

**Minutes of the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Sawyer County  
Board of Supervisors  
Large Courtroom; Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



**Voting Committee Members**

<b>Present (X)</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Wards</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Schleeter	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5 & 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jesse Boettcher-Virtual	02	T Lenroot W-2, T Round Lake W-1
<input type="checkbox"/> Tweed Shuman	03	T Hayward W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey Hessel	04	T Hayward W-1 & 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James H. Schlender, Jr.	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas W. Duffy	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce Paulsen	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Bisonette-Virtual	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Van Etten	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Olson	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Hayward W-8, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Petit-Virtual	12	T Spider Lake, T Round Lake, W-2, T Winter W-1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Kinsley	13	T Hunter, T Radisson W-1, T-Ojibwa W-1, V Radisson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Buckholtz	14	T Radisson W-2, T Ojibwa W-2, T Weirgor, V Exeland, T Meadowbrook
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Peters	15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**– Vice Chair Schleeter called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll Call taken; quorum was met.

**Certification of Compliance** with the open meeting law was met.

**Public Comments** – Roberto Escamilla II, Aaron Halberg, Harold Miller

**Agenda** - Mr. Paulsen requested that item 14a be moved to section 18 after the budget presentation

**Minutes** – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Covid-19 Update** – Julia Lyons presented a Covid update. Sawyer County is currently at the red risk level. This is still a downward trend at this point. Sawyer County is mirroring the trends in the rest of the state. Hospital beds remain in short supply but not all due to Covid occupancy. HHS has set up a vaccination and testing site in the Oasis Building on Hwy 63 using rapid tests and PCR test; results can sometimes be available within a half-hour. Call for appointments at 715-634-4806. They are seeing cases of fully vaccinated individuals in the hospital with Covid but are not seeing serious Covid illness in youth under age 18. The death rate in Sawyer County is 1.3% which is considered low. They are reviewing the type of Pfizer vaccines they have available to see if they are the EUA approved one or the FDA approved version. J&J is showing a little less immunity than the Pfizer and Moderna.

**Zoning Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Buckholtz advised that they have received a large number of gravel pit requests and continued discussions of rezoning permits. 453 land use permits were issued to date (33% higher than last year) and 352 sanitary permits were issued, also higher than previous year.

Mr. Kozlowski presented Case #21-009 for applicant Charles and Susan Baker requesting a rezone of 6.8 acres to RR-2 and then divide the parcels to give to the three children to be able to build on. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Olson to approve the request. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Kozlowski presented the Sawyer County Comprehensive Plan 2021-2041 for adoption. A group of concerned citizens began the work on the plan began over a year ago. A link to the full working draft version is available on the agenda packet. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Ms. Petit to approve the Plan as a final version. A voice vote was taken and passed 13 – 1 with Mr. Olson voting “nay”.

**Public Safety Report** – Mr. Schlender advised that the ambulance director is reporting concerns about a potential vaccine mandate negatively affecting staffing within the ambulance service should the mandate come to fruition. The jail is at 75% capacity and still experiencing staffing shortages but have some favorable candidates in the pipeline. The TAD Planning Grant has been submitted by JusticePoint and we are in full compliance to meet all requirements for the second courtroom. The DA and Judge are initiating steps to make referrals for pre-trial diversion steps in a pilot program with JusticePoint.

**Public Works Committee Chair Report** – Meeting Minutes provided. Mr. Kinsley advised that bids are scheduled to go out at the end of December as planned.

A hangar lease sale has been presented at the Public Works committee and approved as the first step to move it forward to County Board. Mr. Duffy made a motion to waive the first right of refusal of the Northwest Bonanza Burton hangar lease; second by Mr. Olson. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Duffy to approve the assignment to sell the hangar lease. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Kinsley presented an ATV/UTV Route Resolution that requires routes to be approved at the town level, notice provided to the Tribal Board Chairman, before coming to the County Board for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Duffy to approve the resolution. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Land, Water and Forest Resources** -- Mr. Paulsen presented the October land sales for approval, noting that the LCO Tribe is purchasing over \$300,000 in land affecting \$1,100/year in future tax revenue loss. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Ms. Hessel to approve these sales. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Health and Human Services** – The 85.21 Grant Resolution for the purchase of a replacement bus for Senior Resource Center was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Paulsen to approve this Resolution. A voice vote was taken and passed 13 – 1; with Ms. Petit voting “nay”.

**Finance Committee Chair Report** – Mr. Paulsen requested that item 14a (State Trust Fund Loan Program) be moved to item 18 to be heard after the 2022 budget review. The auditors’ executive summary was presented to the Finance Committee and is attached herein. Sawyer County received a *clean opinion* which is the highest opinion available. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Mr. Buckholtz to accept the audit report. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Economic Development and UW Extension Committee** – Mr. Schlender reported on the Resolution that was brought to the Econ/UWEX meeting regarding the vaccine mandates and protection of Sawyer County employment. The Resolution was approved at this meeting to move forward to the Administration meeting but failed there for lack of second. He reported that this year has been a very good year on our trail system.

**Virtual Meeting Policy** – Resolution attached. Ms. Roeker presented the changes made to Board Policy regarding attendance at Board and Committee meetings. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Peters to approve the Resolution Regarding Board Rule Change. Motion carried without negative vote.

Board room break from 8:05 pm to 8:10 pm

**County Administrator's Report** – Mr. Hoff advised that the budget process has consumed a great deal of the time to date, the County received word that a couple of the broadband grants applied for have been approved and the Sheriff has received a letter of resignation from the County Treasurer, Dianne Ince. Dianne plans to retire at the end of 2021.

**County Administrator's 2022 Budget** – Mr. Hoff presented the Administrator's 2022 budget with projected timelines (attached to the board packet). He noted that after bidding out the employee health insurance program, we successfully received a bid back from WCA at a good rate and will switch programs back to WCA. Enrollment will begin in November. Mr. Olson left the room from 8:51-8:53 pm; no votes were affected.

The Resolution to Borrow Funds and Levy Tax from Board of Commissions of Public Lands, received prior to this board meeting, was presented to fund the capital equipment purchases at a rate of 2.5% for two years. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Kinsley to approve this request. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 13 – 1 with "aye" votes from Schleeter, Boettcher, Hessel, Schlender, Helwig, Duffy, Paulsen, Bisonette, Van Etten, Petit, Kinsley, Buckholtz, and Peters. "Nay" vote from Olson.

At 9:03 pm a motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Kinsley 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 become involved. A roll call vote was taken and passed 14 – 0 with "aye" votes from Schleeter, Boettcher, Hessel, Schlender, Helwig, Duffy, Paulsen, Bisonette, Van Etten, Petit, Kinsley, Buckholtz, Peters, and Olson. A motion was made at 9:34 pm by Mr. Olson; second by Mr. Kinsley to come out of closed session. Motion carried without negative vote.

Open session at 9:34 pm

**Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings, Other Matters for Discussion --**

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the County Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, November 9, at 6:30 pm in the Large Courtroom.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk