

**Minutes of the July 8th 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
Rose Lillyroot
Linda Zillmer

Call to Order – Chair Tweed 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 – Public comments by Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021, Joint Finance/Admin meeting; second by Mr. Schlender. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Mr. Duffy; second by Mr. Kinsley to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021, Administration meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

Veterans Service Department Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Elliott advised that the County has received retroactive payments of \$299,660.82 decided in veterans' favor. Staff training is current and office visits are picking up. Mr. Elliott has been involved in discussions regarding a potential move to different office facilities in the courthouse remodeling project.

Information Technology Department Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Coleson reported that they have been working on the third dispatch station that should be up and running next month. They are also working with the highway department to improve internet consistency and speed, and the alternative to internal efforts is to begin incurring an \$11,000/year internet expense from Centurytel. Ongoing work on mitigating email spoof attacks is also underway.

Human Resources Report – A written report was provided. Ms. Lillyroot reported they are currently recruiting for eight full-time and three part-time county positions. Sharing an applicant pool with neighboring counties with somewhat higher wages continues to present a struggle. Mr. Hoff stated that one of the neighboring counties is performing a wage study now, and we should be able to use that information in the near future.

Letter of Support – Mosaic Broadband – Mr. Paulsen presented a letter of support for a separate grant request that Mosaic is submitting to run fiber from the end of Lake Chetac to Stone Lake. The project cost is anticipated to be \$9.5M and 900 people in Sawyer County would be serviced through this joint project with Washburn County. Mosaic is not requesting County funds. Mr. Paulsen requested that a subject line be added that reads: *Regarding the Stone Lake/Sand Lake Grant Application*. Mr. Kinsley requested Tom Hoff's name be added as signatory. Mr. Schlender made a motion to approve the request with the recommended changes; second by Mr. Kinsley to approve the letter of support and forward it to the July County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

County Administrator's Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Hoff highlighted the pending Opioid settlement case that may bring in funds to help with opioid treatment, the Governor's budget being signed shortly, redistricting being delayed, and stated that staff and department heads have started meeting with the construction manager and architect to move forward on floorplan ideas. The Miron Construction contract was approved at the Public Works meeting and is on the July County Board agenda. There was a recent airport landing incident on the runway but no injuries were reported. The budgeting process is underway with department heads beginning to meet with administration to submit their requests.

Per Diem Supervisor Rate – A comparison of county per diem rates was provided. It was recommended that this report be reviewed at the finance committee level and ideas brought forth. The item will remain on the agenda for the August meeting.

ARPA Funding Ideas – Mr. Hoff advised that all committees and department heads are being asked to submit ideas for funds usage.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Administration Committee will be Thursday, August 12, at 10:00 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk