

**Minutes of the September 11, 2025 Meeting of the Sawyer County
Finance Committee of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

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

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Ron Buckholtz
Rhandi Ehn
Ron Kinsley

Others Present:

Joey Johnson
Don Kissinger
Kerri Sabin- Virtual

Call to Order – Mr. Righeimer called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

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

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: August 14, 2025

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Duffy
Motion carried without negative vote.

Treasurer's Report –

Mr. Lehner provided a written report on sales of IN REM parcels and real estate tax collections. As of September 1, there are 1065 delinquent 2024 tax parcels for a total of \$842,126.90. Total delinquent taxes owed to the county for all years is \$1,226,891.77.

Senior Resource Center 2026 Budget Request—Ms. Johnson presented the 2026 SRC Budget request to the committee; SRC is asking for \$55K to cover the cost of Meals on Wheels. If the program funding is inadequate, an assessment of the 400 clients will have to be utilized to determine who qualifies for meal deliveries. Voluntary donations, \$7 toward a \$14 meal, are not covering the growing expenses. Other SRC programs are self-sustaining. The Meals on Wheels drivers are a valuable resource for outreach and wellness checks on homebound seniors.

Finance Department Report -

Mr. Markgren reviewed sales tax revenues for July, Budget Performance Reports for August 2025, and July CIP purchases.

Preliminary 2026 Budget Presentation—

Mr. Markgren presented a preliminary work-up of the 2026 budget. Starting deficit was approx. \$3.2M, reduced by balancing to approx. \$383K to be drawn from the fund balance.

Net new construction and sales tax revenues are up, many expenses have also increased. There is an overall proposed property tax levy increase, but the levy rate will decrease by 1.27% for 2026.

Sawyer County has the lowest tax rate among eight neighboring NW Wisconsin counties.

Department Financial Updates--

HHS Budget Reports--Mr. Markgren reviewed December 2024 financials and August 2025 revenues and expenses for HHS. 2025 YTD revenues are at 65% of budget; expenses are at 68%.

Veterans Budget Reports—Mr. Markgren reviewed the 2024 financials and August 2025 revenues and expenses for Veterans. 2025 YTD revenues are at 40% of budget; expenses are at 57%.

Investments Review and Update—

July investment report was provided: interest rates are still holding above 4%.

Board Appointed Committee Updates— None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings – None

Future Agenda Items – 2026 Budget

Adjournment – 9:48 am

Next Meeting- October 9, 2025

Time: 8:30 am

Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk