

**Minutes of the February 17, 2022, meeting of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors**  
**Large Courtroom; Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



**Voting Committee Members**

<b>Present (X)</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Wards</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Schleeter	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jesse Boettcher-Virtual	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 type="checkbox"/> Bruce Paulsen	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"/> Chuck Van Etten	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Olson	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Hayward W-8, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
<input type="checkbox"/> Dawn Petit	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 taken; quorum was met.

**Certification of Compliance** with the open meeting law was met.

**Public Comments** – Linda Zillmer and Chris Klein

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Duffy r to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022, County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Northwood Technical College Update** -- A written report was provided. Mr. John Will presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Northwood Technical College, formerly Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College; a copy is attached to the agenda packet.

**Recognitions** – The Director of Namekagon Transit presented a certificate of recognition for Hal Helwig, former County Supervisor, who was instrumental in starting the Transit services. County Board Supervisors Duffy, Schleeter, Shuman and Kinsley, and Sheriff Mrotek presented a plaque of recognition to outgoing County Administrator, Tom Hoff. Sheriff Mrotek spoke in recognition of Mr. Hoff’s dedication and years of service.

**COVID Update** – A written report was provided.

**Zoning Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Buckholtz advised that an increase in requests continues. Zoning Administrator, Jay Kozlowski, presented a rezone request for Case #22-001 for Adam and Amber Smith. The request is to rezone 5.40 acres of RR-1 to C-1 for the purpose of developing a commercial storage building. A motion was made by Buckholtz;

second by Mr. Boettcher to approve this request with a change of noting February 17<sup>th</sup> instead of February 15<sup>th</sup> on the Resolution Board date. Motion carried without negative vote. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Public Safety Report** – Mr. Buckholtz advised that Judge Yackel presented information on two bills that are up for consideration at the State level. The jail population continues to increase and could be an issue in the future. The ambulance billing service, LifeQuest, has begun its work with Sawyer County billing. JusticePoint is hiring additional staff who will provide services for both the County and LCO.

**Public Works Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Kinsley advised that the airport remodel continues. Mr. Hoff reported on the courthouse construction update. Some bids were not received back and therefore, Miron Construction will be extending a portion of the bid request where we did not receive bids on the scopes of work. No action taken to approve bids.

**Land, Water and Forest Resources** -- Mr. Buckholtz presented the list of annual emergency fire wardens to be renewed. Motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Kinsley to approve the 2022 emergency fire warden list. Motion carried without negative vote.

The Cooper Land Trade Proposal was presented by Greg Peterson. A land trade proposal with Richard and Denise Cooper originally presented in 2017 is now back for consideration. A map and trade summary are attached. Motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Olson to approve the land trade authorizing the land trade. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Mr. Olson; second by Helwig to approve the Resolution for Withdrawal and Entry of County Forest Lands for Land Exchange. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Health and Human Services** – Mr. Schleeter provided an update. The Senior Resource Center continues to need individuals to fill vacant positions.

**Finance Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Peters presented several broadband proposals for consideration in using ARPA funds.

Mosaic is requesting \$400,000 for expansion off the Big Chetac Lake. Construction would take two years and begin in 2023. No additional funding sources outside of Mosaic's match are available. Total project cost is \$6.4M. Mr. Kinsley made a motion to approve this request; a second by Mr. Helwig. Roll Call vote was taken and passed 11 – 2 with "aye" votes from Schleeter, Boettcher, Shuman, Hessel, Weaver, Helwig, Duffy, Bisonette, Kinsley, Buckholtz and Peters. "Nay" votes were Van Etten and Olson.

Norvado is requesting \$100,000 for expansion in the Winter and Loretta-Draper area. Bob Thompson, CFO of Norvado presented the project. Total cost of this project is \$5.5M and the Town Winter will contribute \$10,000; Draper is discussing. Mr. Kinsley made a motion to approve the \$100,000 request; second by Mr. Helwig. The vote passed 12 – 1 with a "nay" vote from Mr. Van Etten.

Bevcomm is requesting \$100,000 for expansion in Exeland to service the 943-telephone exchange. A motion was made by Mr. Olson; second by Mr. Buckholtz to approve this request. Total cost is \$4.5M. The vote passed 12 – 1 with a "nay" vote from Mr. Van Etten.

Bond Issuance Process – Brian Della of PMA Securities reviewed a presentation on the bonding process; attached to the agenda. Mr. Olson left the meeting at 7:56 pm, returning at 7:56 pm. If the remaining bids come in, the anticipated date for the bond sale is March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Board took a break from 8:10 pm to 8:18 pm.

**Ambulance Billing Provider** – Mr. Hoff presented the LifeQuest request to approve a credit card application and new bank account to allow us to accept all forms of payment. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley to approve both requests; second by Mr. Buckholtz. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Economic Development and UW Extension Committee** – Ms. Hessel advised that the snowmobile traffic this winter is heavy, and the Department of Tourism reported that Sawyer County is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest area of information requested in the state next to Bayfield.

**County Administrator's Report** – Mr. Hoff advised that a letter went out from our health insurance provider to 46 employees who need corrections in claims; the insurance company will work to resolve all issues. The opioid settlement is expected late spring or early summer with the amount yet undetermined. Rules for spending these funds will be provided to CJCC members for review and help in determining allocations. The Administration Committee is considering creating an Ad Hoc committee to help prioritize the spending of the remaining ARPA funds. Mr. Hoff recognized the County staff for their service and expertise over the years.

**Administrator Selection Update** – Mr. Kinsley reported that Mr. Mike Keefe has agreed to serve as Interim Administrator. A recommendation to approve this appointment was made at the February 17<sup>th</sup> Administration Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Schleeter to appoint Mr. Keefe as Interim Administrator starting March 11<sup>th</sup> at a salary that is the same as the current Administrator; second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings, Other Matters for Discussion --**

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the County Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm in the Large Courtroom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk