

FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS
February 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Forest County Board of Supervisors was held on February 20, 2024, 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: Campbell, Chaney, Dailey, Dehart, Fulcer, Goode, Gretzinger, Karl, Landru (Teams), Lukas, Marvin, Miller, Peterson, Piasini, Skallerud, Tallier, Weber
Absent: Vacant - Districts #3, #12, #16 & #20

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Weber, second by Piasini to approve the agenda as presented. All present voting AYE (17). Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 16, 2024 MEETING

Motion by Chaney, second by Peterson to approve the January 16, 2024 minutes as presented. All present voting AYE (17). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD

Resolutions from other counties – Nicolet College board vacancies

Motion by Dehart to place all communications on file with the County Clerk's Office, second by Peterson. All present voting AYE (17). Motion carried.

Resignation – Lynne Black

Motion by Marvin to accept the resignation of Lynne Black, second by Campbell. All present voting AYE (17). Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS OR ELECTIONS

Letter of interest for District #16 – Bruce Decorah – Possible appointment to the County Board

Motion by Miller to appoint Bruce Decorah to the vacant District #16 seat, second by Chaney. All present voting AYE (17). Motion carried.

Appointment of Interim Health Director – Amy Gatton

Motion by Skallerud to appoint Amy Gatton as the interim Health Director, second by Marvin. All present voting AYE (18). Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Crystal Schaub – Medical Examiner annual report presentation

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Schaub went through the annual report of deaths for the area she serves and took questions of the board. She had a breakdown in the report of what the deaths were caused from and a comparison from the previous year.

Steve Watson – Digital Navigator annual report presentation

Watson talked to the board on the work he has done in the past year and the relationships he is building and had a handout of the events and clients he has served. He told them he has many referrals and feels the program is successful.

Tom Tallier – Update on trip to DC

Tallier first started out by saying the trip to DC was at no cost to the County. He was chosen from his district #8 to try to obtain land from the Forest Service for a private business that employs many people and needs to expand and the land is adjacent to his operation; the business is looking to purchase 14 acres from the Forest Service. Tallier also told the board the Chief of Forest Service – “the Forest Service does not plan to fight the project.” He had also discussed at the hearing “coordination” and the impact of it in the future.

Chris Shafer – Visit Forest County

Shafer wanted to speak to the Board about the “cooperation” meeting at Mole Lake that was held last week. Shafer is working with them on a 22 million tribal grant for Broadband that could be beneficial to tribal members outside of the tribal land. A letter from the County in support was sent out in support of the project. They will find out in April-May if they get the grant and they are working in conjunction with Bug Tussel. There is a company called Tekniam that can put up portable internet in a few hours and they tried one out at the new building for the Laona Rescue Squad and it worked great, it was even able to penetrate the hurricane walls. Shafer would like to see several of these purchased, through a grant in Forest County and maybe they could be built here. There is a large clinic coming to Mole Lake (Prevea). This could be beneficial for the tribe and the county. Gretzinger thanked Shafer for all of his hard work and dedication.

Gretzinger – Chair

Gretzinger and Tallier went to the Timber Producers building for a meeting and the Pelican River easements were a discussion and right now Forest County, Langlade and Oneida County lost 56,000 acres. The deal was done before anyone really realized what was happening. They felt at the meeting that the group needs to keep meeting monthly to be on top of things like this. The group they are thinking about would be made up of the three (3) county board chairs (Forest, Oneida and Langlade) and others from the boards, because there is talk about the Consolidated land being the next big tract being looked at. They will need to stay on top of it and “Coordination” is the big item the Federal Government is supposed to be doing with the local governments and the Pelican River Easement project it was not. There is legislation out there for “Old Growth” forests coming out of Washington targeting 120 national forests.

Gretzinger had Skallerud talk about the referendum and getting the facts out to the public.

While attending the Legislative Conference in Madison and there was growing concern with A.I. in County governments and the targeting of smaller communities without the security of the bigger counties. Gretzinger met with a Potawatomi lawyer in Madison and they discussed the new casino that may be approved by Governor Evers that is only 35 miles from the Milwaukee (Potawatomi), which may affect the tribe in Forest County. There was the feeling that if the

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casino goes in (Menominee and Seminole) there could be a 20-40% loss in revenue to the tribe in Forest County affecting the economy.

It is the understanding that Taylor County may be thinking about dissolving the ADRC and go out on their own. In March the County Board will know what direction the County will be going with pertaining to the Human Service Center.

There was discussion about the Fair and the direction it may be going toward.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution – 05-2024 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 shall occur in the amounts set forth above.

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

Resolution – 06-2024 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that Resolution No. 8 initially adopted by the Forest County Board of Supervisors on February 11, 1993 and amended from time to time, is now further amended, in part as follows: That the above meal reimbursement for County Employees, Forest County Board Supervisors, and other County elected officials, engaged in County business which requires approved overnight stays shall be the same reimbursement rate established by the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration with receipts being provided for said expenses and in the future would stay consistent with the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration reimbursement rates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Forest County shall hereafter pay the meal reimbursement rate consistent with that established by the State of Wisconsin Pocket Travel Guide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other provisions of Resolution No. 8, adopted by the Forest County Board of Supervisors on February 11, 1993 and any amendments thereto shall continue to remain in full force and effect except as specifically amended by the terms of this Resolution.

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

Resolution - 07-2024 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the excess funds from the advertising budget for 2023 be placed in the Advertising Reserve account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that excess funds in 2023 and thereafter be placed in the Advertising Reserve account.

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

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Resolution 08-2024 Offered by Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that new forensic interviewing equipment, TV, and microphone shall be purchased for Social Services at a price not to exceed the sum of \$2,454.00.

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

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

Resolution 09-2024 Offered by County Board Chair

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Forest, Oneida and Vilas Counties hereby amend any and all prior Agreements stated or not listed above with the attached Agreement; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the attached 2024 AMENDED JOINT COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY TRANSITION OVERSIGHT PANEL shall be effective upon passage by each of the three counties; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any actions of the Tri-County Human Service Board inconsistent with the County Transition Oversight Panel Resolutions passed by Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties are and hereby revoked effective as of January 23, 2024, which was the date of Vilas County's passage of the County Transition Oversight Panel Resolution.

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

ORDINANCES

None

ANNUAL REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Karl, second by Piasini to adjourn. All present voting (AYE) (17); Absent (1), Dailey. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the March 19, 2024 Forest County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Nora Matuszewski
Forest County Clerk