

**Minutes of the December 23, 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- Virtual	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-Virtual, John Pinnow, Doug Mrotek, Joe Sajdera, Greg Ripczinski, Nicole Ripczinski, Darin Jensen, Mike Woller, Dennis Nelson, Shelby Robinson, Brian Deyo, Julie Braatz, Ryan Krummel, Kelly Schultz, Casey Culhane, Paige Woller, Rep. Chanz Green

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 – Sheriff Mrotek announced he is not seeking re-election, Tim Davison

Recognition of Chief Deputy Joe Sajdera's Retirement— Sheriff Mrotek thanked Chief Sajdera for 28 years of dedicated service to Sawyer County Sheriff's Department. Representative Chanz Green presented Chief Sajdera with a plaque on behalf of the state. A retirement celebration will be held on January 9 from 1-3:30 in the Assembly Room and all are invited. Chief Sajdera shared his beginnings in the force and thanked his wife and family for their support and sacrifices. Mr. Kinsley presented Chamber Cash and a thank you card from the County Board.

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: November 12, 2025

Motion to approve with attendance corrections by: Mr. Duffy

Second by: Ms. Hessel

Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee –

Mr. Buckholtz reported on Zoning Committee actions on CUPs, rezones and ordinance amendments.

Amendment to the Sawyer County Code of Ordinances- Citation & Schedule of Deposit--

Mr. Buckholtz introduced the Ordinance Amendment- Citation Ordinance and the following resolution, a rezone of forty acres from RR2 to A-1.

Motion to approve the Amendment to the Sawyer County Code of Ordinances- Section 1-2-5 & 1-2-9 Citation Schedule & Schedule of Deposit as presented by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Shuman

Motion carried without negative vote.

Zone District Map Amendment for RZN #25-009 Bures- Request to Rezone 40 acres of RR2 to A-1 was approved on a motion by: Mr. Magnuson Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Works Committee—

Mr. Kinsley updated the Board on December meeting reports for Maintenance, Airport and Highway projects. The committee would like to form an ad-hoc committee to work on Public Works issues involving the Tribal Governing Board.

Motion to appoint Jim Evans, Marc Helwig and Ron Kinsley to a Public Works ad-hoc committee by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Hoehne

Ms. Hessel asked whether the Highway Commissioner must be part of the ad-hoc committee. Wisconsin stats. Ch. 83 will be reviewed to determine if that is a requirement.

Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Neumann requested that the issues being negotiated by the ad-hoc committee be placed onto the April agenda if there is no progress made.

Mr. Shuman asked to add the WOJB Tower to the TGB discussions with the ad-hoc committee.

Public Safety Committee —

Mr. Buckholtz reviewed the December Jail, Code Enforcement, Emergency Management, Dispatch, Child Support, and Ambulance and Radio Tower reports for the board. Mr. Markgren stated the project is on track for summer 2026 completion.

Land, Water and Forest Resources Committee--

Mr. Kariainen reviewed the Register of Deeds, Land Records, Surveyor, Forestry, Zoning Conservation and Trails reports. The Land and Water Resource Management Plan was approved at committee for forwarding to the state; it will come before the county board on the February agenda.

County Forest Withdrawal—

Mr. Markgren presented a Forestry request to withdraw 2 acres from County Forest for the construction of the Public Safety Communications radio site 2 miles east of Draper.

Motion to withdraw 2 acres from County Forest for the construction of the Public Safety Communications radio tower in Draper by: Mr. Helwig Second by: Mr. Magnuson

Motion carried without negative vote.

HHS Report—

Ms. Wilson reported on the December 9th meeting of HHS. The topic of changing meeting frequency and time was reviewed and it was decided to keep the meetings monthly and table the time until after the April election. ADRC and Behavioral Health reports were reviewed, Children, Youth and Family Services, Economic Support, and Public Health updates were provided; The HHS Strategic Plan was reviewed and new revenue streams are starting to come in.

Finance Report -

Mr. Righeimer provided an update on county finances and department budgets. The CLA 2024 Audit was reviewed, showing strong numbers and fiscal policy and a reduction in audit deficiencies due to good work by the Finance Department.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee—

Mr. Righeimer gave the Economic Development and UW Extension Committee report. The committee is looking at Vilas County tourism numbers and is asking to do a refresher on room tax in January.

County Administrator Report—

Admin Committee--Mr. Kinsley reported that the Administration Committee met and heard reports from the County Clerk, Veterans, IT, and HR departments, and the County Administrator. The towns picked up their new voting machines and received 2 hours of training, Mr. Elliot continues to provide outstanding service to the County's Veterans and Mr. Coleson reviewed alternative to posting meetings on YouTube. The committee discussed the virtual meeting attendance policy.

Mr. Markgren gave updates on an upcoming staff training day, thanked Maintenance and Highway for handling weather events, attended a NWRPC meeting where Carson Kipfer shared his vision for the Lumber Exchange (soft opening in May, 2026), thanked the Alliance for keeping the trails in shape, will present the Strategic Plan prepared by Department Heads in January, received four of five service contracts from external agencies, and attended a meeting of regional government officials. He is working on a contract for the libraries.

There is no CJCC report again due to lack of a quorum; the Bylaws need to be changed.

Board Appointed Committee Updates— Mr. Kariainen reported on Indianhead Community Action Agency and NW CEP. Mr. Buckholtz reported on Namekagon Transit; Kerry Sabin is taking another job and the management position is open.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings- None

Future Agenda Items- None

Meeting Adjourned at 7:18 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, January 15, 2025 **Time:** 6:30pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk