

**Minutes of the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sawyer County  
Finance Committee  
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors  
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



**Voting Committee Members (X) Present:**

- Chair: **Bruce Paulsen @ 8:54 am**
- Ron Kinsley, Vice Chair
- Dawn Petit – Virtual
- Tom Duffy
- Stacey Hessel

**Others Present:**

Tom Hoff  
Lynn Fitch  
Mike Coleson  
Mike Keefe  
Linda Zillmer

**Call to Order** – Vice Chair Ron Kinsley called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

**Certification of Compliance** with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call taken and quorum was met.

**Meeting Agenda –**

**Pledge of Allegiance and Public Comments** – Public comments by Linda Zillmer

**Minutes of the previous meeting** – A motion was made by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021, Finance meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Ms. Petit; second by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021, Joint Finance/Administration meeting minutes. Motion carried without negative vote.

**2022 Budget Review** – Mr. Keefe advised that at this point there is not much information to report as departments have until the end of this month to turn their budget requests in. WRS and MOD workers' compensation rates are down but law enforcement rate is going up by one-quarter percent, so overall there may be a decrease for the budget. Mr. Keefe stated that the lower rates reflect the hard work that Ms. Lillyroot in HR and Mr. Hoff have done to reduce claims and offer alternatives such as light duty work to staff who have been injured. The HHS first draft of their budget is out and out-of-county mental health placements remain very costly for the future of the budget.

**Opioid Settlement Update** – Mr. Hoff advised 71 Counties are involved in this litigation and there is talk about a settlement soon. The state has passed AB74 which would allow counties to receive 70% of the funds from the settlement, and those funds would be used for remediation and abatement of opioid activities in the HHS department. This could affect how we allot items in the budget such as the future of drug court and diversion services. The County is currently investigating the means to restart the drug court services in Sawyer County.

**ARPA calculation** – Mr. Keefe reviewed the approved loss of revenue calculation as it applies to Sawyer County. These funds can be used for broader uses. Sawyer County's 2020 calculation determined that we had too much revenue to qualify, as we had good sales tax, stumpage and other revenue streams in 2020. It appears likely that Sawyer will not qualify next year, as well. Other potential uses for ARPA funds are discussed at each department and committee level.

**Committee Roles and Responsibilities** – Mr. Paulsen presented a draft copy of the committee roles and responsibilities. The line item in question is #4 of the section titled *Budget* and the amount of \$25,000 being the threshold to bring concerns to the committee. Mr. Keefe consistently reviews the overall budget and the Budget Watch list may help satisfy the periodic review of items of concern. A resolution to adopt these roles and responsibilities will be presented in the August committee meeting so it can move forward in accepting the document.

**Supplemental Information - Budget Watch List** – A copy of the budget watch list was provided for review; this document is generated mid-way each year and then becomes a monthly report to watch. It will continue to help administration and the finance committee follow any items of concern. Mr. Paulsen requested that a month-to-date comparison from previous year be added in each report going forward. At this point in time, there is no major concerns on the Budget Watch list.

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, August 12, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT