

# **FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS**

**April 15, 2025**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Organizations meeting of the Forest County Board of Supervisors was held on April 15, 2025, in the County Board Room at the Courthouse in Crandon, Wisconsin. Chairperson Skallerud called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present. The Clerk, Nora Matuszewski, read the agenda.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: Augustin, Decorah, Dehart, Fulcer, Goode, Gretzinger, Karl, Landru, Lukas, Marvin, Miller, Peterson, Piasini, Skallerud, Thompson (Sworn in under appointments or elections), Tallier, Weber, Wirtz

Absent: Dailey, Dewing; Vacant – District #14

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Weber, to amend the agenda adding a resolution for the COA Bus/Van purchase, second by Goode to amend and approve the agenda as presented. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Dailey, Dewing. Motion carried.

## **APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 18, 2025 MEETING**

Motion by Dehart, second by Marvin to approve the March 18, 2025 minutes as presented. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Dailey, Dewing. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Just an announcement that the annual dinner of the board members after an election was postponed last year because of weather. It will be following this meeting (5:00p.m.) at Ed's in Argonne.

## **COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD**

WCA-2025 Annual business meeting resolutions deadline for submission request

Motion by Peterson to place the communications on file in the County Clerk's Office, second by Piasini. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Dailey, Dewing. Motion carried.

## **APPOINTMENTS OR ELECTIONS**

Appointment of Albert Thompson – District#15

Albert Thompson was the only person that submitted a letter of interest for the district #15 vacancy. Skallerud asked him to tell the Board a little about himself.

Motion by Weber to nominate Albert Thompson, second by Fulcer. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Dailey, Dewing. Motion carried. Thompson sworn in to District #15 at 1:15 p.m.

Special election of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair

Motion by Weber to nominate Al Marvin as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chair to the County Board, second by Goode. All present voting AYE (18); Absent (2) Dailey, Dewing. Motion carried. Skallerud called three times for additional nominations and there were none.

## FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS

April 15, 2025

Motion by Gretzinger to close the nominations, second by Goode. All present voting AYE (18). Absent (2) Dailey, Dewing. Nominations closed.

Motion by Dehart to nominate Al Marvin as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair by unanimous consent, second by Miller. All present voting AYE (18). Absent (2) Dailey, Dewing. Motion carried.

### PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Visit Forest County –Chris Shafer, CEO

Shafer wanted to thank Stephanie Montgomery (EM Govt Director) for the good work she did during the Ice Storm. He said they are still waiting on the Tribal Broadband Grant to come through and waiting on the BEAD funding as well. The Town of Freedom passed the room tax at their last meeting. The Visit Forest County will be working on a Discover Wisconsin infomercial that will cost \$50,000; the tribes will both be paying \$12,500 towards it and the Visit Forest County will be paying \$25,000 to promote Forest County. The Sappi days in Armstrong Creek was a great event and well attended. Shafer has been talking with two (2) vets trying to get them to come to the area. Baldwin will be coming to Forest County tomorrow (April 16) and they are working hard to get the BEAD but, there are 429 applicants for it.

Emergency Management Director - Stephanie Montgomery was in to update the Board on the ice storm. Wisconsin is a home rule state and each Town has to have an Emergency Management Director, if they have none it falls on the Chair of each town. Emergencies start locally. With the power out there were many concerns for citizens, the Spring Election and a lot of cell phone coverage was out, especially with AT&T. There was no funding or generators from the Election Commission. Three generators were loaned out, two (2) from the Health Department and one (1) personal generator the Director loaned out. Some towns had warming stations and it worked out great. There were several that did not, but, the Director worked with the Red Cross and opened up a station at the Crandon Library and the Salvation Army brought in food. FEMA will not be coming in for individuals that need help so, individuals should contact their personal insurance companies for help with paying for damages from the storm. The Wisconsin Disaster fund will help clean up the County roads with a 70% reimbursement. Catholic Charities are giving out \$500.00 stipends to help with some of the clean-up.

Highway – Marvin talked to the Board about the fact that the Highway department had 50-60 miles of roads that had to be measured for cost clean-up and sent out bids for contractors to help with cleaning it up. With the roads there were four (4) County roads with a big mess with the ice storm; it was a long weekend for the road crew. He thinks a letter of thank you needs to go out to all of the people who helped with the clean-up.

Zoning – Karl told the Board that permits are up \$9,500.00 from last year at this time.

Forestry – Karl indicated a chair was elected and the ATV trail work is going well but, will be delayed because of the storm. The department has eight (8) timber sales that are ready to go out to bid for next month. Quite a few of the sales out are completed.

Sheriff & Justice – Marvin told everyone the meeting was postponed until tonight.

Highway – Marvin explained they are down four (4) road employees, without filling these positions they will be faced with turned down work this summer.

## FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS

April 15, 2025

Building & Property – Lukas told the Board the committee has four (4) bids for the new entranceway; contractor that secured the project was the Reese Group for \$420,000.00. Musson is working on the bids for the Old Sheriff Residence. On a sad note, WD Flooring has closed its doors, which will affect the local Loggers as well as jobs lost in the community. WD Flooring is known for the best flooring in the world. He had old maps that were found in the attic when they were doing the dome project and he is asking if the Board would like to have them framed and put up in the new entranceway. He really wants to pursue it and the Board would like to have him take it back to the Building Committee.

Human Service Board – Gretzinger told everyone this has been very challenging. The department as a whole is struggling a little bit on structure, laws, etc. With the structure having the department in two different building is difficult and the hope is to co-locate them all to one place. It will be better to have them under one roof, which will make it run better and better for serving the County citizens. Patience is needed to get everything in order.

Aging/ARDC Advisory- Miller told everyone the meal sites are running but, they had a problem with Alvin and had to go from cooked meals to catered meals. They are not providing many meals there. The Aging has entered into an MOU with the Methodist Church to use the facility for fund raisers. If the funding can be found they are going to try to up the Crandon meal site from three (3) to five (5) days a week.

Skallerud - There is an ITBEC strategic planning meeting tomorrow (April 16) and Chaney was on the partnership board, which is in Langlade County, Skallerud will be appointing Thompson to this Board along with Sheriff & Justice.

Skallerud talked about strategizing about the ice storm and looking for funding sources to equalize with the State what the County pays for. WCA working on initiatives to help all Counties. He will be meeting with the Rural counties to identify funding issues that affects Forest County not the bigger southern counties. There were twelve (12) counties that were asking about help with funding issues in the rural counties vs. the big counties. He will have more information after tomorrow.

### RESOLUTIONS

#### **Resolution 13-2025 Offered by County Board Chair**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest County Board of Supervisors direct that pursuant to sections 323.11 and 323.14(4) of Wisconsin Statutes, the County Board Chair of Forest County advise the State of Wisconsin of our emergency conditions.

Motion by Gretzinger to approve the resolution as presented, second by Tallier. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (3) Dailey, Dewing, Gretzinger (Gretzinger left the meeting for a moment and was gone during the vote). Motion carried.

#### **Resolution 14-2025 Offered by Finance and Personnel**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that the Highway Department shall offer bonuses to newly hired employees and existing employees with the following conditions:

## FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS

April 15, 2025

- \$2,500 as a retention bonus for listed highway employees will be issued in the pay period following this resolution's passage. A second \$2,500 bonus will be issued in a December 2025 pay period.
- \$2,500 as a sign-on bonus will be issued on the first pay period for newly hired employees in 2025 for the listed highway positions. An additional \$2,500 bonus will be issued in the pay period following the employee's successful completion of their probationary period.
- All employees who receive either bonus must maintain employment with the Highway Department for three years after receiving the first disbursement.
  - If the employee ends employment before one year, they must reimburse the county 100% of the issued bonus,
  - If the employee completes one year of employment but ends employment before two years, they must reimburse the county 75% of the issued bonus,
  - If the employee completes two years of employment but ends employment before three years, they must reimburse the county 25% of the issued bonus.
- An existing employee has announced his retirement and will not be bound to the three-year employment commitment.
- This is a one-time, non-precedent bonus available to the 3 vacant positions and the existing employees within the Highway Department as of the passage of this Resolution.

Motion by Weber to approve the resolution as presented, second by Landru. All present voting AYE (18); Absent (2) Dailey, Dewing. Motion carried.

### **Resolution 15-2025 Offered by Personnel and Finance**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forest County Board of Supervisors that Forest County will make the following payment if the employee signs a contract incorporating the following conditions:

- Payment of 50% of the incurred tuition cost will be reimbursed to said employee if they provide an official transcript indicating they completed the course with a grade of "C" or better or the equivalent Competency-Based-Education (CBE) grade indicating competency,
- The employee must continue employment with the Forest County Department of Human Services for a period of three years from the date the employee obtains their (licensure/certification) as a Social Worker.
- If the employee does not fulfill the employment requirement, he will owe Forest County the following reimbursement of the provided tuition payments:
  - Less than one year of employment, 100%,
  - At least a year, but less than two years of employment, 75%,
  - At least two years, but less than three years, 25%.
- This is a one-time educational reimbursement obligation and shall not establish precedent within the Social Services Department.

Motion by Gretzinger to approve the resolution as presented, second by Wirtz. All present voting AYE (16); Absent (4) Dailey, Fulcer, Dewing, Weber. Motion carried.

# FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS

April 15, 2025

## **Resolution 16-2025 Offered by County Board Chair**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, that the Human Services Department may apply for the Department of Transportation Trust Fund set up through Sec. 85.21 Wisconsin Statutes in order to purchase a vehicle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a vehicle in the sum of not more than \$86,000.00 may be purchased for the Department of Human Services, division of ADRC/COA provided that 100% of the funding for said vehicle is paid through Section 85.21 Wis. Stat. funding.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Human Services Board and/or the County Board Chair shall sign all documents necessary to apply for the funding to purchase a vehicle. Motion by Goode to approve the resolution as presented, second by Dehart.

Motion by Peterson to amend the resolution, replacing ADRC of the Northwoods with Forest County Human Service Center and approve the amended resolution, second by Gretzinger. All present voting AYE (16); Absent (4) Dailey, Fulcer, Dewing, Weber. Motion carried.

## ORDINANCES

None

## ANNUAL REPORTS

None

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Landru, second by Fulcer to adjourn. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (3) Dailey, Dewing, Weber. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the May 20, 2025 Forest County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Nora Matuszewski  
Forest County Clerk