

Draft

Minutes of the meeting of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Thursday, November 7, 2019; 6:30 p.m.;
Large Court Room, Sawyer County Courthouse

County Board Chair Tweed Shuman called the Special Budget Public Hearing meeting of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors to order. Roll call was as follows (x indicates present)

district - supervisor - T = Town, V = Village, C = City, W = Ward

- X 01 - Dale Schleeter – T Lenroot W 1, T Hayward W 7, C Hayward W 5 and 6
- X 02 - Kathy McCoy – T Lenroot W 2, T Round Lake W 1
- X 03 - Tweed Shuman – T Hayward W 1 and 2
- X 04 – Troy Morgan – T Hayward W 3 and 4
- 05 – James H. Schlender Jr. – T Hayward W 5 and 6
- X 06 – Marc D. Helwig – C Hayward W 1 and 2
- X 07 - Thomas W. Duffy – C Hayward W 3 and 4
- X 08 - Bruce Paulsen – T Bass Lake W 1 and 2
- 09 - Brian Bisonette – T Bass Lake W 3 and 4
- X 10 – Elaine Nyberg – T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W 1
- 11 - Jim Bassett – T Edgewater W 2, T Bass Lake W 5, T Hayward W 8, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
- X 12 – Dawn Petit – T Spider Lake, T Round Lake W 2, T Winter W 1
- X 13 - Ron Kinsley – T Hunter, T Radisson W 1, T Ojibwa W 1, V Radisson
- X 14 – Ron Buckholtz – T Radisson W 2, T Ojibwa W 2, T Weirgor, V Exeland, T Meadowbrook
- X 15 – Helen Dennis – T Winter W 2, T Draper, V Winter

The agenda for the meeting was presented as follows:

Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance
Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
Meeting Agenda
2020 Budget Status
Public Hearing on 2020 Budget
2020 Budget Discussion and Possible Action

Sawyer County Administrator Tom Hoff presented the 2020 Budget. The proposed 2020 budget has a \$11,793,947 total levy. The end of 2017 the percentage of unassigned Fund Balance to General Fund Expenditures was 31.9%. The end of 2018 was 26.5%.

Motion by Buckholtz, 2nd by Petit, to open the Public Hearing on the 2020 budget. Motion carried

Donna Knuckey, Winter Public Library, expressed her appreciation of county funding for the Winter Library. Knuckey shared with the Board some of the services the Winter Library provides. Molly Lank-Jones, Director of Sherman and Ruth Weiss Library in Hayward and Sherry Machones Director of Northern Waters Library Service also spoke in support of the libraries and appreciation of funding. Amanda Wilson, Town of Hunter and President of HLVCB requested the 2020 budget include the 2019 level of \$50,000 for the Hayward Lakes and Visitors Convention Bureau and funding go back to the operating levy. Linda Zillmer requested the Board do strategic planning, clarify purpose of the Resource Development

Funds, and questioned the methodology of charging for EMS services outside of Sawyer County. Zillmer stated required funding for the Winter Library is \$10,000 and the Hayward Library \$130,000. Harold Treland informed the Board \$123,800,000 came in to Sawyer County in 2018 through tourism. Jim Onarheim said promoting tourism is a team effort. Carol Williamson read a letter from Sherry Beckman, Director of the Hayward Lakes and Visitors Convention Bureau. Beckman was out of town attending the Wisconsin Association of Convention and Visitors Bureau's fall conference. Beckman requests the Hayward Lakes and Visitor Convention Bureau be funded at the 2019 amount of \$50,000 in 2020. Rick Christian, Sawyer County Fair Association President, spoke in support of the fair and expressed his appreciation for the County's support. Jan Snider, Fair Board spoke on the importance of 4H and the fair to teach our kids life skills, and thanked the Board for supporting the fair. Motion by Paulsen, 2nd by Helwig, to close the public hearing. Motion carried

McCoy requested clarification on the amount of fund balance used to balance the budget. \$165,000 from Fund Balance and \$700,000 from the Resource Development Fund. Motion by Helwig, to take one-half of the budgeted \$25,000 for Economic Development and add it to the \$25,000 budgeted for HLVCB. Motion failed with no second. Morgan stated the outside organizations are providing needed services to the County. McCoy suggested borrowing \$100,000 in 2019 and paying it back in 2020 rather than depleting the Resource Development Fund. The County could borrow up to \$188,000 and retain the 2019 tax rate. Motion by McCoy, 2nd by Nyberg, to borrow \$100,000 in 2019 for the Tiger Cat Dam Project, include in 2020 levy and pay back in 2020. Roll Call vote was as follows: The roll call vote was as follows: Schleeter – yes; McCoy – yes; Shuman – yes; Morgan – yes; Schlender – absent; Helwig – no; Duffy – yes; Paulsen – no; Bisonette – absent. Nyberg – yes; Bassett – absent; Petit – yes; Kinsley – no; Buckholtz – yes; Dennis – yes; the vote needed three-fourths of majority to pass. The motion failed with 9 voting yes and 3 voting no.

Paulsen is not in favor of borrowing. Nyberg is in favor of borrowing and keeping the mill rate stable. Helwig not in favor of borrowing \$100,000; let the Finance Committee do their job. McCoy-budget is balanced using \$800,000 of fund balances. Paulsen-promised constituents to manage county dollars the same as he manages his dollars. Give the Finance Committee time to do their job. Morgan, the dam is a onetime cost, borrowing would not raise mill rate. Kinsley does not want to borrow while we still have some funds. Motion by Morgan, 2nd by Duffy, to restore HLVCB to \$50,000 in 2020 and take out of Resource Development Fund. The roll call vote was as follows: McCoy – yes; Shuman – yes; Morgan – yes; Schlender – absent; Helwig – no; Duffy – yes; Paulsen – no; Bisonette – absent. Nyberg – yes; Bassett – absent; Petit – no; Kinsley – yes; Buckholtz – no; Dennis – no; Schleeter – no. Motion failed with 6 voting yes and 6 voting no.

Paulsen; HLVCB received \$60,000 from Town of Hunter from Room Tax through the third quarter 2019 and lost \$18,000 in membership revenue; net gain of \$42,000. This is \$17,000 additional over 2019. Dennis agrees with Paulsen. Buckholtz asked Ms. Wilson if HLVCB does anything for southern Sawyer County. Ms. Wilson mentioned many resources and services provided to the southern part of Sawyer County including funds for the Winter Depot, Fun in Flambeau, road bike map, Harvest of Friends, coats for Winter Schools, Color Tour,

and current trail conditions. Motion by McCoy, 2nd by Morgan, to increase HLVCB up to \$40,000 and Economic Development up to \$30,000 and fund out of the general fund. The roll call vote was as follows:

Shuman – yes; Morgan – yes; Schlender – absent; Helwig – no; Duffy – yes; Paulsen – no; Bisonette – absent. Nyberg – yes; Bassett – absent; Petit – no; Kinsley – yes; Buckholtz – no; Dennis – no; Schleeter – no. McCoy – yes. Motion failed with 6 voting yes and 6 voting no.

Keefe clarified how the county can use ATC funds in the Resource Development Fund. The County can use one time money for infrastructure and economic development. Annual money does not have restrictions. Keefe tracks the ATC funds.

Motion by Dennis to fund HLVCB at \$25,000 as recommended by Hoff and Keefe. Motion was withdrawn. McCoy thanked Hoff and Keefe for their work on the 2020 budget. Hoff thanked the departments for their cooperation.

Adjourned 8:17

Audio of the Special County Board Budget meeting is on the website.

Minutes prepared by Carol Williamson