

**Minutes of the August 21, 2025 Meeting of the
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



Voting Committee Members Present (X)	Roll Call	District	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	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- virtual	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, Jay Kozlowski, John Pinnow-virtual, Atty. Rebecca Roeker- virtual, Greg Peterson, Tim Hagberg, Derek Leslie

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 – None

Staff Retirement Recognition— Mr. Kinsley recognized Tim Hagberg’s 22 years of service to the county and thanked him for help with the new courthouse construction project; Mr. Hagberg is retiring this month.

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: July 17, 2025

Motion to approve by: Mr. Righeimer
Motion carried without negative vote.

Second by: Mr. Duffy

Zoning Committee –

Mr. Buckholtz reported that one CUP and one subdivision plat were reviewed by the committee last month, with 398 LUP applications received year-to-date. Construction activity remains high in the county.

Solar Moratorium Ordinance—

Mr. Kozlowski explained that the proposed ordinance is to put a nine month pause on commercial solar or related large-scale energy project applications until the Zoning Committee can create an ordinance to address the necessary considerations.

Motion to approve the Solar Moratorium Ordinance by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Shuman

Motion carried without negative vote.

Possible reconsideration of Resolution for Sawyer County Code of Ordinance Amendment- Appendix D- Section 2.0—

Mr. Kinsley and Mr. Markgren discussed the options for reconsideration of the resolution, with Atty. Roeker advising by virtual attendance.

Motion to bring Resolution for Sawyer County Code of Ordinance Amendment- Appendix D- Section 2.0 back to the floor for reconsideration by: Mr. Helwig (absent July 17)

Second by: Mr. Duffy

A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion carried with 9 in favor, 6 opposed.

Discussion about the ordinance followed. Mr. Buckholtz stated that the towns had weighed in on the amendment and rejected it the first time; the Zoning Committee worked to create a version that was acceptable to the towns and made that recommendation to the board. The 33% limitation language was removed when the ordinance was adopted on July 17. Mr. Kozlowski stated that a majority of towns returned resolutions disapproving the ordinance passed on July 17.

Motion to send it back to the Zoning Committee for more information and discussion by: Ms. Hessel

Second by: Mr. Shuman

Motion carried with 2 opposed.

Public Works Committee—

Mr. Helwig reported on Maintenance, Airport and Highway projects. A thank you letter was received from Town of Winter for the County's support in replacing the Thornapple Grade bridge.

Airport Resolutions—

Motion to approve the resolution to change of ownership in Hayward Aviation and release of Todd Van Nispen from personal guarantys if the four contingencies specified by Mr. Markgren are met by: Mr. Righeimer

Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Markgren explained that the amendment to the FBO agreement adds a third five-year term.

Motion to approve the resolution amending the FBO agreement by: Mr. Helwig

Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried without negative vote.

Trail 30 Crossing—

Mr. Pinnow recommended the proposal to move the crossing of Trail 30 at Hwy B to the location near the Rod and Gun club as it will be safer with more visibility.

Motion to approve moving the Trail 30 crossing by: Mr. Neumann Second by: Mr. Helwig
Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Safety Committee —

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

Land, Water and Forest Resources Committee--

Mr. Kariainen reviewed the August 13 Events application for the Chequamegon MTB Festival race, Register of Deeds, Land Records, Surveyor, Forestry, Zoning Conservation and Trails reports. A DNR Conservation Easement request was tabled again for more information.

Trail 30 Reroute—

Mr. Peterson recommended the proposed 3 mile reroute of a portion of Trail 30 to go through county forest and some private land.

Motion to approve the Trail 30 snowmobile reroute as presented by: Ms. Hessel
Second by: Mr. Duffy
Motion carried without negative vote.

HHS Report—

Ms. Wilson reported that Ms. Lyons conducted the 2026 Public Budget Hearing and provided department updates and statistics to the board; Clean Sweep is set for September 16.

Finance Report -

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

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee—

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

The committee recommended a resolution from Sawyer County to object to the annual smoke from Canadian Wildfires, which is becoming the norm.

Resolution 2025- Canadian Wildfire Smoke was approved on a motion by: Ms. Hessel

Second by: Mr. Buckholtz
Motion carried with 2 opposed.

County Administrator Report—

Mr. Kinsley reported that the Administration Committee met and heard reports from the County Clerk, Veterans, IT, and HR departments.

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

The CJCC MOU with LCO is now signed.

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Mr. Markgren attended the ground-breaking for the Lumberjack Exchange and stated it will bring value and something different to the Hayward community.

Strategic Planning is in progress; input from staff and elected officials will be compiled and considered to establish priorities.

The SEH is assessing the Veterans Tribute site and Mr. Markgren has outlined some criteria he would like to see met along the way on the project. He would like the tribute to make veterans feel welcome and appreciated in Sawyer County, and remind non-veterans to think about and check in on their veteran friends and family members.

A productive meeting was held with the TGB and other stakeholders on August 19; progress was made in discussions to lease the WOJB tower space for the public safety radio network and the CJCC MOU was signed.

There is no update on the Lake District lawsuit against the county.

Board Appointed Committee Updates—

Ms. Wilson reported that the Lake District first annual meeting will be held on August 31 at the Casino.

Mr. Buckholtz reported on the Namekagon Transit board meeting; ridership and rides have increased and route changes will better serve customers.

Mr. Buckholtz attended a WCA sponsored County Board Chair seminar and stated that Mr. Kinsley is doing an excellent job.

Mr. Kinsley stated that the Labor Negotiations Committee will meet again on September 11.

Mr. Kariainen reported on the CEP meeting and will participate in a six hour strategic planning workshop next week.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings-

Ms. Hessel attended a legislative conference on Opioid Settlement Funds where Julia Lyons and Shannon Krause received awards for their great work.

Future Agenda Items- None

Adjournment-- 7:49 pm

Next meeting: Thursday September 18, 2025 Time: 6:30pm Location Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk