

**FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS  
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular meeting of the Forest County Board of Supervisors was held on February 21, 2023, in the County Board Room at the Courthouse in Crandon, Wisconsin. Chairperson Gretzinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present. The Clerk, Nora Matuszewski, read the agenda.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Anderson, Black (phone), Campbell, Chaney, Dailey, Dehart, Fulcer, Goode, Gretzinger, Karl, Lukas, Miller, Peterson, Piasini, Tallier, Weber.

Absent: Landru; Vacant Districts #3, #12, #18 & #20

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Goode, to amend the agenda to honor Larry Berg for his service, second by Weber. All present voting AYE (16); Absent (1); Landru. Motion carried.

Motion by Campbell, second by Dailey to approve the amended agenda as presented. All present voting AYE (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 17, 2023 MEETING**

Motion by Chaney, to approve the January 17, 2023 minutes as presented, second by Anderson. All present voting AYE (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD**

Motion by Goode to place all communications on file in the County Clerk's Office, second by Dehart. All present voting AYE (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES**

Steve Watson (Digital Navigator) and Heather Ostrowski (Project Manager) for the Digital Navigator Grant were present to explain the grant and what the goals were of the 30-month program. The grant is funded through Google to help people with broadband and digital access devices, which was developed for residents over the age of 65 but, the program is available for all ages. Steve spoke a little bit about himself and then about affordable broadband and the need for people to get digital skills training. He told the board he is looking for local partners and has touched base with the local libraries and is looking to work with the schools as well and he will be attending parent teacher conferences and this summer visiting the meal sites.

Chris Shafer was present to talk about his trip to Washington to represent Forest County. He started off by thanking Lukas and Mary Belland for all their help and support. He told the board he got an invitation to go to Washington to represent Forest County along with 32 other counties in Wisconsin with the Rural Partners Network. Washington was looking for a signature project working heavily in broadband and they wanted a plan that would be ready to go. Shafer explained to them that 50/50 grants are useless for our county and even 90/10, he told them our

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county needs “fully funded dollars.” He went high and asked for 50 million dollars. He has two plans, one for the Broadband (Bug Tussel) and one with Highway G (Bill Anderson) to get it upgraded. He said the projects were well received and because of Forest County being part of the Rural Partner Network, which is designed for rural areas that have been forgotten. He got their attention because this is designed for rural areas and the Chamber will only be the conduit. Our top projects that we need done in Forest County are in these grants that Washington wants done and with these grants comes a direct contact within the government (Rural desk officers) and when the county applies, the county goes right to the top of the “heap.” They want a plan and see what it is, pictures and promotion, which Mary Belland did what the administration wanted done. He had two meetings and out of them came a main contact and when asked if he had a plan he said “yes” and so they are going to run with the two plans, having the Broadband as the signature project.

**Chairperson Report:**

Goode- Child Support is going well, Shannon is working double duty helping out with Social Services as well.

Campbell – Highway is filling potholes and a storm is heading our way.

Chaney – Forestry is good and the department has already ordered the new playground equipment for the spring. There will possibly be a 70-foot flagpole put up down at the park and they will start finishing at the park what did not get done last year.

Karl – Zoning has a lot of changes to their ordinance for fees and permits.

Anderson – Social Services had met with Oneida County today to map out a strategy to get things under control – long term plan. In her opinion a lot needs to be done and she wanted to recognize Chelsea Payant for all of her help with the department. Oneida County has been invaluable as well as Kayla Collins and Kayla Bantle. There was a Zoom meeting with the state to ask for help and their response was to brainstorm, but the county needs help. The department is down six (6) workers, which has been an ongoing issue for years. Department heads have always asked for help and have just been getting by. The department needs money to fill these positions. She feels the department will get there but, it is going to take time. She is very thankful for Paul and Chelsea Payant and wanted to say the State cannot come in and fine the county because the committee brought the issues of no staff to them.

Personnel – The clerk position within Social Services has been filled by Kristi Campbell and she is doing a good job. The fiscal position was offered to someone but, they declined it. They may have to try to contract out the position as past employees may have said some things.

Tallier- Lumberjack Council is a non-profit with 9-counties. They have \$60,000 a year in grants, which can be awarded up to \$10,000. Land & Water did get one of the grants for invasive species.

Lukas – Finance is spending money.

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Building has a running figure on the Dome project from Musson. There are granules coming off the roof the county had done not too long ago by Kulps, so this may be under warranty yet. The Maintenance is still taking temperature readings for the skylight. The tower has four (4) clocks in it for around \$80,000, he is thinking stained glass would look good and not have the clocks. The total for the dome was around 1.3 million. LaForce came up free of charge and looked at all of the doors. Terry told them to come up with something that looks good and if the Jail needed, they could lock down all doors. There was a discussion about the parking lot and fencing in the back by the Jail and the committee only received one (1) bid for the S. Annex windows, so they put it back out to bid.

Miller – Aging is looking at expanding the meals to Hiles maybe. The bus service has expanded up to Hiles two (2) times a month and the JARS event went well. There will be interviews coming for the dietician.

Dehart – Fair has nothing new going on.

Chair Gretzinger told the board there are a lot of meetings and coordinating them is busy. All is well.

**APPOINTMENTS OR ELECTIONS**

None

**RECOGNITION -LARRY BERG FOR COUNTY BOARD SERVICE**

Larry Berg is in Rennes, a letter will be sent out to him thanking him for his service on the board.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution – 05-2023 Offered by Personnel**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that a Health Information Technician with the duties and pay structure as set forth in the job description shall be employed by Forest County, provided grant funding for the position is available.

Motion by Peterson, second by Anderson to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**Resolution – 06-2023 Offered by Personnel**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that a Nurse Consultant with the duties and pay structure as set forth in the job description shall be employed by Forest County provided grant funding for the position is available.

Motion by Weber, second by Anderson to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

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**Resolution 07-2023 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 1-6 remain as stated. Paragraph 7 shall be added and read as follows:

7. EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT

- Safety Gear & Boot Allowance-\$300.00 per year (if gear and boots are necessary) with valid receipt

Motion by Dehart, second by Miller to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**Resolution 08-2023 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 1-6 remain as stated. Paragraph 7 shall be added and read as follows:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Call-In time for extenuating circumstances-2 hours straight time + hours worked.

Motion by Chaney, second by Goode to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**Resolution 09-2023 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 "3. Accumulation of Compensatory Time. Compensatory time may be accumulated and carried throughout the year it is earned in an amount not to exceed the following:" Page 10, Paragraph 3, sub-paragraphs (a-f) remain as stated. Sub-paragraph (g) shall be added and read as follows:

(g) 40 hours for Emergency Management Director.

Motion by Weber, second by Piasini to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**Resolution 10-2023 Offered by Sheriff & Justice**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that all employees working in the jail control pod shall be paid from the jail fund and the referendum budget shall remain in reserve until employees are working primarily in the dispatch center.

Motion by Chaney, second by Piasini to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**Resolution 11-2023 Offered by Forestry and Recreation**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the \$1600 collected for tree donations shall be carried over to the 2023 County Park Donation Budget to be used for its designated purpose of tree purchasing and planting.

Motion by Campbell, second by Chaney to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

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**Resolution 12-2023 Offered by Forestry and Recreation**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS does hereby delegate to the Forest and Recreation Committee, authority to make applications to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for funds appropriated for snowmobile trail maintenance.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forestry and Recreation Committee of the Forest County Board of Supervisors, is hereby authorized to expend the funds to be received from the State of Wisconsin for eligible maintenance and development costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forestry and Recreation Committee may authorize the Forestry Department Staff to apply for grants, sign the contracts and complete grant reimbursement as necessary.

Motion by Dehart, second by Karl to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**Resolution 13-2023 Offered by Forestry and Recreation**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS does hereby delegate to the Forest and Recreation Committee, authority to make applications to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for funds appropriated for ATV trail maintenance.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forestry and Recreation Committee of the Forest County Board of Supervisors, is hereby authorized to expend the funds to be received from the State of Wisconsin for eligible maintenance and development costs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forestry and Recreation Committee may authorize the Forestry Department Staff to apply for grants, sign the contracts and complete grant reimbursement as necessary.

Motion by Chaney, second by Dailey to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**Resolution 14-2023 Offered by Forest County Chair**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forest County Board of Supervisors hereby appoints those individuals as Emergency Fire Wardens as indicated on the attached list.

<b>2023 ACTIVE EFWS-FOREST COUNTY</b>				
<b>TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>CITY, STATE</b>	<b>ZIP CODE</b>
ARGONNE	Kathy Deaton KATHY'S INN BAR & GRILL	7915 MAIN STREET	ARGONNE, WI	54511
LINCOLN	John Schaefer GAS DEPOT	600 E. PIONEER STREET	CRANDON, WI	54520
CRANDON	William May MAY'S BAR	11696 Hwy 8 W	CRANDON, WI	54520
NASHVILLE	Tina Vanzile MOLE LAKE EPA	3051 SAND LAKE ROAD	CRANDON, WI	54520

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Motion by Miller, second by Goode to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**Resolution 15-2023 Offered by Zoning**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the dam failure analysis pertaining to the Bog Brook Dam located in Forest County is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution approving the studies/plans shall be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources.

Motion by Karl, second by Peterson to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (14); (NAY) (2), Campbell, Chaney; Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried

**Resolution 16-2023 Offered by Zoning**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the studies/plans approved by the Department of Natural Resources pertaining to the Mud Creek ATV/Culvert Project and the Nicolet Hardwoods Culvert/Bridge Project are hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution approving the studies/plans shall be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources.

Motion by Karl, second by Piasini to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES**

None

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

2021 Financial Report

Motion by Lukas to place the 2021 Financial Report on file in the County Clerk's office, second by Anderson. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Landru. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Motion by Dehart to adjourn, second by Goode. All present voting (AYE) (16). Absent (1); Landru. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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

Nora Matuszewski  
Forest County Clerk