

**Minutes of the August 14, 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
- ☒ Stacey Hessel

Others Present:

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Gary Elliot
Mike Coleson- 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: July 10, 2025

Motion to approve by: Mr. Duffy

Second by: Mr. Righeimer

Motion carried without negative vote.

County Clerk Report-

Ms. Klein provided a written department report. Customer service, conversion of records to searchable .pdf format, and increased website and bulletin board public postings have been the priority in July. The Town of Lenroot clerk completed election Self-provider training and the town received a refund of \$1,907.50 for the cancellation of their Relier contract.

Ms. Klein provided the NextRequest report for July. The Sheriff's Department had the most new requests at 22. Mr. Markgren commended the department on implementing new processes and helping him through the County Administrator transition process.

Budget—2026 reflects normal increases in postage and printing costs.

Veterans Service Office Report -

Mr. Elliot provided a written report of July 2024 and 2025 department activity: 419 phone calls, 596 letters/emails/faxes sent and 213 office visits. 97 disability claims were filed to date and \$256,348.16 was awarded in Veterans' favor. The department is co-hosting counseling sessions at La Crosse Vet Center, hosting Coffee & Conversation, and the social media engagements are increasing. Training is up to date.

Ms. Hessel thanked Mr. Elliot for being attentive to Veterans' needs and asked what the county can do to address mental health. Mr. Elliot suggested sending feedback to the state and federal governments to appropriate taxpayer dollars toward the needs.

Mr. Markgren commended Mr. Elliot for the impact his work is having within and outside of Sawyer County.

Budget—The department's 2026 budget reflects normal increases for staff health insurance.

Information Technology Department Report -

Mr. Coleson provided a written IT report.

Budget—Increases include rising software licensing and subscription renewals, email and security.

Human Resources Report -

A written report was provided. Hiring is underway for a maintenance director and highway superintendent.

Budget—Professional services is the main expense.

County Administrator Report—

Mr. Markgren updated the committee on his first department head meeting, attending the ground-breaking at Lumber Exchange, carbon credits moving forward, the Airport project completion, a tour of Northlakes Community Clinic, progress on the radio tower projects in Draper and a meeting with TGB and other officials regarding the WOJB tower on August 19.

Budget—The 2026 County budget is challenging-: there is a structural deficit and no new revenue sources in 2026.

Veterans Tribute update—SEH has been onsite for visual inspection and testing, and historical research into the property. Mr. Markgren would like to look at what other communities have done for examples, and gather detailed design proposals with materials lists and solid estimates on final costs. He recommended exploring grants and community support such as offering memorial bricks for purchase toward the cost. The final project design will need to go out on bids.

The goals of the monument should be #1 to make sure Veterans are welcome and appreciated and #2 to inspire non-vets to think about and support Veterans.

Ms. Hessel asked Mr. Markgren for a set timeline for these steps.

Board Appointed Committee Updates – Mr. Buckholtz attended a County Board Chairs' forum and brought back information on board chairs, board rules, roles of supervisors and working with towns.

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings – None

Future Agenda Items- Veterans Tribute, 2026 Budget

Adjournment – 10:45 am

Next Meeting: September 11, 2025 **Time:** 10:00 am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk