

**Minutes of the March 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- Virtual
- ☒ Stacey Hessel

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Liz Klein
Gary Elliot
Nicole Clapero- Virtual
Rose Lillyroot
Jon Hochkammer- 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 met. Roll Call taken; quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: February 13, 2025

Motion to approve by: Mr. Duffy

Second by: Ms. Hessel

Motion carried without negative vote.

County Clerk Report-

Ms. Klein summarized the NextRequest public records requests report.

67 dog licenses were issued in February, marriage licenses are slow, Act 235 may require redactions in plat books on hand, Relier MOUs will be discussed with municipal clerks after the April election: training for WisVote absentee entry is a starting point to encourage clerks to become more independent with elections.

Veterans Service Office Report -

Mr. Elliot provided a written report of department activity and results of the Veterans Memorial survey he conducted: votes were split on the type of memorial, the location favored was Hayward. Mr. Elliot reported that no services have been cut and veterans may see changes to the VA allowing them to seek care from local providers going forward.

Information Technology Department Report -

Mr. Coleson provided a written report. Mr. Albarado reported that IT has been working on preparations for ACT 235 and the email domain merge.

Human Resources Report -

A written report was provided. Ms. Lillyroot reported an uptick in employment applications received

County Administrator Report—

Mr. Albarado reported on an ordinance presented to LWFRS regarding Tax Deed/Foreclosure Process. All 72 Wisconsin counties have been sued following the Tyler v. Hennepin Supreme Court ruling. LWFRS made no changes to the proposed Lake District boundaries; the County Board may remove parcels when considering the Lake District creation.

Large open record requests on the Callahan dam and the Opioid Settlement fund were received and under review.

Airport runway contracts are signed and the 30 business day work begins within 10 days of the road ban lift. Funds for snow removal equipment are approved with \$50,000 paid by BOA and \$9-12,000 paid by the county. Work continues on the Airport Master Plan, waiting for the Airport Layout Plan to be completed to move forward.

Edgewater and Sand Lake seeking removal from the Sawyer County Levy to use Birchwood Four Corners was discussed: it is not an option to remove individual towns from county ambulance service and levy. Seven towns are exploring alternative services through an IPG grant and the consultant has been in contact with the county for information.

Broadband BEAD applications were submitted; the new federal administration may view satellite as equal to fiber broadband which may affect government funding going forward.

CJCC is looking at renewing the Sawyer-LCO MOU which has expired.

Courthouse building projects are underway to create space for Justice Point and build a wall in the clerk's office.

Work with GenComm continues on the Public Safety Radio Network- there is no update on the WOJB tower.

Carbon credits are 3-4 months from sale. Neighboring counties are starting to see revenues come in.

Strategic planning may be delayed one month until Dale Knapp from Forward Analytics speaks to the County Board in April.

Consider County Administrator Replacement Process--

Mr. Kinsley presented Mr. Albarado's resignation letter: he has taken a position in Chippewa County and his last day is April 24, 2025.

Closed Session

At 10:57 am, a motion to enter closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(e), "[d]eliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session," to wit, for purposes of considering entering into a contract with Public Administrator Associates (PAA) and discussion of possible terms and negotiation that required a closed session to ensure the County's competitive and bargaining position" was made by: Mr.

Buckholtz Second by: Ms. Hessel

Roll call vote taken: Mr. Kinsley aye, Mr. Buckholtz aye, Mr. Duffy aye, Mr. Righeimer aye, Ms. Hessel aye; motion carried.

**At 12:07 pm the committee reconvened in open session on a motion by Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Duffy
Motion carried without negative vote.**

**Motion to approve the PAA contract and send to County Board by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Righeimer
Motion carried without negative vote.**

Board Appointed Committee Updates – Mr. Buckholtz has an upcoming Norther Waters Library meeting

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings – None

Future Agenda Items- Closed session- compensation for Interim Administrator

Adjournment – 12:09 pm

Next Meeting: April 10, 2025

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk