

Minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup> 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"/> Kay Wilson	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 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**— 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 –**

Honorable John Yackel presented a plaque to Nicole Ripczinski for her services in the court room as court security officer.

**Appearance by Circuit Court Representatives - Staff Needs/Request –**

Mr. Albarado introduced the topic of staffing needs with the commencement of the second courtroom. Ross Muns introduced the State staff in attendance. A Judicial Assistant position is under consideration, including possible shared duties in other functions. The County pays for this position which would add \$70,000-\$80,000 to the budget. The State would provide court state aid in the amount of approximately \$102,000.

**Minutes from the previous meeting dated: May 18, 2023**

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Duffy

Motion carried without negative vote.

**Appointments for Zoning Board of Appeals -**

Mr. Albarado advised two appointments are up for renewal for three years. – Al Gerber and Jim Tiffany. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by to approve the renewed appointments for three-year terms. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Zoning Committee -**

Chair Report – Ms. Hessel read the Chair Report. The newly approved Tourist Rooming House Committee will hold its first meeting this month.

**Public Safety Committee -**

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz advised that two jury trials have been completed in the new courtroom. The Sheriffs' Department is adding staff and conducting training. The new 911 services are moving forward and patrol volume increased last month. Local LEO participated in a fund-raising softball game for ALS. Current inmate population is at 77%. The number of calls for dogs needing vet care has increased. The Child Support MOU with LCO was approved at committee level. With additional female jailers, we anticipate moving our female inmates currently housed in Barron County back to our Sawyer County jail soon.

**Public Works Committee -**

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley reported that the maintenance department has greatly contributed to projects in the new construction.

Courthouse Remodeling Project – The blacktop of the new parking lot is completed and waiting to dry.

LaBarre Amendment to Sawyer County Airport Hangar Area Lease Renewal -- A request to renew the LaBarre 20-year hangar lease was presented along with an amendment of the lease to approve the request. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the request; second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote.

County KK Speed Reduction Update – Minutes of the May 17<sup>th</sup> Traffic Safety Committee were provided identifying the request to reduce speed by 10 mph on CTH KK from the stop sign on CTH K to the first corner. The reduction of speed from 55 mph to 45 mph was approved at this committee level. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to approve this reduction. An electronic vote was cast and passed 15-0 without negative vote.

**Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee --**

Chair Report – Mr. Peters advised that several local events were approved at Committee. He reviewed the County land sale parcels that went to auction that were approved/denied at Committee. There have been 123 transfers completed in land records. We are on target for timber sales. Training on aquatic invasive species is underway at the DNR.

Act 216 Tax Deed Resolution - A resolution requesting the State of Wisconsin to address concerns of Act 216, relating to distributing the proceeds from the sale of tax delinquent properties to former owners was presented for review. Mr. Albarado reviewed the purpose of the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Mr. Peters. An electronic vote was taken and passed 15-0; without negative vote.

**Health & Human Services Board --**

Chair Report – Mr. Schleeter reported that there are still staff openings in the HHS department but more applications are coming in. Adult Protective Services has been reaching out to area banks to assist in training for preventing abuse in elder finances. Narcan training has started and distribution has become high demand; training is in demand as well. The County has received a grant for Narcan purchases. Staff training is also underway.

**Finance Committee --**

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley reported that the Finance Department staff have been doing a great job in investments and developing committee reports. The staff budget process began this month. Public Health has been applying for and receiving grant funds for additional opioid projects.

### **Economic Development & UW Extension Committee -**

Chair Report – Mr. Duffy advised that UWEX provided a report on 4-H projects. HLVCB advised that Sawyer County had a record-breaking year in tourism, as did the State of Wisconsin. Sawyer County/LCO EDC is still working on housing project yet. Over 1000 bikers attended the recent Birkie bike race. The LWC will be having a busy event.

### **Resolution 2023- LCO vs Evers WCA6-23 -**

Mr. Albarado advised that this resolution was pioneered by other counties and will be presented to the State asking the State to reimburse counties for financial losses incurred due to their loss of tax revenue decision. He reviewed the points of the Resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Duffy to approve the Resolution and send it to the State. An electronic vote was cast and passed 14-1, with a “no” vote from Hessel; “yes” votes from Schleeter, Peters, Helwig, Duffy, Weaver, Bisonette, Wilson, Righheimer, Savitski, Kinsley, Buckholtz, Shuman, Rusk, and Maestri.

### **Ethics Committee -**

Mr. Albarado reviewed the changes in the policy that reflects allowing employees to use their personal vehicles for travel rather than requiring use of the County Fleet. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Kinsley. A voice vote was cast and passed without negative vote.

### **County Administrator’s Report -**

A written report was provided. Mr. Albarado advised that the remodeling of the second courtroom has gone smoothly. Filling staff positions and staff training continues.

### **Adjournment – 8:02 pm**

**Next Meeting: July 20, 2023      Time: 6:30 pm      Location: Board Room**

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk