

**Minutes of the July 14<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: **Ron Kinsley**
- Vice Chair, John Righeimer
- Stacey Hessel
- Tom Duffy
- Dale Schleeter

**Others Present:**

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Andy Albarado          | Mike Markgren - Virtual |
| Lynn Fitch             | Ron Buckholtz           |
| Mike Coleson           | Linda Zillmer           |
| Tweed Shuman           | Ed Peters – Virtual     |
| Janeen Abric - Virtual | Liz Klein               |
| Chris Klein            | Brenda Adler            |

**Call to Order** –Chair 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** –

**Public Comments** – Linda Zillmer

**Minutes of the previous meeting** – A motion was made by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2022, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Treasurer's Report** -- A written report was provided. Ms. Aibric reported the department is busy receipting tax payments. They have a new employee who will be assuming the position of a retiring deputy.

**ARPA Funding Update and Helipad Funding Request** -- Mr. Albarado advised that at last month's meeting there was discussion regarding allocating remaining ARPA funds for the courthouse remodel project. \$1,432,417 of the funds remain unallocated. Mr. Albarado reported that the construction project is facing use of some of the contingency funds due to some cost overruns of approximately \$100,000.

Ms. Klein reported on the funding sources of the Town of Draper Helipad request. Mr. Righeimer made a motion to use \$40,000 of ARPA funds for the Helipad request, and use the remainder for the courthouse project; second by Ms. Hessel and forward to County Board. Vote carries 4 – 1 with a “nay” vote from Mr. Kinsley.

**Opioid Settlement Update** – Mr. Albarado provided a review of the securitization option for receiving the funds. We are scheduled to receive \$579,668 over a period of 18 years through 2038. Securitization would give us the option of receiving a couple large payments the first and second years with a reduced total payout. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to allow Mr. Albarado to follow through with the investigation of the securitization option. Motion carried without negative vote.

**2021 Audit & 2022 Budget Updates** -- Mr. Albarado introduced Mike Markgren as our new finance director. A written report from the finance director was provided. We are tracking well for the 2022 budget. Also new to the department Randy Ehn joined as the staff accountant position.

**Mileage and Meal Reimbursements** -- Mr. Albarado presented a Resolution to Adjust Meal and Mileage Reimbursement Rates for employees to bring reimbursement rates closer to today's market prices. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the resolution as presented; second by Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Ambulance** -- Ambulance Township Ambulance Service Contracts and Rates – Mr. Albarado presented a review of current ambulance billing rate for the Town of Bass Lake, Birchwood and Stone Lake and a proposal to adjust those rates. A written report is provided. The Public Safety Committee gave Mr. Albarado the permission to begin negotiations with the entities. Public comment was made by Ms. Zillmer.

A Resolution to Adjust Ambulance Personnel Wages was presented by Mr. Albarado. Sawyer County has a hard time attracting and retaining EMTs and Paramedics and continue to carry forward open job positions month after month. We are competing with other higher paying services in the area. The resolution would have a \$210,000 fiscal impact and would result in additional EMS levy in 2023. This would adjust the pay grades for both EMTs and Paramedics. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve the Resolution to Adjust Ambulance Personnel Wages. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Review Board Policy & Procedure Manual Committee Role & Responsibilities** -- A copy of the current committee policy was provided. Mr. Albarado requested that comments from committee members be returned to him and a new copy would come back next month for review, if changes are suggested.

**Elected Officials' Compensation** -- Mr. Albarado advised that elected officials are not eligible for compensation adjustments outside of the set term, and corporate counsel was consulted.

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, August 11, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 am  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk