

**Minutes of the March 16th meeting of the Sawyer County
Board of Supervisors
Large Courtroom; Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



Voting Committee Members

Present (X)	District	Wards
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Schleeter	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jesse Boettcher	02	T Lenroot W-2, T Round Lake W-1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tweed Shuman	03	T Hayward W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey Hessel	04	T Hayward W-3 & 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Weaver	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"/> Marshal Savitski	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Bisonette	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Maestri - virtual	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Rusk - virtual	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Hayward W-8, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Righeimer	12	T Spider Lake, T Round Lake W-2, T Winter W-1
<input 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 - virtual	15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance— Chair Tweed Shuman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll call was taken; quorum was met.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met.

Public Comments – Monica Isham, Tish Keahna (spelling)

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: February 16, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Helwig

Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz provided an overview of the March meeting. There were no rezones for the month and they approved two conditional use permits. They are working on clarifying language of multi-dwelling and resorts.

Public Safety Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz advised that staff are being hired in the Sheriff’s Department but they are still short-handed. There were ten crashes last month including one fatality. Currently 82% of jail inmates are unemployed and they are working on measures to help improve employability. Dates are scheduled for upcoming active shooter training in area schools.

Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding – A resolution recommending an increase in child support funding was presented by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Schleeter to accept this resolution. A roll call vote was

taken and passed 13-0 with electronic “yes” votes from Schleeter, Boettcher, Shuman, Hessel, Weaver, Helwig, Duffy, Savitski, Bisonette, Righeimer, Maestri, and Buckholtz; voice “yes” vote from Peters. Chris Rusk did not weigh in to vote.

CJCC By-Laws Amendments – Revised CJCC By-laws were presented by Mr. Albarado. He reviewed the edits that are highlighted in red in the packet copy. Motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Savitski to accept the by-law changes as presented. A voice vote was cast and passed without negative vote.

CJCC Appointments – A slate of CJCC members appointed by the CJCC Council was presented for affirmation, including a new position for HHS staff, naming Julia Lyons to the post. A motion was made by Mr. Weaver; second by Mr. Duffy to approve the appointments as presented. A voice vote was cast and passed without negative vote.

Opioid Settlement Update -

Resolution Authorizing County to Enter Into the Settlement Agreements with Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Allergan Finance, LLC, Walgreen Co., Walmart, Inc., CVS Health Corporation and CVS Pharmacy, Inc., Agree to the Terms of the Addendum to the MOU Allocating Settlement Proceeds, and Authorize Entry Into the MOU with the Attorney General – Mr. Albarado presented a resolution to enter into an opioid settlement with retailers that will increase the amount of settlement dollars we will receive. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Savitski to approve the resolution, the addendum and MOU as presented. A roll call vote was taken and passed 13-0 with electronic “yes” votes from Schleeter, Boettcher, Shuman, Hessel, Weaver, Helwig, Duffy, Savitski, Bisonette, Righeimer, Maestri and Buckholtz; voice “yes” vote from Peters. Chris Rusk did not weigh in to vote.

Strategy to Address Opioids and Overdoses by Public Health -- Julia Lyons reviewed a presentation outlining the county strategy to address opioids and overdoses. The process includes plans for prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. Each of the areas have measurable criteria identified, including “have”, “have not” and “solutions”. Better mental health care, additional teen care, and securing more providers are key tactics. Specifics regarding each measure can be found in the report.

Public Works Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Helwig advised that Thompson have been doing a good job on airport snow removal and a master plan for the airport remains under development. Road bans go into effect on March 17th. Mr. Albarado advised that the ATV/UTV ordinance remains in discussion. Conversations continue with LCO and the Alliance. The Public Works renewed the existing ATV/UTV routes except routes identified on the reservation pending further discussion.

Appointment of Highway Commissioner – Mr. Albarado advised that interviews have been conducted and an offer has been made. After concluding interviews, he presented a request to appoint Mr. Pinnow to the position. A review of his credentials was shared with the board. A highway commissioner in another county will be appointed as a mentor. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the appointment; second by Mr. Helwig. A voice vote was cast and carried without negative vote.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Boettcher advised that a special meeting was held this evening to approve the sale of the property in the Village of Radisson. Logging has been ahead of schedule and recon/inspections are on target. There was a recent wolf kill reported of an elk on private land.

2023 Recreational Trail Aids Resolution – Mr. Boettcher presented the annual trail aids renewal resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the 2023 Recreational Trail Aids Resolution as presented; second by Mr. Duffy. A voice vote was taken and carried without negative vote.

Health & Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Mr. Schleeter advised that Paul Grahovac has submitted his letter of resignation. Committee reports were shared and the county is experiencing a low amount of positive Covid tests.

Finance Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Albarado reported that some properties will be removed from the county tax roll as a result of the recent Native American Treaty decision. Some discussion is taking place at the state level to make counties whole for the losses incurred. A sales tax projection for 2023 is estimated at a little over \$3M. An estimated \$50,000 of interest income is projected with the new investment strategies. He reviewed the Town of Edgewater ambulance request for exiting our ambulance levy; more discussion is underway on this topic.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Duffy advised that NWRP have funds available at 0% interest for home improvement loans. The SC/LCO EDC are scheduling local business socials this year. The Birkie had a record number of skiers and they are planning their 50th anniversary event next year. The Fat Bike Birkie was held this past week with 850 racers.

County Administrator's Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Albarado reviewed the courthouse expansion funding and scheduled turnover is in April. Union negotiations are still ongoing, and they continue to recruit for positions throughout various departments, including Mr. Grahovac's; we are down to one social worker and one youth justice worker. Being short-staffed, we are sharing some responsibilities with other counties and services. A new benefits consultant was hired and they will review all benefits including self-insurance. The WCA Legislature Conference was attended and the Governor's budget was the topic of discussion.

Mr. Boettcher announced that tonight was his last meeting before moving to Washburn County.

Future Agenda Items -

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Adjournment – 7:52 pm

Next Meeting: April 18, 2023 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Large Courtroom

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk