

FOREST COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS

Crandon, Wisconsin

December 21, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Forest County Board of Supervisors was held on December 21, 2021, in the County Board Room at the Courthouse in Crandon, Wisconsin. Chairperson Gretzinger called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. the Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present. Deputy Clerk, Erin Mayer, read the agenda.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ackley, Anderson, Berg (phone), Black, Campbell, Chaney, Dailey, Dehart, Gretzinger, Karl, Laabs, Lukas, Matuszewski, Miller, Piasini, & Stamper (16); Absent: Collins, Goode, Houle. (3); Vacant seats (2).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Laabs, second by Dailey to approve the agenda as presented. All present voting AYE (16); Absent: Collins, Goode, Houle (3); Vacant seats (2). Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 9, 2021 MEETING

Motion by Black to amend the November 9, 2021 minutes, the votes for Resolution 97-2021 – Offered by Intergovernmental/Redistricting should read:

“All present voting AYE (13), Berg, Black, Campbell, Collins, Goode, Gretzinger, Karl, Laabs, Matuszewski, Miller, Piasini, Stamper, Anderson, Dailey; Nay (3) Chaney, Dehart, Lukas; Absent (2); Ackley, Houle. Motion carried.”

second by Dehart. All present voting AYE (16); Absent: Collins, Goode, Houle (3); Vacant seats (2). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chairperson Gretzinger thanked everyone for attending the special meeting. Wished them all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD

Motion by Dailey to place all communications on file in the County Clerk's Office, second by Black. All present voting AYE (16); Absent: Collins, Goode, Houle (3); Vacant seats (2). Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

None

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Gretzinger recognized and congratulated Ron Skallerud who was recently appointed as the new Sheriff by Governor Evers. Skallerud was in attendance and gave a brief history of his previous work and experience. Heidi Blaszczyk was also recognized as the new Social Services Director, she was unable to attend but will be invited to the January board meeting. Gretzinger then asked for any comments from committee chairs. Campbell – Highway department has been busy plowing. Everything has been going good and he is satisfied with the crew.

Chaney – Forestry department lost their Assistant Forester and is in the process of hiring a replacement. No updates on the County Park until after the 12/21 Forestry meeting.

Stamper – Welcomed new Sheriff Ron Skallerud. Mentioned there is currently a shortage on deputies and jailers.

Ackley – Mole Lake lost power for 40 hours during Thursday's wind storm. The casino provided housing for the elders. Ackley is thankful for WPS.

Black – Health department has been swamped with the pandemic. They have been doing the best they can. COVID numbers remain high.

Anderson – Social Services is making progress. The new director will be starting in January. A Social Worker and Juvenile intake worker have also been hired. Kayla Collins will be moving to the Family Support Specialist position. Still have 2 or 3 positions to fill yet. Anderson is hoping to get those job descriptions on the Personnel agenda next week. Gretzinger thanked the board for approving the two new positions in Social Services.

Laabs – Asked if the County Board vacancies could be published in the Pioneer Express also so they reach more people.

Lukas – Economic Development - \$10,000,000.00 grant that WisLift was applying for was denied.

Gretzinger added that the County Board is done with the James property in Hiles and we will be getting our money back.

Building – walkthrough has been completed, working on fine tuning everything. The 3rd floor is

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being upgraded and will look nice when it is all done. The elevator is scheduled to start mid-January. There are some heating issues throughout the building that are being worked on. Tower at the Sheriff's department is up and running. Skallerud stated the wind storm slowed things down for a bit but they were able to wrap things up. Lukas stated Stephanie Statezny, Emergency Management Director did a good job during the power outages.

Finance – moving along, no issues.

Gretzinger added that Chris Votis left the Maintenance department so we now have an opening in Maintenance. Mark Rinehart has returned to help out. New Maintenance Supervisor is starting 12/22.

Currently have openings in Maintenance, Forestry, Social Services, Aging and Probate. The Judge does the hiring for the Probate position.

Miller – Aging had one interested driver for the bus, unfortunately it did not work out so we are still in need of bus drivers.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 99-2021

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the County Board of Supervisors hereby approves:

1. The execution of the Distributors Settlement Agreement and any and all documents ancillary thereto and authorizes the Board Chair to execute same.
2. The execution of the Janssen Settlement Agreement and any and all documents ancillary thereto and authorizes the Board Chair to execute same.
3. The final negotiation and execution of the Allocation MOU in form substantially similar to that presented with this Resolution and any and all documents ancillary thereto and authorizes the Board Chair to execute same upon finalization provided the percentage share identified as allocated to the County is substantially similar to that identified in the Allocation MOU provided to the Board with this Resolution.
4. The final negotiation and execution of the AG MOU in form substantially similar to that presented with this Resolution and any and all documents ancillary thereto and authorizes the Board Chair to execute same.
5. The corporation counsel's negotiation and execution of the Escrow Agreement for the receipt and disbursement of the proceeds of the Settlement Agreements as referenced in the Allocation MOU.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the County hereby establishes an account separate and distinct from the County's general fund which shall be titled "Opioid Abatement Account." All proceeds from the Settlement Agreements not otherwise directed to the Attorney Fees Account established under the Escrow Agreement shall be deposited in the Opioid Abatement Account. The Opioid Abatement Account shall be administered consistent with the terms of this Resolution, Wis. Stat. § 165.12(4), and the Settlement Agreements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: the County hereby authorizes the escrow agent under the Escrow Agreement to establish an account separate and distinct from any account containing funds allocated or allocable to the County which shall be referred to by the County as the "Attorney Fees Account." The escrow agent shall deposit a sum equal to up to, but in no event exceeding, an amount equal to 20% of the County's proceeds from the Settlement Agreements into the Attorney Fees Account. If the payments to the County are not enough to fully fund the Attorney Fees Account as provided herein because such payments are made over time, the Attorney Fees Account shall be funded by placing up to, but in no event exceeding, an amount equal to 20% of the proceeds from the Settlement Agreements attributable to Local Governments (as that term is defined in the Allocation MOU) into the Attorney Fees Account for each payment. Funds in the Attorney Fees Account shall be utilized to pay the fees, costs, and disbursements owed to the Law Firms pursuant to the engagement agreement between the County and the Law Firms provided, however, the Law Firms shall receive no more than that to which they are entitled under their fee contract when considering the amounts paid the Law Firms from the fee fund established in the Settlement Agreements and allocable to the County. The Law Firms may make application for payment from the Attorney Fees Account at any time and the County shall cooperate with the Law Firms in executing any documents necessary for the escrow agent to make payments out of the Attorney Fees Account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions heretofore taken by the Board of Supervisors and other appropriate public officers and agents of the County with respect to the matters contemplated under this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

Motion by Anderson, second by Dailey to approve the resolution as presented. . All present voting AYE (15); Absent: Berg, Collins, Goode, Houle (4); Vacant seats (2). Motion carried.

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Resolution offered by the Finance Committee

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest County Board of Supervisors does hereby adopt the Financial Management Policy attached hereto.

Motion by Lukas, second by Chaney to approve the resolution as presented. Discussion followed.

Motion by Anderson, second by Campbell to table the resolution as presented and bring back to the January meeting. All present voting AYE (15); Absent: Berg, Collins, Goode, Houle (4); Vacant seats (2). Motion carried.

Resolution 100-2021 offered by the Finance Committee

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize the Forest County Clerk to increase the existing marriage license fee of \$60.00 to \$75.00 and the current 5-day waiver fee from \$10.00 to \$25.00 effective January 1, 2022.

Motion by Dailey, second by Chaney to approve the resolution as presented. . All present voting AYE (15); Absent: Berg, Collins, Goode, Houle (4); Vacant seats (2). Motion carried.

Resolution 101-2021 offered by the Finance Committee

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that Resolution No. 8 adopted by the Forest County Board of Supervisors is amended, in part as follows:

1. That the following expense shall be allowed all members of the Forest County Board of Supervisors, other County elected officials, County appointed officials,
and all other County employees engaged in business for and at the request of, or with the approval of Forest County.

- a. Travel Expense

- i. Mileage for use of personal automobile shall be Fifty-six (\$.56) cents per mile.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Forest County shall hereafter pay the mileage rate consistent with that established by the Internal Revenue Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all of the provisions of Resolution No. 8 adopted by the Forest County Board of Supervisors previously shall continue to remain in full force and effect except as specifically amended by the terms of this Resolution.

Motion by Laabs, second by Stamper to approve the resolution as presented. . All present voting AYE (15); Absent: Berg, Collins, Goode, Houle (4); Vacant seats (2). Motion carried.

Resolution 102-2021 offered by the Advertising Committee

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the excess funds available from the 2021 Advertising Budget be carried over to the 2022

Miscellaneous in the Advertising budget to be used for future signage needs of Forest County.

Motion by Piasini, second by Laabs to approve the resolution as presented. . All present voting AYE (15); Absent: Berg, Collins, Goode, Houle (4); Vacant seats (2). Motion carried.

Resolution 103-2021 offered by the County Board Chairperson

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest County Board of Supervisors advises that Wisconsin continue the wolf population goal of 350 or preferably less in the next revision of the Wisconsin Wolf Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest County Board of Supervisors requests that the Wisconsin DNR and other partners implement meaningful population controls in the next Wisconsin Wolf Plan to bring the wolf population to goal levels or below.

Motion by Chaney, second by Black to approve the resolution as presented. . All present voting AYE (15); Absent: Berg, Collins, Goode, Houle (4); Vacant seats (2). Motion carried.

ORDINANCE

None

ANNUAL REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Dehart to adjourn, second by Dailey. All present voting AYE (15); Absent: Berg, Collins, Goode, Houle (4); Vacant seats (2). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the January 18, 2022 Forest County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Erin Mayer
Forest County Deputy Clerk