

**Minutes of the Meeting of the January 8, 2026 Sawyer County
Administration Committee of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- ☒ Chair: Ron Kinsley
- ☒ Vice Chair: Ron Buckholtz
- ☒ Tom Duffy
- ☒ John Righeimer
- ☒ Stacey Hessel

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Gary Elliot
Mike Coleson
Nicole Clapero

Others Present:

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

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: December 11, 2025

Motion to approve by: Ms. Hessel

Second by: Mr. Righeimer

Motion carried without negative vote.

County Clerk Report-

Ms. Klein provided a written department report. The department is working on end of year reporting for dog licenses, marriage licenses, and preparing 1099s. The candidates for the April election are being determined for the county, towns and school districts. There will not be a February Primary this year.

Resolution 2026-1 Supervisory District Boundary Amendment was approved for action by County Board on a motion by: Mr. Righeimer Second by: Mr. Duffy

Motion carried without negative vote.

Veterans Service Office Report -

Mr. Elliot provided a written report of December department activity: 450 phone calls, 823 letters/emails/faxes sent and 180 office visits. 194 disability claims were filed to date and \$564,542.41 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. A new Combat Veteran session has been added for Iraq and Afghanistan Vets. Gary and Nicole dressed up as elves and visited Veterans in nursing homes with patriotic cookies (donated by Simply Sweet bakery, cards signed by the SC Sheriff's Dept., and artwork donated by Drummond Elementary students. The VSO will be delivering Valentines for Veterans again this year.

Veteran's Tribute Update- Mr. Markgren reported that the core samples were taken Monday and the County is waiting for those results.

Information Technology Department Report -

Mr. Coleson provided a written IT report and discussed numbered options for recording meetings.

Discussion about the pros and cons of live streaming meetings and posting the videos to YouTube included concerns about AI manipulation vs the benefit of having the information available to the public and County Board and staff. One option discussed was to remove videos from YouTube after 90-122 days.

Motion to keep it the same and go with #4 for Live Meetings with no change and #6 for Recordings with no restrictions by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Duffy
Motion carried with one opposed.

Human Resources Report -

A written report was provided on staffing and recruiting for open positions within the county; there are three job openings currently.

County Administrator Report—

Mr. Markgren updated the committee on end of year finances, preparing for audit, and strategic planning progress. All five contracts for service with outside agencies have been returned signed; the Weiss and Winter Libraries were mailed contracts yesterday. Birkie event prep is starting. There is no update on the WOJB tower but the TGB has three members who will meet with the Public Works ad-hoc committee and it will be addressed there.

Board Appointed Committee Updates – Namekagon Transit is interviewing three candidates for the manager position today.

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings— Mr. Kinsley shared information from the Public Works Committee on the roads and stated the Department has already taken steps to improve winter storm response.

Future Agenda Items- Veterans Tribute update

Adjournment – 10:40 am

Next Meeting: February 12, 2026 **Time:** 10:00 am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk