

**Minutes of the October 13th 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
Ron Buckholtz
Tweed Shuman
Mike Markgren

Others Present:

Carol Larson
Molly Lank-Jones
Linda Zillmer
Sherry Beckman
Greg Peterson

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 – Molly Lank-Jones, Ann Larson, Sherry Beckman, Linda Zillmer

Minutes of the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2022, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Jail Staffing and Compensation – Mr. Albarado provided an updated regarding the staffing crises in the jail. The 2023 budget does include an increase in the wages for the jail to attract applicants. We would like to be able to advertise the new wages now to try to attract applicants, as we have many upcoming shifts that are not covered. A motion was made by Stacey Hessel to approve the proposal; a second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

Forest Land Purchase -- Mr. Albarado presented an offer to purchase a section of land from Richard and Denise Cooper that was approved at LWFR Committee at a price of \$316,500. Greg Peterson advised that the County has been interested in the parcel for a while as it is surrounded by County land and in a high recreation traffic area. We may be able to get a Stewardship grant to pay for a portion of the cost. A motion was made by Mr. Duffy; second by Ms. Hessel to approve this purchase and forward to County Board authorizing a State Trust Fund application for financing. Motion passed without negative vote.

2023 Budget Update – Mr. Markgren believes the sales tax projection is on target. He reviewed the 2023 budget presentation that was included in the packet. Net new construction is 1.169%, about \$120,000; the highest level in the last 13 years. The 2023 budget levy proposed is \$14,000,698. The capital purchases through debt ratio is a total of \$1,367,707 and a requested fund balance draw of \$2,329,163. The resulting tax levy is \$3.09 resulting in a -3.61% in rate adjustment.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, November 10, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk