

Minutes of the February 16th meeting of the Sawyer County
Board of Supervisors
Large Courtroom; Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual



Voting Committee Members

Present (X)	District	Wards
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Schleeter	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5
<input type="checkbox"/> Jesse Boettcher	02	T Lenroot W-2, T Round Lake W-1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tweed Shuman	03	T Hayward W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey Hessel	04	T Hayward W-3 & 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Weaver - virtual	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas W. Duffy	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marshal Savitski	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Bisonette - virtual	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Maestri - virtual	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Rusk – virtual @ 6:41	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Hayward W-8, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Righeimer	12	T Spider Lake, T Round Lake W-2, T Winter W-1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Kinsley	13	T Hunter, T Radisson W-1, T-Ojibwa W-1, V Radisson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Buckholtz	14	T Radisson W-2, T Ojibwa W-2, T Weirgor, V Exeland, T Meadowbrook
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Peters	15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance– Chair Tweed Shuman 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.

Public Comments – Sheriff Doug Mrotek

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: January 19, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Peters Second by: Mr. Kinsley
Motion carried without negative vote.

Minutes from the February 9, 2023 Special County Board Meeting

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Kinsley Second by: Mr. Savitski
Motion carried without negative vote.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Righeimer advised that the UW-Extension hired an agriculture water specialist and he will reside in Barron County. The HLVCB showed us an impressive 60-second commercial on Hayward’s winter activities. The Historical Society attended and reported that at this time they are self-sustaining in regard to funding. The Weiss Library is investigating going fine-free for overdue books.

Birkie Week Update – Benn Popp was present to provide a review of upcoming Birkie activities. He handed out participant guides which gives information about where to park, information on the week’s events, etc. They expect

about 40,000 people to come to Hayward over the week's period. This will be the largest Birkie to date and CBS Sunday morning show will be here to highlight the community. Parking will be limited on some sides of the streets due to the large amount of snow we've received. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the Birkie so special events will be planned. They are now in the process of doing an economic impact study, and the State has announced that Birkie week will be designated and recognized as "American Birkebeiner Week" in Wisconsin.

Zoning Committee -

Chair Report -- -There were no Rezone requests for January. The Committee approved one Conditional Use Permit and discussed amending the ordinance to clarify language defining Multi-Dwelling Development and Resorts, but postponed until they can determine the potential tax implications.

Public Safety Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz reviewed the highlights of the February meeting advising that the Sheriff's Department is still short of staff; the average daily jail population is 71.2 inmates. Our total bookings were down in 2022 compared to the previous three years. Sheriff Mrotek advised that 83% of our inmates are unemployed. Mr. Kruk reviewed the testing process that the radio equipment has undergone and provided options for what might be done to improve signal service. Mr. Blicharz will be reintroducing the county rabies vaccine clinics in March. The ambulance billing report was reviewed and the agency is currently at 28% recovery.

Public Works Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley recognized Mr. Hagberg in maintenance for all his work. The airport continues to have issues cleaning snow from the runway due to equipment problems. We do not yet have a replacement for the Highway Commissioner position. The ATV/UTV ordinance is still under development, and the courthouse project is expected to transition to the county in early April.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Helwig reported the committee approved the fair market value on foreclosed properties. Survey crews have been having difficulties due to heavy snow on properties. Repairs continue on the Price and Upper Brunette Dams, and the 2022 wildlife damage claims were approved.

Tax Deed Land Sales Parcels List – A list of 2015-2017 In Rem properties was provided including notes and recommendations about each property. Mr. Albarado reported that the LWFR Committee has set the minimum bids for these properties to go to auction.

Health & Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Mr. Schleeter advised that the public health emergency ends at the end of February. Covid-19 cases continue to remain low. They are trying to hire a new director for the new Health Center at LCO. The Senior Center is working on ways to try to reduce expenses. A rep from GWAAR met with several members of the board to try to review means to reduce expenses but no definitive plans were made. The HHS budget tentatively looks to be on target for 2022, as there are some bills still outstanding.

Finance Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that the 2022 first round of taxes have been collected. There is a property in the Village of Radisson needing attention, and the demo bids are currently very high. Mr. Markgren presented the budget updates. Capital improvements were reviewed as well as 2022 attorney fees, of which we receive some grant funds for offset. The ARPA, OPIOID and LATC funds were also reviewed.

County Administrator's Report -

A written report was provided. Mr. Albarado provided an update on the courthouse construction progress identifying that handover is delayed due to a late arrival of the HVAC equipment. We have received a response from the union and the first meeting to review the response was held; more work yet to be done. He reviewed several key open positions. We have received numerous open records requests which are in the process of being fulfilled. We

have \$125,000 of opioid funds on deposit now and an additional settlement with retailers is now underway. We are working with Public Health on the framework in which to use those funds. The Child Support MOU should be back to committee in March. There is a new round of broadband grants and two local grants will be applied for; the County will provide letters of support. The emergency declaration has been submitted. The Native American treaty will likely affect taxation in two of our townships but not significantly. The legislature and governor have also begun discussions regarding providing some form of financial relief options for mental health expenses to the counties.

Future Agenda Items -

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Adjournment – 7:20 pm

Next Meeting: March 16, 2023 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Large Courtroom
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT