

**Minutes of the August 10<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

Andy Albarado  
Lynn Fitch  
Mike Markgren  
Joyce Knowlton  
Julia Lyons

**Others Present:**

Ron Buckholtz  
Linda Zillmer

**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 from the previous meeting dated: July 13, 2023**

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Hessel                      Second by: Mr. Duffy  
Motion carried without negative vote.

**WALDO Request for Funds – Appearance -**

Lori Martin spoke on behalf of WALDO requesting funds to help support their center, advising the Committee of the steps supporters of WALDO have taken thus far. They are open three days a week at this time offering community programs and some meals. They've received \$17,000 in grants and donations thus far, and they are applying for 503(c) status.

**Finance Department Report -**

Sales Tax Distribution – A written report was provided, showing a \$5,000 decrease in sales tax from last year.

Budget Updates – A written report was provided. Mr. Markgren reviewed highlights; we are 58% thru the budget as of July 31. We are at 50% of the expense side, as well. If there is a surplus after any transfers, he recommends we set that aside for a future planned transfer draw. Highway received about \$435,000 in aid.

Capital Improvement Plan Update – Purchases – There were no purchases this past month.

Note Issue/ARPA Funding Sources – A handout was provided showing the 2023 CIP items do not allow some items. The solution is that we could shift ARPA funds; no additional costs to the County. The Courthouse is already an approved component of the \$4M Note Issue. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve the transfer. Motion carried without negative vote. Mr. Markgren will check with auditors to see if this must go before full County Board.

2024 Budget Preliminary Update – Mr. Markgren advised that the Administrator budget is not yet complete. Lisa Dahlstrom from Washburn County assisted in New World entries for the Highway Department, allowing our Finance Department to learn more about the Highway Department budgeting entries.

**Investment Update -**

A written report was provided, and Mr. Markgren reviewed the highlights. We are getting good rates on a safe investment in some of the top banks in the country. YTD interest is \$474,991.

### **EMS-Ambulance -**

A written report was provided and reviewed. Mr. Markgren feels we are doing well and keep increasing the percentage of bills collected overall through LifeQuest efforts. The average calls per year is seeing a close in the gap; the number of calls is down, partly due to the lack of transfers. The average amount collected per month is also seeing a positive trend.

### **Financial and Fund Updates -**

ARPA Funds – No significant changes; we are still waiting for final broadband project draws.

Opioid Funds – A proposed 2023 opioid settlement budget and fentanyl awareness presentation were presented. Ms. Knowlton provided an overview of the fentanyl crisis and subsequent plans to address the issue. Over 200 people have taken the free Narcan training since first offered in May 2023. Also created by Kim Joy was a website that can accept public donations; additional grant money in the HHS department will also be available. Programs in the K-12 system are included in the plan/support programs and information is going to be pushed out at the municipal levels and beyond. Ms. Lyons reviewed the highlights of the proposed budget that include quite a bit of funding for advertising the message that needs to get into the community. Budget areas include *harm reduction, prevention, jail/law enforcement, support, and advertising campaigns*. Grants and donations have been and will continue to help supplement our efforts. Ms. Hessel requested a monthly assessment of fentanyl conditions. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the proposed budget with the caveat that we are given monthly updates; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote. This will be forwarded to County Board.

### **Courthouse Expansion Remodel Update -**

Mr. Albarado provided a handout of the Courthouse expansion additional items completed and those yet to consider; he reviewed the items listed. Our AV contractor has been here getting more systems up and running. The total additional cost estimate if every item is approved is \$219,200 but we do not anticipate the cost to be that high. They have been addressing the last finishing items of the building and working with an overage rep to address potential discrepancies in contract expectations and what recourse the County might have. Maintenance is trying to help consolidate all of Human Services offices into one general area. Other areas of the existing building are being reviewed for better efficiencies. The duress system (\$20,000 item) for the old section of the building was discussed as well as additional items that were not previously considered.

### **Future Agenda Items -**

#### **Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings -**

#### **Adjournment – 10:12 am**

**Next Meeting:** March 9, 2023      **Time:** 8:30 am      **Location:** Board Room  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk