

**FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS
DECEMBER 17, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Forest County Board of Supervisors was held on December 17, 2024, in the County Board Room at the Courthouse in Crandon, Wisconsin. Chairperson Skallerud 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: Augustin, Chaney, Decorah, Dehart, Goode, Gretzinger, Karl, Lukas, Marvin, Miller, Peterson, Piasini, Skallerud, Tallier, Weber.

Absent (4); Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Vacant Seats: (2).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Gretzinger to approve the agenda, second by Piasini. All present voting AYE (15). Absent (4); Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2024 MEETING

Motion by Chaney to approve the November 12, 2024 minutes, second by Dehart. All present voting AYE (15). Absent (4); Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD

Motion by Peterson to place all communications on file in the County Clerk's office, second by Augustin. All present voting AYE (15). Absent (4); Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS OR ELECTIONS

2025- ADRC/COA Advisory Committee

Motion by Marvin to appoint the suggested/accepted ADRC/COA Advisory Committee members, second by Weber. All present voting AYE (15). Absent (4); Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

2025- Human Service Board

Skallerud was able to secure eight (8) of the nine (9) members that are needed for the committee and it was suggested that at the first meeting in January a Chair and Vice Chair can be appointed by the committee, but, the Chair and Vice Chair must be County Board members.

Motion by Miller to appoint the suggest/accepted Human Service Board, second by Peterson. All present voting AYE (15). Absent (4); Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

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Shafer had a listening meeting with Evers and Skallerud and he talked about the needs of the County and they asked about Broadband and the Sokaogon Chippewa Consortium's request for their pursuit of the BEAD funding. Shafer asked the Board for a letter of support for this project. The letter of support would not obligate the County for any money. The Board talked about a letter and having someone sign on behalf of the full Board.

Motion by Lukas to amend the agenda to offer a vote to have Skallerud sign a letter on the behalf of the full County Board, second by Goode. All present voting AYE (15). Absent (4); Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

AMEND AGENDA TO INCLUDE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SCC BEAD FUNDING

Motion by Lukas to have Skallerud sign a letter of support for the Sokaogon Chippewa Community for the Broadband access, BEAD funding, second by Goode. All present voting AYE (15). Absent (4); Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion Carried.

CONTINUED PERSONAL APPEARANCES FROM ABOVE:

Forestry – Chaney

Forestry is going well and hopefully they will have a better year in 2025 than this year.

Health – Decorah

The Shriner's came and presented to the Health Committee and they are looking for children to sponsor for their program. Their program covers 100% to help children through donations.

Zoning – Karl

The permits for Zoning for 2024 was up to 319 permits. They started charging for RV permits, which brought in \$20,250 in 2024. Their total revenues for 2024 was up from the previous year by \$33,000. The hope is that this continues.

Sheriff & Justice – Marvin

The Sheriff Department received a Heroin reimbursement grant.

Highway – The Highway is in the process of interviewing three (3) new applicants.

Building – Lukas

This Thursday the committee will be opening bids for the parking lot and the security doors.

Finance – The budget was passed and finalized for 2025; the consensus is to start working on 2026 as soon as possible.

ADRC – Gretzinger

The ADRC just had their last meeting and it was found out that they have almost all of the \$75,000 they still owe the County.

Social Services – The transition is going well.

Aging – Miller

The recent transportation study was done and the grant they applied for in the amount of \$46,800 with 25% match (in-kind) was approved.

Child Support -Boney wanted the Board to know that she is fully staffed; new employee Theresa Faucher.

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Chair – Skallerud

The Human Service Department is ready to go live on January 1, 2025. The final item that needs to be approved will be coming later in the meeting by resolution; which is contracting services with Oneida County. The County could not coalesce to get all services here at the County and the new contract that is needing to be signed will require 180 days to cancel/change.

He is working with WCA legislatures on the County Budget to try and get funding increased for Court costs and Social Services as well as the ADRC: which when originally was created, the State promised 100% funding for, and that is not happening. He attended a virtual meeting with the Governor and will be going to the Ambassador program in the new year. He will be talking about the levy and an inflation formula for the counties and additional shared revenues. The CDL project will be discussed as well. The County can look into short-term borrowings for capital projects.

In the HSC administration meeting last week they found out that only ¼ of the Medicaid/Medicare billing for time was being done, so that will bring in additional revenues when that is completed. Oneida County did evaluate the HSC buildings and with that evaluation a discussion will be had on how to split for the Counties.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 70-2024 Offered by Forestry and Recreation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forest County Board of Supervisors accept the recommendation of the Forestry and Recreation Committee and hereby accepts and approves the 2025 Forest County Forestry Department Annual Work Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Chapter 2000 of the 15 Year Comprehensive Land- Use Plan 2021-2035 be amended as set forth in Chapter 2000, paragraph 2100.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Forestry and Recreation Committee is directed to forward said amendment to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for their approval. Motion by Chaney to approve the resolution as presented, second by Tallier. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

Resolution 71-2024 Offered by Forestry and Recreation

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we the Forest County Board of Supervisors in consideration of meeting the needs identified in our County Forest 15 Year Plan hereby request the Department of Natural Resources to provide the 2025 payment to the County under ss 28.11(8)(b)1 on the basis of 50 cents for each acre of our County Forest Lands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk is hereby authorized and directed to file this request with the Department of Natural Resources prior to December 31 preceding the year in which said payment is being requested to be made.

Motion by Dehart to approve the resolution as presented, second by Weber. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

Resolution 72-2024 Offered by Social Services

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Contract Summary between Forest County Human Services Department and Oneida County Human Services Department.

Motion by Goode to approve the resolution as presented, second by Piasini. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

Resolution 73-2024 Offered by Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Forest County Employee Handbook shall include the attached policy as it pertains to the reporting of off-duty injuries.

Motion by Marvin to approve the resolution as presented, second by Chaney. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

Resolution 74-2024 Offered by Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Forest County Employee Handbook shall include the attached policy as it pertains to a Code of Ethics.

Motion by Weber to approve the resolution as presented, second by Dehart. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

Resolution 75-2024 Offered by Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the Director for the Office On Aging is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and submit to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, an application for assistance to provide transportation services to the elderly and handicapped during 2025, all pursuant to Sec. 85.21 of Wisconsin Statutes and further, in conformation with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Forest County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the obligation of county funds in the amount not to exceed 20% of that amount allocated to the county by the grant referred to above, in order to provide the required local matching funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the County Board Chairman and the County Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute a State Aid Contract with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, all pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Sec. 85.21 in order to accomplish the foregoing.

Motion by Tallier to approve the resolution as presented, second by Miller. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

Resolution 76-2024 Offered by Library

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the Plan of Services 2025-2030 which is attached hereto is hereby approved and adopted.

Motion by Chaney to approve the resolution as presented, second by Piasini. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

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ORDINANCES

Ordinance 04-2024 Offered by Tax Deed Properties

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ordained by the Forest County Board of Supervisors as follows:

SECTION I:

That the following Ordinance regarding the administration and management of tax deeded lands shall be adopted in its entirety.

SECTION II:

Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except when the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Beneficiary shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Wis. Stat. § 851.03

Heir means any person, including the surviving spouse, who is entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to an interest in property of a decedent. [See Wis. Stat. § 851.09]

Owner-Occupied, Single-Family Residence means [reference to county zoning code] or [any single-family residential unit used by one family which owns the property as their permanent and primary residence and, upon request, is able to provide the County Treasurer with evidence establishing the satisfaction of these terms (*e.g.*, a utility bill.)]

Tax-deeded lands shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Wis. Stat. § 75.35(1).

SECTION III:

Administration and Management of Tax-Deeded Lands

- (1) The County shall comply with the provisions of Wis. Stats. §§ 75.35, 75.36 and 75.69 in the disposition of tax-deeded lands.
- (2) Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 75.35(2)(d), the County Board of Supervisors hereby delegates to the County Treasurer the power to acquire, manage and sell tax-deeded lands including the power to determine which properties to acquire.
- (3) The County Board of Supervisors recognizes that there may be properties where it is undesirable for the County to acquire the property through the process set forth in Wis. Stats. Chap. 75 and hereby delegates to the Treasurer the authority to make such determination. In April of each year, the Treasurer shall provide a report to the County Board listing all properties the Treasurer has refused to foreclose upon with a reason for such refusal. If a property is not acquired for any reason authorized in this section, the

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Treasurer shall notify the appropriate assessor and request that the value of such property be reduced.

- (4) Within 20 days of the County's acquisition of a tax-deeded land, the Treasurer shall notify the former owner, by registered mail or certified mail sent to the former owner's mailing address on the tax bill, that the former owner may be entitled to a share of the proceeds of a future sale of the tax-deeded land.
- (5) Within 120 days of the County's acquisition of a tax-deeded land, the Treasurer shall determine the appraised value of the tax-deeded land. The appraisal may be made by the Land Sales & Delinquent Tax Committee or a certified appraiser as defined in Wis. Stat. § 458.01(7).
- (6) The following provisions in this Section (6) relate to tax-deeded lands that are owner-occupied, single-family residences. This Section (6) may, in the sole discretion of the Treasurer be applied to tax-deeded lands that are not owner-occupied, single-family residences.¹
 - a. Within 60 days of the County's acquisition of a tax-deeded land, the Treasurer shall provide notice to the former owner of the former owner's, the former owners heirs or the former owners beneficiaries right to repurchase the tax-deeded land. Such notice shall be mailed to the former owner's last known address on file with the Treasurer.
 - b. If a former owner of tax-deeded land, or such former owner's heir or beneficiary, notifies the Treasurer of an intent to repurchase the tax-deeded land within 90 days of the date the County acquired the tax-deeded land, the Treasurer shall order a title report from a title insurance company showing all liens of record against the tax-deeded land in existence on the day prior to the judgment of foreclosure in favor of the County, the cost of which shall be paid in advance by the person notifying the Treasurer of the intent to repurchase the tax-deeded land.
 - c. If the former owner, or such former owner's heir or beneficiary, provides proof of satisfaction of all liens of record as established in the title report within 30 days of the date of the title report, the Treasurer shall convey the tax-deeded land to the former owner, or such former owner's heir or beneficiary, by quit-claim deed provided the former owner, or such former owner's heir or beneficiary, has provided the County with funds necessary to satisfy all costs and expenses due the County as provided in Wis. Stat. § 75.35(3).
- (7) Unless a tax-deeded land is repurchased under Section (6), within 240 days of the County's acquisition of a tax-deeded land [180 days for tax-deeded lands acquired on or after January 1, 2026] the Treasurer shall publish on the County's website and either (i) publish a class 1 notice or (ii) advertise on a multiple listing service the availability of a tax-deeded land for purchase and the appraised value of the tax-deeded land, as determined in Section (5). The publications shall include information regarding the method of sale to be utilized.
- (8) The Treasurer is authorized to sell tax-deeded lands by open or closed bid or engage a licensed real estate broker or salesperson to assist in selling any tax-deeded land.
- (9) The committee may accept the bid most advantageous to it but, at the first attempt to sell a tax-deeded land, every bid less than the appraised value of the tax-deeded land shall be

¹ Section 75.35(3) requires this process for single-family, owner-occupied properties, but this process may also be utilized for other properties if the county chooses.

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rejected. Tax-deeded land previously advertised for sale may be sold for any amount determined by the committee but only after advertising the sale of such tax-deeded land by publication of a class 1 notice, under Wis. Stat. Chap. 985. No tax-deeded land may be sold for an amount that is less than the tax-deeded land's appraised value determined under Section (5) unless the committee has reviewed and approved such a sale and no tax-deeded land may be sold for an amount that is less than the amount of the highest bid unless the committee prepares a written statement, available for public inspection, that explains the reasons for accepting a bid that is less than the highest bid. The Treasurer shall notify, by mail, the clerk of the municipality in which a tax-deeded land is located of the sale of a tax-deeded land at least three weeks prior to the time of the sale.

- (10) The Treasurer shall send to the owner any proceeds to which the former owner is entitled under Wis. Stat. § 75.36(2m)(a) by certified mail to the former owner's last known address. If the payment to the former owner is returned to the County or otherwise not claimed by the former owner within one year following the mailing of the proceeds, the payment shall be considered unclaimed funds and disposed of pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.66(2). Neither the former owner nor any person making a claim for any funds under this Section (10) is entitled to interest on sums owed by the County hereunder.
- (11) Sections (7), (8), (9) and (10) do not apply to the withdrawal and sale of county forest lands, nor to the sale or exchange of lands to or between the County and a municipality or the state.

SECTION IV:

General

- (12) If any section, clause provision or portion of this Ordinance is judged unconstitutional or invalid by the County of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected.
- (13) Any previous Ordinance or Resolutions in conflict with this Ordinance is repealed to the extent of such conflict.
- (14) This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and publication.
- (15) The County Clerk shall properly post or publish this Ordinance as required under 60.80 Wis. Stats.

Motion by Goode to forego reading of the ordinance, second by Peterson. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

Motion by Dehart to adopt the ordinance as presented, second by Chaney. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

Ordinance 05-2024 Offered by County Board Chair

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED THAT THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS does hereby adopt this ordinance for or the purpose of improving the ability of the county government to organize its administrative structure, Forest County elects to

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become a self-organized county and to act under the provisions of Section 59.10 (1), Wisconsin State Statutes;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the terms of office for election of County Board of Supervisors. Supervisors are county officers and shall be elected for two-year terms in the election held on the first Tuesday in April in even-numbered years. They shall take office on the third Tuesday in April of that year; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, the methods for filling vacancies on the County Board. Vacancies shall be filled by procedures determined by the County Board and defined in the Governing Rules of the Forest County Board of Supervisors; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, the compensation of County Board Members. The County Board shall determine the method of compensation for County Board Supervisors. The County Board shall, at or before its annual meeting in odd-numbered years, by a two-thirds vote of members entitled to a seat, fix the compensation of the board members to be next elected. The Board may also provide additional compensation for the County Board Chairperson at or before its annual meeting in odd-numbered years by a two-thirds vote of members entitled to a seat. In addition to the per diem, the County Board Supervisors shall receive mileage for attending Board meetings and other official meetings in accordance with the Governing Rules of the Forest County Board of Supervisors; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the County Clerk shall file a certified copy of the Self-Organized County ordinance with the Wisconsin Secretary of State upon passage by the Forest County Board.

Motion by Dehart to forego reading of the ordinance, second by Miller. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

Motion by Chaney to adopt the ordinance as presented, second by Weber. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried.

ANNUAL REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Chaney to adjourn, second by Dehart. All present voting AYE (15); Absent (4) Dailey, Dewing, Landru, Wirtz. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the January 21, 2025 Forest County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Nora Matuszewski
Forest County Clerk