

**FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 17, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Forest County Board of Supervisors was held on January 17, 2023, in the County Board Room at the Courthouse in Crandon, Wisconsin. Chairperson Gretzinger called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present. The Clerk, Nora Matuszewski, read the agenda.

ROLL CALL

Present: Anderson, Black, Campbell, Chaney, Dehart, Fulcer, Goode, Gretzinger, Karl, Lukas, Miller, Peterson, Tallier, Weber

Absent: Dailey, Landru, Piasini; Vacant - Districts #3, #7, #18 & #20

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Weber, second by Campbell to approve the agenda as presented. All present voting AYE (14); Absent (3); Dailey, Landru, Piasini. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 20, 2022 MEETING

Motion by Goode, second by Chaney to approve the December 20, 2022 minutes as presented. All present voting AYE (14); Absent (3); Dailey, Landru, Piasini. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Chris Shaefer from the FCEDP told the board the Chamber is doing well; they have nineteen (19) new members and are having a dinner meeting this coming Saturday, if anyone is interested to let them know. He said the county is getting good exposure on social media, with exposure over 30,000. The FCEDP is moving in a positive direction. He will be meeting with board members on Bug Tussel.

COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD

Motion by Black to place all communications on file with the County Clerk's Office, second by Peterson. All present voting AYE (14); Absent (3); Dailey, Landru, Piasini. Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Recognition – Penny Carter - WCA Board election

Penny told the committee she was appointed to the position by Governor Evers and was nominated by Mark O'Connell from the WCA. She said she was appointed to represent all Clerk of Courts throughout the state. She said currently there are 800 open cases and not enough attorneys. If the County has any concerns to let her know.

Chairperson Report:

Campbell Highway - The ice is a problem, but the department is handling it well.

Goode – Child Support – The department runs flawless because of Shannon.

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Chaney – Forestry – The employees are doing very well. They are possibly thinking about a policy to take in money for timber sales ahead of time. The department will be checking into policy of other counties. They have an MOU to start the trail in Argonne; Three (3) timber sales as of now and will have five (5) more in the spring. The Governor gave \$134,000 to the forestry to purchase land, but they were not able to secure the land. They are going to get the money (\$134,000) anyway, but it has to be used to purchase land.

Black – The Health department is going good and fully staffed. Amy Gatton is working very hard and had read the whole Workforce Development Grant and found items that can be purchased with it. There is a payroll software the county was going to purchase which Gatton brought to her committee for purchase for the county. She is also looking into touchless faucets and a generator for the department. Gatton is bringing back a lot of good things including the healthy snacks for the employees. They have a new appointment to the Health Committee, Althea McMillion who will be approved tonight.

Karl – Zoning – It is still busy, with conditional use permits for short-term rentals. They are working on the Flood Plain, which will be coming soon.

Anderson – Personnel – Always busy.

Social Services – There are interviews tomorrow night for the Clerk and Fiscal positions and the I.M. position on Monday the 23rd of January.

Tallier – the Community Coalition met and had eighteen (18) people in attendance. There was a mental health specialist that was supposed to be there to give a presentation, but was unable to attend. He hopes the person will be there next month. He told the committee the whole WCA magazine was about mental health; he spoke with Jeffery Mursau about the \$6 billion surplus the state has and how they plan to spend it. Gretzinger is aware of the mental health crisis and read the information on it as well. She suggests the county get together and get a strategic plan and that she strongly encourages a mental health coordinator if possible. She asked Black to put the discussion on the next Board of Health meeting.

Lukas – Building – He talked to Musson about the metal on the dome, and Musson indicated he had found someone in the U.P. Musson has begun the work on the parking lot updates, but Lukas wants it to go to committee before anything is decided to go forward with. There have been some troubles with the generator at the Jail and a back-up needs to be addressed.
Finance – The next meeting is next week.

Miller – Aging – Kathy is doing a good job and the bus service has picked up and they are even doing more medical rides. Past Governor Martin Shreiber will be speaking at JARS on February 15th, 2023 between the hours of 11a.m. and 1p.m.

Dehart – Fair – They are still looking at properties and he has contacted the owners of a property by the hot mix plant. The property is available and owned by attorneys who donate all profits from sales to schools.

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Payant – Mental health is a real issue and people do not see it because of it being confidential. The expense counties incur can be huge.

Gretzinger – Explained she will be reviewing the committees and making some changes because there are some members not showing up for meetings. She wanted members to know it is important that department heads are keeping members up to date on what is happening in departments. It will be mandatory for budgets to go through committees, looked at and approved, then sent to Finance. Some things came up where the committee was not told about and they need to know what is going on. Gretzinger and Matuszewski will be attending a conference in Milwaukee on ARPA and Broadband. Gretzinger will be setting up an Intergovernmental meeting soon and be looking at committees, suggesting Highway go to five (5) members and Forestry down to five (5) members.

APPOINTMENTS OR ELECTIONS

Board of Health Committee Member – Althea McMillion

Motion by Black to appoint Althea McMillion to the Board of Health, second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

WVLS Board of Trustees – Carol Bartlein

Motion by Weber to appoint Carol Bartlein to the WVLS Board of Trustees, second by Lukas. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution – 01-2023 Offered by Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Forest hereby amends its Employee Handbook by adding language in the section entitled “APPENDIX H-SUPPLEMENTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS.” Paragraph entitled 1-5 remain as stated. Paragraph 6 shall be added and read as follows:

6. FORESTRY

- Boot Allowance-\$100.00 per year with valid receipt

Motion by Dehart, second by Chaney to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (14); Absent (3), Dailey, Landru, Piasini. Motion carried.

Resolution – 02-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the State of Wisconsin is hereby requested to review and revise the entry level compensation rate for Assistant District Attorneys in order to remain competitive with similar positions in District Attorney offices around the country, other public sector attorney positions, and the private sector as well as to keep up with the rate of inflation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution is sent to Governor Tony Evers, all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature representing Forest County, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and all other Wisconsin Counties.

Motion by Weber, second by Fulcer to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (14); Absent (3), Dailey, Landru, Piasini. Motion carried.

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Resolution 03-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that one-half of the excess sales tax revenue from the 2022 budget (approximately \$73,792.64) be transferred to the maintenance capital outlay account. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in any and all future years, if there is sales tax revenue greater than the budgeted amount, then one-half of said excess sales tax shall be placed in the maintenance capital outlay account.

Motion by Lukas, second by Anderson to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (14); Absent (3), Dailey, Landru, Piasini. Motion carried.

Resolution 04-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that a new computer, server, and software system, including integrations, shall be purchased by the Register of Deeds office at a price not to exceed \$75,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the computer system and software referred to above shall be paid for by the reserved retained fees in the Land Information Office.

Motion by Weber, second by Anderson to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (14); Absent (3), Dailey, Landru, Piasini. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

None

ANNUAL REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Chaney, second by Dehart to adjourn. All present voting (AYE) (14). Absent (3); Dailey, Landru, Piasini. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the February 21, 2023 Forest County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Nora Matuszewski
Forest County Clerk