

**COMMITTEE:** ZONING/EMERGENCY GOVT. AND 911/PUBLIC HEARING  
**DATE:** WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025  
**TIME:** 4:30 pm  
**PLACE:** FOREST COUNTY BOARD ROOM

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Karl called the meeting to order at 4:30PM and read the agenda

#### **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Ron Karl, Bill Chaney, Scott Goode, Brian Piasini, Mike Miller & Terry Lukas

Members Absent: Ron Skallerud

Others Present: Stephanie Montgomery, Jeff Marvin, Bruce Decorah, Alan Marvin, Tom Tallier, Sandy Beauchaine, Richard Wirtz

Public: See sign in sheet (attached)

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Goode to amend the agenda and add written comments to the agenda, second by Chaney. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

#### **INFORM THE PUBLIC OF HEARING PROCEDURES (time for each speaker)**

Karl explained that there would be 5 minutes for each person to speak.

#### **MOTION TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion by Chaney to Open public comment, second by Piasini. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

#### **COUNTY BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIAL EVENT ORDINANCE:**

Stephanie Montgomery, Emergency Management Director, gave a brief description of the special event ordinance.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON SPECIAL EVENT ORDINANCE**

An Event holder addressed concerns with the ordinance, and inconsistencies with other existing county ordinances that they have. The Event holder explains how long they have been holding their events, the continued improvements they have made to the property, and how much it donates back to the community. The Event holder mentioned that they do not request law enforcement at their events, or on the grounds, and that they provide their own Law Enforcement. The Event holder feels that they are being singled out due to their events holding over 2,000 people.

Several other public attendees expresses that the county should drop the ordinance all together, and that the county is making this about money.

The Event holders' attending commented that they cannot prevent all emergencies, and questioned Montgomery and Marvin, if there were any LE calls to the events.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSES**

Stephanie Montgomery, Emergency Management Director, expressed the intention behind the ordinance was public safety and ensuring that the event holders are making plans for emergencies and response to emergencies. It was discussed that Forest County has more than just one event that would require a Special Event permit, and looking at the increase of spectators each year, it is in the best interest that Forest County has something in place for future events. Montgomery expresses the ordinance is not about money but about public safety and health. Montgomery mentioned that she wished some of the other responders (EMS) had shown up, because they are in favor of the Special Events permit. Montgomery informed the public that she does hear a lot from the EMS regarding these bigger events, because it is a very stressful weekend for them. Montgomery told the public that the ordinance is a draft, and was discussed with a few committees, that we need the feedback to make this fit our needs, and make sure that not only those visitors coming into our county are being served, but also our tax payers who live here year-round are maintaining that service level throughout these events that come to the County. Montgomery informed the public that the county is not always aware of the events happening, and having a permit would give the county awareness to know what's going on, and how to mitigate some of the emergencies that could happen. Montgomery suggested to the public that a work group could be created to discuss a Special Event permit and asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be part of this group. Mark Ferris, said that he would be willing to be part of this group.

Marvin discussed the Sheriff Department budget, the number of staff, and the minimal staffing regulations. Marvin discussed that there is a cost that the Sheriff's Department has each year to put extra staff on duty, and that not having Law Enforcement on scene in the past has led to disorderly individuals. Marvin said that having Law Enforcement at events is very important to ensure safety and order, but mostly to protection the community and individuals' attending the events. Marvin mentioned that there are various events in the county that require increased Law Enforcement coverage. Marvin said he wished that he would see this much community involvement at all the other county board meetings. We would have a better-informed public at what goes on at the county level. Right now, this county board has openings for different districts. Think about signing up and getting on the county Board. If your district is open, contact the Nora, County Clerk.

## **WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Montgomery does not have any written comments.

## **MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion by Chaney to close public hearing, second by Lukas. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion by Chaney to adjourn, second by Miller. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35PM