Next Meeting- March 13, 2025

Time: 8:30 am

Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk