

**Minutes of the November 6, 2025 Meeting of the Sawyer County
Administration Committee of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

Others Present:

☒ Chair: Ron Kinsley	Mike Markgren
☒ Vice Chair: Ron Buckholtz	Liz Klein
☒ Tom Duffy	Gary Elliot
☒ John Righeimer	Nicole Clapero
☒ Stacey Hessel	John Pinnow- 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 – Linda Zillmer, Nancy Schryer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: October 9, 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.

NextRequest-- The public records requests report was reviewed; a uniform alternative to tracking public records was discussed and will be developed for the December meeting.

Veterans Service Office Report -

Mr. Elliot provided a written report of October department activity: 490 phone calls, 720 letters/emails/faxes sent and 195 office visits. 145 disability claims were filed to date and \$496,443.42 was awarded in Veterans' favor. The department is co-hosting counseling sessions at La Crosse Vet Center, hosting Coffee & Conversation, and the social media report was provided.

Mr. Elliott presented the VSO 2024 Annual Report following the annual Veterans Service Commission meeting on October 30 (attended by Mr. Markgren). Some statistics from the report shared are: 10% of Sawyer County residents are veterans, total benefits the department brought in to Sawyer County Veterans is \$21,691, 808 (not counting almost \$90M in home loans), provided an array of supportive services, maintained high levels of training, and worked closely with Sawyer County government.

It was noted that Mr. Elliott is bring a very high level of services and benefits to Sawyer County, comparable to or exceeding the state standard. Ms. Clapero thanked him for the opportunity to serve in her job.

Mr. Elliott thanked Ms. Hessel for attending Coffee and Conversation sessions and stated that the veterans appreciate her.

Information Technology Department Report -

Mr. Coleson provided a written IT report.

Human Resources Report -

A written report was provided on staffing and recruiting for open positions within the county.

Resolution 2025- Public Safety Cooperative Law Enforcement Grant Resolution that the county adopts in cooperation with LCO was approved on a motion by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Buckholtz
Motion carried without negative vote.

County Administrator Report—

Department Heads are working on the strategic plan; Mr. Markgren attended the Veterans Service Commission annual meeting, is attending the Chamber of Commerce dinner, is meeting weekly with GenComm on the public safety radio system, and wrote a number of resolutions in October. There is no update on a written agreement with the TGB for the WOJB tower lease.

Veterans Tribute update— Still waiting for the core samples for Phase 2 of the environmental study. No steps will be taken until that is completed.

Posting Meetings on YouTube—

Mr. Kinsley stated that county staff have approached him requesting to keep posting meetings on YouTube. Ms. Hessel stated concerns about AI manipulation of videos posted on YouTube.

Motion to continue posting County meetings on YouTube by: Mr. Buckholtz
Second by: Mr. Righeimer

Discussion.

A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Kinsley, aye; Mr. Buckholtz, aye; Mr. Duffy, aye; Ms. Hessel, no; Mr. Righeimer, no.

Motion carried with two opposed.

Board Appointed Committee Updates – Mr. Kinsley stated there will be an ad-hoc committee formed next month to discuss ATV routes and other issues with the LCO TGB, brought to County Board to approve.

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings— None

Ms. Hessel informed the committee that there are several local events planned in honor of our Veterans and encouraged board members to attend. A list of events is posted on the Veterans Service Office's Facebook page.

Future Agenda Items- Record Request Tracking Process

Adjournment – 10:59 am

Next Meeting: December 11, 2025 **Time:** 10:00 am **Location:** Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk