

**Minutes of the November 12, 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- Virtual	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 (7:15)	15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter	

Also present: Mike Markgren, Liz Klein, Jay Kozlowski, Doug Mrotek, Rhandi Ehn, John Pinnow, Greg Ripczinski, Nicole Ripczinski, 30 citizens

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 – Ann Larson, Roberto Escamilla II, Jason Weaver, Ron Ulmer, Ginny Chabek, Peg Martin, Donna Dreczko, Jodi Olney, Joey Johnsonh, Greg Ripczinski, Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: October 16, 2025

Motion to approve by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Savitski

Motion carried without negative vote.

Appointments—

Motion to appoint Laura Rusk to a 3-year term renewal on the Sawyer County Board of Appeals/Adjustment
by: Mr. Righeimer Second by: Mr. Shuman

Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion to appoint Joe Beran to a 3-year term renewal on the Sawyer County Board of Appeals/Adjustment

by: Mr. Evans

Second by: Mr. Helwig

Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion to appoint Gordon Christians to a 3-year term renewal on the Sawyer County Board of Appeals/Adjustment

by: Mr. Buckholtz

Second by: Mr. Kariainen

Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion to appoint Ray Boeckman and David Van Landschoot to the Veterans Service Commission by: Ms. Hessel

Second by: Mr. Helwig

Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee –

Mr. Buckholtz reported that Zoning Committee approved 3 CUPs, 1 subdivision plat and held a public hearing for the campground ordinance amendment; 563 LUPs have been issued year-to-date.

Amendment to the Sawyer County Code of Ordinances-

Mr. Kozlowski reviewed the process to amend the zoning ordinance for Trailer Camps and Campgrounds; the proposed amendment went back out to the towns and the majority of towns favored the 30% limitation. The Zoning Committee recommends the amendment with the 30% limitation.

Motion to approve the Amendment to the Sawyer County Code of Ordinances- Appendix D- Section 2.0 Definitions & Sections 6.6 & 6.7 Trail Camps and Campgrounds as presented including Section F by: Mr. Buckholtz

Second by: Mr. Savitski

A roll call vote was taken:

Steve Kariainen, yes; Kay Wilson, yes; Tweed Shuman, yes; Stacey Hessel, no; Randy Neumann, yes; Marc Helwig, yes; Thomas Duffy, yes; Marshal Savitski, yes; Jim Evans, yes; Chuck Van Etten, yes; Jeff Hoehne, yes; John Righeimer, no; Ron Kinsley, yes; Ron Buckholtz, yes; (Dale Magnuson not present).

Motion carried with 2 opposed.

Public Works Committee—

Mr. Helwig updated the Board on October Maintenance, Airport and Highway projects.

Public Safety Committee —

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

Increase Juror per diems—

Juror per diems have not been increased in Sawyer County since 1993; Ms. Kelsey requested the increase at Public Safety. The Resolution was approved by the committee for action by the County Board.

A motion to approve Resolution 2025- Increase Juror Per Diems to \$25 half day and \$50 full day and set the mileage at the county reimbursement rate by: Mr. Helwig

Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Resolution 2025- Sawyer County and Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement Grant Resolution was approved on a motion by: Ms. Hessel

Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Resolution 2025- in Support of FY2026 Daily Use Radio Grant Application and Matching Funds was approved on a motion by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Savitski
Motion carried without negative vote.

Land, Water and Forest Resources Committee--

Mr. Kariainen reviewed the Register of Deeds, Land Records, Surveyor, Forestry, Zoning Conservation and Trails reports.

There will be an upcoming public hearing on the Land and Water Resource Management Plan December 10, 2025 in the Assembly Room.

HHS Report—

Ms. Wilson reported on the November meeting of HHS. ADRC and Behavioral Health reports were reviewed, Children, Youth and Family Services, Economic Support, and Public Health updates were provided; the CHIP stakeholder meeting was held at LCO, a food drive is underway at the Courthouse, a flu clinic was held at the school and pertussis is a concern.

Finance Report -

Mr. Righeimer provided an update on county finances and department budgets. The committee approved the proposed 2026 Budget, approved the 2026 CIP Loan Resolution, and denied a request by CEP to waive or extend repayment on a \$5,000 loan.

2026 Budget--

Mr. Markgren gave a final presentation on the proposed 2026 budget with a \$3,000 reduction in CIP borrowing interest calculated in several places. Each section of the Budget was reviewed and discussed.

Motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2026 Sawyer County Budget and 2025 Property Tax Levy to be Collected in 2026, the 2026 Compensation Plan, the 2026 Authorized Employees, the 2026 Fee Schedule and the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan as presented by: Mr. Righeimer
Second by: Stacey Hessel

Discussion about the library request and the Senior Resource Center.

Motion by Mr. Shuman to amend the original motion and approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2026 Sawyer County Budget and 2025 Property Tax Levy to be Collected in 2026, the 2026 Compensation Plan, the 2026 Authorized Employees, the 2026 Fee Schedule and the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan to include the requested amount by the Senior Resource Center and Weiss Library; Second by: Ms. Wilson

Discussion; Ms. Hessel stated the County hired a Finance Director and should follow his recommendations; Ms. Wilson stated the value of the library to the community; Mr. Van Etten questioned Rules of Order on motions.

A roll call vote was taken on the amended motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2026 Sawyer County Budget and 2025 Property Tax Levy to be Collected in 2026, the 2026 Compensation Plan, the 2026 Authorized Employees, the 2026 Fee Schedule and the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan amended to include the requested amount by the Senior Resource Center and Weiss Library:

Steve Kariainen, yes; Kay Wilson, yes; Tweed Shuman, yes; Stacey Hessel, no; Randy Neumann, no; Marc Helwig, yes; Thomas Duffy, yes; Marshal Savitski, yes; Jim Evans, yes; Chuck Van Etten, no; Jeff Hoehne, yes; John Righeimer, no; Ron Kinsley, no; Ron Buckholtz, yes; Dale Magnuson, yes.

Motion carried with 5 opposed.

Discussion: Ms. Hessel stated the importance of staying within budget. Mr. Markgren revised the levy to include the \$30,000 additional amount requested by the Weiss Library to \$15,955,777; the Senior Center funding will come from the fund balance.

A roll call vote was taken on the original motion with the amendment to approve the Resolution to Adopt the 2026 Sawyer County Budget and 2025 Property Tax Levy of \$15,955,777 to be Collected in 2026, the 2026 Compensation Plan, the 2026 Authorized Employees, the 2026 Fee Schedule and the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan:

Steve Kariainen, yes; Kay Wilson, yes; Tweed Shuman, yes; Stacey Hessel, no; Randy Neumann, no; Marc Helwig, yes; Thomas Duffy, yes; Marshal Savitski, yes; Jim Evans, yes; Chuck Van Etten, yes; Jeff Hoehne, yes; John Righeimer, no;; Ron Buckholtz, yes; Ron Kinsley, yes; Dale Magnuson, yes.

Motion carried with 3 opposed.

Mr. Markgren explained the CIP borrowing resolution and stated that he would like to move away from the use of debt service for CIP in future years.

Resolution 2025—to Approve Bank Loan not to exceed \$2,177,558 for 2026 Capital Improvement Projects

by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Buckholtz

Motion carried without negative vote.

CEP request—

Mr. Markgren reviewed the CEP loan and stated that the Finance Committee requested full payment by December 31, 2025 with the option to issue a new loan due to concerns about setting the wrong precedent.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee—

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

County Administrator Report—

Mr. Kinsley reported that the Administration Committee met and heard reports from the County Clerk, Veterans, IT, and HR departments, and the County Administrator. Mr. Kinsley thanked Mr. Elliott for doing an outstanding job for our veterans as one of the best Veteran Service Offices in the state.

There is no CJCC report due to lack of a quorum.

Mr. Markgren gave updates on the 2024 audit and credit to Ms. Ehn for an excellent job. Recent priorities included working with department heads on strategic plan goals, attending the Chamber Dinner where Stacey Hessel won Volunteer of the Year, attending the Veterans Service Commission meeting where Mr. Elliott's 2024 annual return on investment to Sawyer County veterans was over \$20M or 12,300%. The Public Safety radio project is underway with weekly meetings, with a target completion date of summer 2026.

Board Appointed Committee Updates— None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings- There will be a Meet and Greet next Thursday, November 20 at 11:00 am in the County Board Room for candidate Fred Clark, running for the 7th Congressional District.

Future Agenda Items- None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:09 pm

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

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk

DRAFT