

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Forest County Board of Supervisors was held on March 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, Campbell, Chaney, Dailey, Dehart, Fulcer, Goode, Gretzinger, Karl, Landru, Lukas, Miller, Peterson, Piasini, Tallier, Weber

Tallier present by phone; no audio for motion response.

Absent: Vacant, District #3, District#12, District#18, & District #20

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 21, 2023 MEETING

Motion by Miller, second by Dehart to approve the February 21, 2023 minutes as presented. All present voting AYE (16); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD

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

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION WITH BUG TUSSEL AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR ON
A THIRD BROADBAND PROJECT AND POSSIBLE BONDING OF THAT
PROJECT**

Corporation Counsel told the committee they do not have the expertise to give a legal opinion on the matter. The resolution for the broadband did not come to the County Board properly through a committee.

Lukas told everyone they would discuss the project and Jeff Belongia will explain some things, then it will be brought back for the April agenda.

There was discussion about the third broadband project and bonding of the project. Jeff Belongia the County financial advisor spoke about the project and explained there are several other counties participating in these revenue bonds. Fond du lac County is not showing concern over Bug Tussel and the bonds. Bug Tussel will charge a fee for the utilities and the network which will pay for the bonds. If the County participates in this bonding as a co-signer, it will not affect the County credit rating. The County will need to adopt an \$11 million resolution to participate in the revenue bonding. The utility revenue is what they will

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use to pay back the bonds. The only instance the county would be responsible for any of the debt would be if there were not enough revenues to cover the debt payments.

Landru asked Bug Tussel for financial data, which they said they would supply before the resolution is done.

Karl was concerned about asking the County to back-up a private company and commented if they do not have the revenues from the services, the County would be responsible for the debt payments.

Gretzinger asked how much the County would be responsible for, she was told \$11 million.

Mitch Olson (Bug Tussel) told the Board the first three (3) years the project would be in construction phase until the assets were in the ground, then the next two (2) years they would pay interest only.

Miller commented it would take a few months to get a finalized vote and asked about the public requesting a referendum.

Mark Dodge (Bug Tussel) updated the County on the project underway and talked about the 1 GIG speeds and the programs available for individuals that needed help paying for the service. It was also explained the internet would be available to the County for all departments free of charge and over the 30-year period the County would be paid back their ARPA funds (\$1,742,000) at 40-basis points, which would amount to \$3.2 million.

Shafer (Economic Development Director) told the board it is a difficult decision to make and he recommends passing it.

Gretzinger suggested taking the resolution back to committee & bring back to the April County Board meeting. The deadline to get the resolutions done is June.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Gretzinger recognized the Forest County Potawatomi for their funding of Law Enforcement Officers in the amount of \$564,395.95 and the County/Tribal Assistance Grant in the amount of \$41,947.00. The newly elected chair James Crawford was in attendance and Gretzinger thanked him for all of their support.

Gretzinger recognized the Sokaogon Chippewa Community for the County/Tribal Assistance Grant in the amount of \$36,042.00 and the Compact Gaming donations for local organizations in the amount of \$27,000. They were not able to send someone but, she wanted them to know the County appreciates their financial assistance.

The County Board recognized the service for two retirees from the Highway Department – William Lemerande (21) and Virgil Gumm (27) years of service.

County Board member Karl Tauer was recognized for his dedication and years of service, his wife Nancy was in attendance to accept a plaque.

APPOINTMENTS OR ELECTIONS

None Ron Skallerud – District #18 Supervisor

Motion by Goode to appoint Ron Skallerud as the District #18 Supervisor, second by Dailey. All present voting (AYE) (16); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

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Karen Hill – Aging Committee Appointment

Motion by Miller to appoint Karen Hill to the Aging Committee, second by Dehart. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 17-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that monetary transfers from the unreserved accounts in the General Fund and Social Services fund shall occur in the amounts set forth above.

Motion by Anderson, second by Chaney to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 18-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that Jeannie Boss shall receive a \$1.00 per hour wage increase contingent upon the Northern Income Maintenance Consortium contribution of 50%.

Motion by Dailey, second by Goode to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (10); (NAY) (6), Campbell, Fulcer, Goode, Gretzinger, Karl, Skallerud; (ABSTAIN) (1), Anderson; Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 19-2023 Offered by Forestry

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forest County Board of Supervisors in consideration of the needs to conserve the bat population in Wisconsin while continuing multiple use management consistent with the Forest County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, hereby agree to enter into a Landowner Agreement and Certificate of Inclusion into the Lakes States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Forest Administrator be authorized to sign the agreement and submit this document to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Motion by Chaney, second by Weber to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 20-2023 Offered by Forestry and Recreation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Forestry and Recreation Committee be authorized to trade approximately Five (5) acres of land to Jason Neilitz contingent upon a survey and further contingent upon the Department of Natural Resources' approval of the withdrawal of the land from the Forest County Forest Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above-mentioned trade to Jason Neilitz is further contingent upon receipt of an easement acceptable to the Forestry and Recreation Committee; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the County Board Chairman shall sign any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above-mentioned transaction.

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Motion by Campbell, second by Black to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (16); (NAY) (1), Karl; Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 21-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that battery back-ups and a server hard drive for the main server shall be purchased for the boardroom at a price of \$450.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above cost shall be taken from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency fund.

Motion by Skallerud, second by Dailey to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 22-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the County Forest Administrator shall have authority to purchase a 70' flag pole for the Veteran's Memorial Park for a price not to exceed \$11,250.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above cost shall be taken from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency fund.

Motion by Peterson, second by Dehart to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 23-2023 Offered by Finance NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the new computers shall be purchased for the County Clerk's office at a price of \$5,566.99.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above cost shall be taken from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency fund.

Motion by Skallerud, second by Piasini to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 24-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the new squad computers, accessories, and office computers shall be purchased for the Sheriff's Department at a price not to exceed \$36,878.00 and that the new radios shall be purchased at a price not to exceed \$12,435.75.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above cost shall be taken from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency fund.

Motion by Chaney, second by Weber to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 25-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the new computers and other items shall be purchased for the Forestry at a price not to exceed \$6,777.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above cost shall be taken from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency fund.

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Motion by Campbell, second by Karl to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 26-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that a new video computer shall be purchased for the boardroom at a price of \$589.00. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above cost shall be taken from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency fund.

Motion by Anderson, second by Skallerud to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 27-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that a new computer shall be purchased for the Zoning Department at a price of \$1,024.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above cost shall be taken from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency fund.

Motion by Karl, second by Fulcer to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 28-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the proceeds from the sale of tax deeded property shall be placed in a reserve account until the prior property owners claim the proceeds or 5 years have lapsed at which time the money can be transferred to the general fund.

Motion by Anderson, second by Black to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 29-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the wage for part-time deputies employed by the Forest County Sheriff's Department shall be increased to \$25.00 per hour.

Motion by Weber, second by Lukas to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (13); (NAY) (4), Dailey, Fulcer, Karl, Skallerud; Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 30-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that a Lieutenant/Drug Task Force position with the duties and pay structure as set forth in the job description shall be employed by Forest County.

Motion by Weber, second by Dehart to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 31-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that an amount of not more than \$41,000.00 to be used to purchase a vehicle and associated accessories for the Forest County Sheriff's Department.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Alex Walrath, Forest County Sheriff's Department, is authorized to execute all required documents for the purchase of the vehicle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said \$41,000 shall be placed in a reserve account until such time for payment of the vehicle and accessories is needed.

Motion by Skallerud, second by Goode to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 32-2023 Offered by County Board Chair

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Cindy Gretzinger, County Board Chair, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Motion by Chaney, second by Anderson to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 33-2023 Offered by Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that a Youth Justice Worker with the duties and pay structure as set forth in the job description shall be employed by Forest County.

Motion by Karl, second by Goode to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 34-2023 Offered by Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that a Children Services Support LTE with the duties and pay structure as set forth in the job description shall be employed by Forest County.

Motion by Dehart, second by Weber to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

Resolution 35-2023 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that a UW Extension LTE Project Assistant with the duties and pay structure as set forth in the job description shall be employed by Forest County.

Motion by Goode, second by Black to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

The resolution approving Revenue Bond Financing

The was a long discussion about the resolution and that it was not brought to the County Board through any committee.

Motion by Skallerud to table the resolution to go to Finance – financial information needed, second by Dailey. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Tallier. Motion carried.

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ORDINANCES

None

ANNUAL REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Chaney to adjourn, second by Miller. All present voting (AYE) (17). Absent (1); Tallier. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the April 18, 2023 Forest County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Nora Matuszewski
Forest County Clerk