

**Minutes of the July 17, 2025 Meeting of the
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



Voting Committee Members Present (X)	Roll Call	Dis- tric- t	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	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- Excused	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: Mike Markgren, Liz Klein, Doug Mrotek, Joe Sajdera, Greg Ripczinski, Nicole Ripczinski, Jay Kozlowski, John Pinnow-virtual, Atty. Rebecca Roeker- virtual

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 – Adam Bodenschatz, Joan Cervenka, Steve Bodenschatz, Don Robinson, Linda Zillmer

Sheriff's Department Recognition—

Sheriff Mrotek recognized Deputy Mathias Halbur, Deputy Jordan Price, Sgt. Kevin Gillis, Sgt. Casey Culhane, Deputy Dennis Nelson, and Detective Mike Simpson for their exemplary work; citizen Stephen Murphy received the Community Service Award for his role in a life-saving accident.

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: June 19, 2025

Motion to approve by: Mr. Buckholtz

Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee –

Mr. Buckholtz reported that the committee heard five CUP cases with four approved and one tabled last month; on July 18 the committee is considering a solar moratorium and multi-dwelling amendments. The department has issued 310 LUPs this year to date, an increase from 2024.

Amendment to Sawyer County Code of Ordinances- Appendix D- Section 2.0—

Mr. Kozlowski gave the background on the proposed amendment and its path through committee and towns; an official Public Hearing was held in June and the amendment was approved by the Zoning Committee. The proposed amendment defines Camping Cabin and Park Model Trailer and increases the allowable size from 300sf to 400sf, imposes a 30% limit of total permitted sites for camping cabins and park models within a campground, removes the prohibition on water, gas and sewer to camping cabins, and allows a 16ft height and 4" poured slab under camping cabins.

Discussion by board and Atty. Roeker followed. Atty. Roeker approved taking action on the item at this meeting after reviewing the agenda and attachments.

Motion to approve the Zoning Ordinance Amendment *without the 30% limitation on camping cabins and park models* by:

Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Kariainen

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Kariainen- yes; Ms. Wilson- no; Mr. Shuman- no; Ms. Hessel- yes; Mr. Neumann- yes; Mr. Duffy- no; Mr. Savitski- no; Mr. Evans- no; Mr. Van Etten- yes; Mr. Hoehne- yes; Mr. Righeimer- yes; Mr. Kinsley- yes; Mr. Buckholtz- no; Mr. Magnuson- yes.

Motion carried with 8 in favor, 6 opposed.

Public Works Committee—

Mr. Kinsley reported on Maintenance, Airport and Highway projects and the recent road tour Commissioner Pinnow hosted for Supervisors.

Airport Lease Transfer to Trust—

Motion to approve transfer of Airport hangar lease from Ron Fandler to Fandler Trust by: Mr. Van Etten

Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Safety Committee —

Mr. Buckholtz reviewed the July 3 Jail, Code Enforcement, Emergency Management, Dispatch, Child Support, Ambulance and Medical Examiner reports for the board.

Land, Water and Forest Resources Committee--

Mr. Kariainen reviewed the July 9 Events applications, Register of Deeds, Land Records, Surveyor, Forestry, Zoning Conservation and Trails reports. A DNR Conservation Easement request was tabled until August. The committee heard a groundwater mapping presentation by Amy Wiersma and background on Whitefish Lake water levels by Pat Wier, approved a Nelson Lake Boat Landing rehab request, took no action on the purchase of an underwater private parcel, and approved the sale of In Rem parcels by the Treasurer.

Nelson Lake-

Motion to approve Nelson Lake/Town of Lenroot boat landing rehab by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried without negative vote.

HHS Report—

Ms. Wilson reported that Ms. Lyons gave a 2026 HHS budget overview in preparation for the August Public Budget Hearing and noted that letters to Gov. Evers resulted in the state lowering the out-of-county placement daily rates from a proposed \$2500 a day to \$500 a day, which will greatly help the county. Department updates and statistics were provided to the board; a public health item of concern is Powassan, a new deadly tick-borne disease, being reported in the region.

Finance Report -

Mr. Righeimer provided an update on county finances and department budgets.

Public Safety Radio Network Financing—

Mr. Markgren reviewed that the board has previously approved the Public Safety Radio Network project amount and the Initial Resolution to Authorize the Sale of \$2,825,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025 and the last step is to award the sale; bidding took place July 17. The issuance is non-rated, saving the county \$16,000.

One tower will be built in Draper on county land, the county is waiting for an LCO agreement to lease space on the WOJB tower.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025- Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$2,825,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025 by: Mr. Righeimer

Second by: Ms. Hessel

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Kariainen- yes; Ms. Wilson-yes; Mr. Shuman- yes; Ms. Hessel- yes; Mr. Neumann- yes; Mr. Duffy- yes; Mr. Savitski- yes; Mr. Evans- yes; Mr. Van Etten- yes; Mr. Hoehne- yes; Mr. Righeimer- yes; Mr. Kinsley- yes; Mr. Buckholtz- yes; Mr. Magnuson- yes.

Motion carried without negative vote.

Resolution 2025- Resolution to Establish the Sawyer County Condemnation Commission was approved on a motion by: Mr. Shuman

Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee—

Mr. Righeimer gave the Economic Development and UW Extension Committee report.

Discussion on Apostle Islands; it was noted that Bayfield County and NWRPC did not support designation due to lack of resources and infrastructure.

Resolution 2025- to Designate Apostle Islands as a Natural Park was approved as stated on a motion by:

Mr. Righeimer Second by: Mr. Duffy

Discussion: Mr. Righeimer stated the purpose of the resolution is that it's good for our economy to bring people to our region.

Motion carried with one opposed.

County Administrator Report—

Mr. Markgren provided a written report and updates on recent meetings and community developments of interest to the board.

Motion to appoint Mike Stamps to the Sawyer County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for a five-year term July 20, 2025-July 19, 2030 by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Duffy

Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Buckholtz reported that Namekagon Transit had a record number of riders in June and is going to be changing two routes and adding bus stops and more signage in the county. There will be a public hearing on routes on Oct 14 at the Transit Office.

Ms. Wilson reported that the Celebrate Your Library fundraiser was a success, raising \$3,800 for the Sherman Weiss Library.

Ms. Hessel reported that several Supervisors attended the highway tour and got a better idea of the projects the department is working on.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings- None

Adjournment – 8:12 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, August 21, 2025 Time: 6:30pm Location Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk