

**Minutes of the November 9, 2023 meeting of the Sawyer County
Finance Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- Chair: **Ron Kinsley**
- Vice Chair, John Righeimer
- Stacey Hessel
- Tom Duffy
- Dale Schleeter

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Mike Markgren
Linda Zillmer
Sherry Beckman

Call to Order –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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: October 12, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Righeimer
Motion carried without negative vote.

Treasurer Department Report -

A written report was provided at the meeting.

Finance Department Report -

Sales Tax Distribution – A written report was provided showing a projected year-end increase of 2.34%.

Budget Updates – Written reports were reviewed in detail by Mr. Markgren. Revenues are tracking well and expenses are on target. Forestry timber sale market is down but sales from previous periods are coming in. We project the same amount in sales for 2024. Expenses are in good shape. HHS is running a fairly balanced budget at this time and revenues are lagging a bit in Highway Department though expenses are on target. Mr. Markgren shared a presentation of a 5-year budget building model spreadsheet. The worksheet allows him to make different assumptions and then view the anticipated results. Using the model, it appears as though we may not need to purchase an ambulance each year but instead every other year.

Mr. Markgren reviewed the 2023 Administrator budget including the levy breakdown, special levy, CIP through debt issue, outside organizations support, and the mill rate history. In the fees, the multi-dog license late fee structure was added.

Capital Improvement Plan Update – Purchases - An amount of \$,263.22 was identified for an airport entrance door.

Investment Update -

A written report was provided showing total interest earned last month of \$100,721 and \$890,988 YTD. Investments are still paying at 5+%. ARPA unspent funds are \$286,345; opioid unspent at \$134,910 and LATCF unspent is \$755,464. Mr. Markgren is assisting the Clerk of Court department in earning interest on their account that holds bond funds, as well.

Investment Company Change – Mr. Markgren reviewed the possibility of switching our investment company to Ampersand due to a change in management. A motion was made by Mr. Righeimer to change to the Ampersand

investment company; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the 2024 budget as presented by Mr. Markgren and forward to County Board; second by Mr. Rigeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Albarado advised that another meeting will be scheduled with legal counsel regarding the Town of Edgewater ambulance request.

EMS-Ambulance

The 2019-2023 ambulance billing analysis was reviewed by Mr. Markgren. This report was originally presented at the Public Safety Committee meeting. The ambulance billing aging report shows some improvement over previous years. The average collected per call is improving with LifeQuest billing service. Mr. Albarado advised that the ambulance public safety ambulance report will be included in future meetings.

Future Agenda Items – Investing Clerk of Court bond fund account

Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings -

Adjournment – 9:33 am

Next Meeting: December 14, 2023 **Time:** 8:30 am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk