

Minutes of the February 18th 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 & 6
<input checked="" 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-1 & 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James H. Schlender, Jr.	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"/> 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 - Virtual	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Hayward W-8, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Petit - Virtual	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** - Chair Tweed Shuman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll Call taken; quorum was met. Pledge of Allegiance

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

**Public Comments** – Public comments were heard.

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Buckholtz. Motion carried.

**Appointments** – A motion was made by Mr. Olson; second by Mr. Kinsley to appoint Rachel Thompson to the Land Information Council. The motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Kinsley to appoint Board Supervisor Dale Schleeter to the Sawyer Senior Resource Center. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Ms. Petit; second by Mr. Helwig to appoint Ms. Stacey Hessel to fill the vacancy in District 4. Motion carried without negative vote. Judge Yackel presided over the Oath of Office.

**Zoning Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Buckholtz advised that there has been no Zoning Committee meeting since the January County Board meeting.

**Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Duffy introduced Ben Popp, Director of the American Birkebeiner, to provide an update of the 2021 American Birkebeiner Ski Race. It is the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

race this year. Mr. Popp advised that normally there would be approximately 13,000 skiers but due to Covid planning and precautions this year they allowed 5,000 to ski over a 5-day period. There are no spectators but they do expect skiers and visitors to spend time in Hayward during their stay.

**Public Safety Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Schlender advised that the jail is currently operating at 85% capacity and 911 calls have increased. He provided the annual Joint Powers Agreements between Sawyer County and local municipalities which allow emergency service coverage to residences and visitors. A motion was made by Ms. Petit; second by Mr. Helwig to approve the Joint Powers Agreements. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Schlender provided a brief update on the February 16<sup>th</sup> Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee meeting, advising that a Memorandum of Understanding between the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe and Sawyer County concerning the Criminal Justice Coordination Committee will move back to the March Public Safety meeting for discussion. The purpose of the MOU is to solidify the relationship between the Tribal Governing Board and the County in providing criminal justice services and to support a criminal justice coordinating committee.

Resolution 2021-56 Requesting the Wisconsin Legislature Revise Chapter 814 regarding filing fees was presented for adoption. The Resolution will allow Sawyer County to operate with the same funding schedule as other counties similarly situated. A motion was made by Mr. Duffy; second by Mr. Helwig to adopt Resolution 2021-56. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Public Works Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Kinsley advised that 13 of the 25 leases need more review. Mr. Paulsen made a motion to postpone the adoption of the Resolution setting forth policy for the Sawyer County hangar lease renewals and send it back to the Public Works Committee for further discussion; second was made by Mr. Helwig. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Paulsen advised that the 5-year conservation resource management plan was reviewed and approved at the February 10<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Duffy to approve the current list of Emergency Fire Wardens; second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried without negative vote. The LWFRC will check with the DNR regarding additional southern fire wardens. Mr. Buckholtz made a motion to approve three routine county land sales that all meet minimum bid requirements; second by Mr. Boettcher. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Health and Human Services Board Chair Report** – Ms. Julia Lyons presented the Covid-19 Update. Sawyer County moved back into the red zone risk level but are not overly alarmed because the additional cases were already being monitored. Thursdays will be deemed the public vaccination day going forward in Sawyer County and various clinics and pharmacies are participating in giving the vaccine. To date 13.8% of County residents have received at least one dose, higher than the 13.1% Wisconsin state rate at this time.

**Finance Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Duffy made a motion; second by Mr. Schlender to adopt Resolution 2021-58 Authorizing an Increase to the 2020 Sheriff Department Budget and Carryover of Unused Funds – Donations Received. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Hoff reviewed a slide presentation regarding the proposed second courtroom construction/remodel project. Due to Sawyer County's high caseload a second Judge is likely to be approved at the State level in November 2021 providing that facilities and staff are available. Lieutenant Jeff Johnson provided a video showing the current means of transporting incarcerated individuals across the street to the current facility. After discussion of the project and funding plans, a motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Schleeter to approve Resolution 2021-60 Providing for the Sale of Not-to-Exceed \$8,000,000 General Obligation Bonds or Notes to approve this project. Roll Call Vote was taken. Votes in favor include: Schleeter, Boettcher, Shuman, Hessel, Schlender, Helwig, Duffy, Paulsen, Bisonette, Van Etten, Olson, Buckholtz and Peters. Nay votes include: Petit and Kinsley. Motion carried 13-2.

**County Administrator's Report** – Written report was provided. Mr. Hoff reviewed Governor Evers' Budget initiatives one of which includes a proposed additional 0.5 percent sales tax for counties if supported and approved by local referendum.

**Proposed Board Policy Revisions** – Mr. Schlender provided history regarding the need for amending Rule 2-9 of the Sawyer County Supervisors Policies and Procedures regarding virtual and electronic attendance. A motion was made by Ms. Petit; second by Mr. Duffy to adopt Resolution – Amendment to Rule 2 and Part I/Section A of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Policy and Procedure Manual Relating to Virtual Attendance at County Board and Committee Meetings. The changes will clarify virtual meeting attendance rules. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Helwig made a motion to discuss Amendment to Rule 1-3 Board Vacancies; second by Mr. Paulsen. A roll call vote was taken. Votes in favor include: Schleeter, Boettcher, Shuman, Hessel, Schlender, Helwig, Duffy, Paulsen, Bisonette, Van Etten, Olson, Petit, Kinsley, Buckholtz, Peters. Motion carried 15-0. After discussion a motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Boettcher to adopt the Amendment to Rule 1-3 Regarding Filing of Board Vacancies. Roll call vote was taken. Votes in Favor include: Boettcher, Hessel, Schlender, Helwig, Paulsen, Bisonette, Van Etten, Olson, Kinsley, and Peters. Nay votes include: Schleeter, Shuman, Duffy, Petit and Buckholtz. Motion carried 10-5.

A motion was made by Mr. Schlender; second by Mr. Helwig to discuss adding a Mission Statement to the Sawyer County Supervisors Policies and Procedures manual. The Resolution to make the addition was sponsored by Mr. Boettcher, co-sponsored by Mr. Helwig and Mr. Van Etten. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Helwig to adopt the Resolution; 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 18, at 6:30 pm in the Large Courtroom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk