

Minutes of the October 14th meeting of the Sawyer County
Administration Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- Chair: **Tweed Shuman**
- Vice Chair: Dale Schleeter
- James Schlender
- Ron Kinsley
- Tom Duffy

Others Present:

Tom Hoff
Lynn Fitch
Mike Coleson
Gary Elliott-Virtual
Dianne Ince-Virtual
Rebecca Roeker
Jesse Boettcher

Linda Zillmer
Aaron Halberg

Call to Order –Chair Shuman called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

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

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried without negative vote. Mr. Schlender abstained as he arrived at 10:04 after the vote.

Veterans Service Department Report – Written report provided. Mr. Elliot reviewed the causes of the five claims submissions that had been denied. The department has received over \$327,000 in claims siding in favor of our veterans.

Information Technology Department Report – Written report provided. Mr. Coleson stated they have equipped the Oasis building for temporary use for a vaccine clinic and testing site.

Virtual Meeting Policy – Several changes were recommended: instead of requiring permission for absence, a notification to the Chair/Administrator/County Clerk is required. It was recommended to remove the cap of 3 absences, and insert language indicating that attendance at meetings is to be presumed in person but Zoom attendance is permissible. A roll call vote was taken to approve the board rule changes and present to full County Board in October. The roll call vote passed 3 -2 with Shuman, Schlender and Kinsley voting “aye”; Schleeter and Duffy voting “nay”. Ms. Roeker will make the official language change before presenting at the October board meeting.

Human Resources Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Hoff that we have ten open positions and are actively advertising on a variety of platforms. The health insurance quotes are back and WCA once again offered a favorable quote with a 4% increase.

2022 Budget Status – Mr. Keefe reviewed the budget status, identifying key areas that show an increase or decrease. The County Clerk budget increased approximately \$25,000 due to additional elections requiring programming and programming fee reimbursements. HR is up a bit in personnel and IT shows a \$66,000 increase due to increased security monitoring measures.

Redistricting – Ms. Fitch advised that the municipal resolutions are coming in as expected.

Affirmation of Legal Protections from Healthcare Choice Discrimination Resolution -- Mr. Schlender presented a resolution addressing the potential federal mandate requiring vaccine for employees. The resolution was reviewed by legal counsel. Ms. Roeker advised that the resolution could move forward as an advisory document without legal standing or authority if that was the desire of the committee. Upon review of language, changes were suggested to strike lines 31 and 32, and add an acknowledgement to line 34 indicating it is not a legally binding authority. Public comment made by Linda Zillmer. A motion was made by Mr. Schlender to forward the resolution to the County Board for consideration. There being no second, the motion failed.

County Administrator's Report – Mr. Hoff advised that the opioid settlement has been approved by the Attorney General and we wait to hear the settlement amount. The employee health insurance program winning bid went to WCA with a 4% increase in cost. The courthouse construction meeting produced a new set of detailed plans to be used in the bid process, and the Oasis building is being temporarily used as a Covid vaccine and testing site.

Closed Session – At 11:31 am Mr. Duffy made the motion to enter closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for Sawyer County who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by Sawyer County with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to be come involved. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 5-0 (Schleeter, Shuman, Schlender, Duffy, Kinsley).

At 11:50 am motion was made by Mr. Kinsley, second by Mr. Duffy to return to open session. Motion carried 3-0; Mr. Shuman and Mr. Kinsley were not present for this motion.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Administration Committee will be Thursday, November 4, at 10:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk