

Minutes of the May 18<sup>th</sup> 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"/> Kay Wilson	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 type="checkbox"/> Jason Weaver-Exc	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas W. Duffy-Exc	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshal Savitski-Exc	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	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 – Linda Zillmer**

**Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 18, 2023**

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Buckholtz

Motion carried without negative vote.

**Sheriff's Address -**

Sheriff Mrotek recognized the sheriff's staff and telecommunications staff. This week is Police Week honoring law enforcement, including those lost in the line of duty. Wisconsin is currently leading the way in the number of law enforcement officers lost in the line of duty. Deputy Jenson and Supervisor Helwig provided a demonstration using simulation rounds and lag time in reactions.

**Appointments -**

County Surveyor – Chris Gregory; Land Information Officer/GIS Specialist – Brian DeVries – Mr. Albarado reviewed the appointments presented. A motion was made by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Schleeter to approve the appointment of Chris Gregory as County Surveyor. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Mr. Rusk to approve Brian DeVries as GIS Specialist. Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Health Director – Julie McCallum – Mr. Albarado reviewed the recommendation for the new Public Health Director. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the appointment; second by Ms. Wilson. Motion carried without negative vote.

#### **Ad Hoc Formation**

Formation of Sawyer County Tourist Rooming House Ad Hoc Committee – Mr. Kozlowski presented a Resolution to Establish an Ad Hoc Committee Called “Sawyer County Tourist Rooming House Committee” and a list of 12 voting members (including three County Board Supervisors) and 8 non-voting members from various stakeholder areas. Documentation is provided. This recommendation came through both HHS and Zoning committees. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Helwig to approve the formation of the subcommittee; Ms. Wilson recused herself from this discussion and vote. An electronic vote was cast and passed without negative vote.

#### **Zoning Committee -**

Chair Report – Ms. Wilson recused herself from this portion of the board meeting. Mr. Buckholtz advised that zoning permits remain above last year, approving five conditional use permits.

Zone District Map Amendment RZN #23-001 - Written documentation was provided. A request to rezone property in the name of Fred C. Scheer II from Forestry One (F-1) to Residential/Recreational One (RR-1) was presented. A resolution to approve this request was provided along with a staff report for the County Board. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve this request. An electronic vote was cast and passed 11-1, with “yes” votes from Shuman, Hessel, Helwig, Bisonette, Maestri, Rusk, Righeimer, Kinsley, Buckholtz and Peters; one “no” vote from Schleeter. Ms. Wilson recused herself from this vote.

#### **Public Safety Committee -**

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz reported that the new board room is using a temporary AV solution. The Sheriff’s Department reported progress in hiring and continued training. The rabies clinic will return next year. Mr. Froemel reported an increase in ambulance runs for the month of April over last year.

#### **Public Works Committee -**

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that the Airport will have a public hearing at 6pm next month. The airport is developing its Master Plan. Our new highway commissioner advised that we will be able to blacktop repair only 8 miles of county roads this year due to increased costs.

Courthouse Remodeling Update – A written report was provided. The contingency fund is at zero and the contractors are requesting additional funds for the remodel project.

ATV/UTV Route Request – Amend ATV/UTV Ordinance – A route request from Badger Bay Lane going south on Cty Rd F terminating at Birch Lake Resort was approved at committee level and presented to the Board for final approval. A motion was made by Mr. Rusk; second by Ms. Hessel to approve the request. A voice vote was held and passed with one nay vote from Ms. Wilson.

#### **Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee --**

Chair Report – Mr. Peters reported that the timber sales are on track and the new bids were approved at committee level. A new DNR liaison, Brody Fischer, was introduced. Tree sales have been completed and went well once again. The Upper Brunett Dam post-construction inspection revealed one item that needs correcting. Permit numbers are higher than in 2022. The gates at the dam at Lake Winter are now functional. Bear complaints are up in the reservation area.

#### **Health & Human Services Board --**

Chair Report – Mr. Schleeter advised that Kay Wilson was elected as Vice Chair of the Committee. Department reports were shared. Ms. Lyons and Mr. Albarado are working on reorganizing some departmental duties, filling empty positions, and working with outside agencies in areas where we are short-staffed.

### **Finance Committee --**

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley reported that the committee has been reviewing the avenues of incoming revenues and expenditures. Our investments are generating good interest income at this time.

Courthouse Expansion/Remodeling Update – A written update was provided. Mr. Albarado provided an overview of the areas needing additional work or fixes. An example is that the asbestos removal was three times its original quote to be removed. There are no contingency funds available at this time. Delays in the project caused additional expenditures. The new projected total cost of the project is \$10,200,000+. Additional items that were not within the original scope of the project were also outlined with a cost ranging \$50-\$60,000.

Resolution Authorizing the Borrowing of not to Exceed \$4M; and Providing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2023 – Mr. Markgren presented a review of the borrowing plan. Reasoning for combining our debt issues were identified in the presentation as well as a review of the debt previously authorized by Sawyer County Supervisors. A repayment schedule and chart of property tax effect were provided. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve the Resolution as presented. An electronic vote was cast and passed 12 – 0.

### **Economic Development & UW Extension Committee -**

Chair Report – Vice Chair Righeimer advised that HLVCB provided results of a branding study, indicating that the predominant demographic visiting the Hayward area is coming from Duluth and Minneapolis. The SC/LCO EDC are looking for a director at this time. Library updates were provided. The Birkie will host its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, and summer hours will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Historical Society.

### **County Administrator's Report -**

A written report was provided, reviewing the courthouse renovation, personnel updates including union negotiations, contracting staff, municode and corporation counsel involvement. Progress on the treatment and diversion court and opioid settlement status was reviewed as well as broadband, tribal land taxation changes, and the state budget update.

### **Other Topics for Discussion Only -**

**Adjournment – 8:02 pm**

**Next Meeting:** June 15, 2023      **Time:** 6:30 pm      **Location:** Board Room  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk