

Minutes of the February 10th meeting of the Sawyer County
Finance Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- Chair: **Bruce Paulsen**
- Ron Kinsley, Vice Chair
- Dawn Petit – Virtual
- Tom Duffy
- Stacey Hessel - Virtual

Tom Hoff
Lynn Fitch
Mike Coleson
Mike Keefe
Andrew Grimm

Others Present:

Sheldon Johnson
Michelle Wiberg – Virtual
Ed Peters
Linda Zillmer

Call to Order – Vice 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 –

Minutes of the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2022, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Treasurer’s Department -- Mr. Keefe provided a review of ARPA funding that has become available through Wisconsin DOA for homeowners who have fallen behind in taxes since 2018. We have applied for the program and are waiting to hear if we’ve been awarded. If approved, there are funds available to homeowners for past-due taxes. A motion to approve participation was made by Mr. Duffy; seconded by Ms. Petit. Motion carried without negative vote. Mr. Keefe reviewed a current sales tax graph which indicates that our sales tax revenue was approximately \$650,000 ahead of what was budgeted.

ARPA Funding Update – Mr. Peters presented three broadband proposals for consideration. Norvado is requesting \$100,000 of ARPA funds to complete a project from Draper/Loretta, down through Winter and east on Highway W. It includes serving 1,421 rooftops. A motion was made by Ms. Petit to approve this request and forward to County Board; second by Mr. Kinsley. The motion carried 3 – 1 with a “nay” vote from Mr. Duffy.

A request from Bevcomm was made for a project in 2022. The original request for this project was \$350,000 serving 566 rooftops in Meteor, Weirgor, Meadowbrook Towns. Becomm advised they would consider a \$100,000 allotment from Sawyer County. A motion to approve the \$100,000 request and forward to County Board was made by Ms. Petit; second by Mr. Kinsley. The motion carried 3 – 1 with a “nay” vote from Mr. Duffy.

Mosaic Technologies presented a request for an extension of the previous broadband grant project. They request \$400,000 to serve 1,471 roof tops in Sand Lake and Bass Lake Towns. Implementation would be in 2023. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Ms. Petit to approve this request and forward to the County Board. The motion carried 3 – 1 with a “nay” vote from Mr. Duffy. A fourth request from SK TV Systems had been withdrawn.

Bond Issuance Process -- Mr. Hoff introduced the planning stages for the funding of the courthouse remodel. The County will be working with PMA Securities to issue bonds for the project. Michelle Wiberg from PMA Securities reviewed the presentation provided in the agenda packet which outlines the financing schedule with a final adoption of the award nomination at the March CB meeting. Interest rates won’t be locked in until March 17th.

Finance Department Update – Mr. Keefe announced his pending retirement effective the end of April or May.

Future Agenda Items – ARPA Funding Priorities List

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT