

FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS
October 17, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Forest County Board of Supervisors was held on October 17, 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, Skallerud, Tallier, Weber.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Dailey, second by Anderson to approve the agenda as presented. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 15, 2023 MEETING

Motion by Chaney, second by Campbell to approve the August 15, 2023 minutes as presented. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD

Motion by Skallerud to place all communications on file in the County Clerk's Office, second by Dehart. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Recognition – James Jezeski on Rural Violent Crime Officer Grant Award

Nathan Sandwick – Introduction to Rural Partner Network – Sandwick told the county board he is the community liaison for Forest County, explaining his role and what he would be able to help Forest County with in the way of grants. His role is about engagement and getting to know the communities he is working with as well as supporting safe schools. He has attended a Community Coalition meeting and will be attending others, one being Broadband.

Chairperson report – The Highway has hired a new Patrol Superintendent to replace Fay Statezny, who is retiring. Social Services is now 100% staffed and the new director Tracy Schumacher is doing a good job. The health committee is still in the process of recruiting for a new director.

Gretzinger asked Tamara Feest from the Human Service Center if she would like to speak to the resolution for the separation from the Human Service Center. She told the board she felt as if

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there is a lot of misinformation out there pertaining to the Center and she has concerns that there is no solid plan for the separation, which she told the board her clients are concerned with as well. There were several comments from board members and the Social Services Director about ongoing issues about the citizens of Forest County not being serviced and the fact that there is not physical presence in Forest County in a few years from the Human Service Center. There is a surplus in their fund of over \$6 million dollars and the counties are not getting the services they require for their citizens. Oneida County has already voted to withdraw from the Human Service Center on December 31, 2024 and Vilas County will be voting on the 24th to vacate as well. Forest County is not able to fund the Human Service Center on their own, considering the county only funds around 15% of the Center. Gretzinger explained that the county board chairs, sheriffs, social services directors and corporation counsels have been meeting about the issues with the Human Service Center and they will have a plan completed for going forward on January 1, 2025 by March 31, 2024. Some of the issues surround no face-to-face meetings with screeners since COVID, all of it is being done over the phone. By not seeing the clients face-to-face they are not being screened properly. The agreement from 1984 made it so Forest County was not going at it alone and since 1984 the agreement has never been updated or modified. Corporation counsel attended a meeting of schools, tribes, sheriff departments and a psychiatrist, from all of the counties, who told the corporation counsels that the agreement is not working and they were not getting the services needed from the Human Service Center. There was a letter written and sent to all county board chairs outlining the problems and the need of a new structure. The restructure will still involve the three counties; just set up differently. There are some concerns with the Human Service Center board considering severance packages, which was addressed by Paul Payant saying grants do not always last forever and positions are added and removed based on the grants without severance packages. The restructure could include some of the employees employed now with the application process.

APPOINTMENTS OR ELECTIONS

None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 65-2023 – Offered by Emergency Management

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest County Board of Supervisors does hereby adopt and approve the revised Emergency Preparedness Plan for the Forest County Courthouse for use by the Forest County Courthouse staff.

Motion by Skallerud, second by Peterson to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

Resolution 66-2023 – Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that new Synology/back-up equipment shall be purchased for the county server at a price not to exceed the sum of \$10,100.00.

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

Motion by Weber, second by Anderson to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

Resolution 67-2023 – Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that a new computer and accessories shall be purchased for the Veteran Service Officer at a price not to exceed the sum of \$2,135.00.

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

Motion by Piasini, second by Fulcer to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

Resolution – Offered by Finance

Motion by Skallerud to approve the resolution as presented, second by Chaney and discussion followed:

The Resolution was for transferring \$350,000 of the LATCF funding into the General Fund. The Clerk explained the money for LATCF has to be tracked and reported every year and just transferring the money will create a non-compliance issue because if placed in the General Fund there would be no way to absolutely track where the money is spent.

Motion by Lukas to approve no action on the resolution as presented, second by Dehart. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

Resolution 68-2023 – Offered by Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that all new Forest County employees will be subject to a one-year probationary period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2-tier wage scale system for newly hired employees will be eliminated and the employees' initial wage will be at the same rate that would have been established after one year. Said initial wage is always subject to adjustment by the Personnel Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above-mentioned changes do not apply to Sheriff and Jail employees.

Motion by Campbell, second by Anderson to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

Resolution 69-2023 – Offered by Social Services

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that Forest County is hereby giving notice to withdraw from the current Tri-County Joint County Human Services Agreement indicated above, as of December 31, 2024 to the Human Service Center Board and to Oneida and Vilas Counties. Notification of the withdrawal will also be provided to the State Department of Health Services and Department of Children and Families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Forest County Social Services, the Forest County Sheriff, the Forest County Chair or designee and the Forest County Corporation Counsel

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will convene meetings with their counterparts in both Oneida and Vilas Counties, including Forest and Oneida County Tribal Nations representation, to discuss the structure of Human Services in the Tri-County region and to bring a recommendation to the Forest County Board of Supervisors no later than March 31, 2024.

Motion by Weber, second by Chaney to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

Resolution 70-2023 – Offered by County Board Chair

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS in session this 17th, day of October, 2024 that an application be made to the State of Wisconsin for aid as provided for in Wis. Stats. 20.455(kt), (ku) and (kw) and law enforcement duties of the Sheriff arising by reason of federal legislation transferring jurisdiction over Native American criminal matters to the State of Wisconsin. Said expenses are anticipated to be incurred as a result of providing law enforcement and protection to the two (2) federally recognized Native American Reservations located within the corporate boundaries of Forest County, Wisconsin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the application be for the year beginning January 1, 2024 through and including December 31, 2024, and that the agreements of the Sheriff and Forest County be incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Motion by Skallerud, second by Dehart to approve the resolution as presented. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

Resolution - Offered by Land Sales & Delinquent Tax

Motion by Peterson to approve the resolution as presented, second by Goode and discussion followed:

The Resolution was for tax deeding a property that the Treasurer just found out has the DNR involved because the land has contamination that the County would be responsible to clean up if taken into County possession.

Motion by Skallerud to approve no action on the resolution as presented until this can be researched, second by Dehart. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

None

ANNUAL REPORTS

2022 Child Support Annual Report

2022 Financial Report/Audit

2022 Human Service Center Annual Report

Motion by Anderson to place all annual reports on file with the County Clerk's Office, second by Piasini. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Chaney, second by Peterson to adjourn. All present voting (AYE) (18). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the November 14, 2023 Forest County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Nora Matuszewski
Forest County Clerk