

FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PROCEEDINGS

June 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Forest County Board of Supervisors was held on June 17, 2025, in the County Board Room at the Courthouse in Crandon, Wisconsin. Chair, Ron Skallerud called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present. Clerk, Nora Matuszewski, read the agenda.

ROLL CALL

Present: Augustin, Dailey, Decorah, Dehart, Dewing, Fulcer (was present late), Goode, Karl, Landru, Lukas, Miller, Piasini, Skallerud, Tallier, Thompson, Weber, Wirtz.

Absent (2); Marvin, Peterson. Vacant Seats; (2).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Dehart to approve the agenda, second by Piasini. All present voting AYE (17).

Absent (2); Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 20, 2025 MEETING

Motion by Goode to approve the May 20, 2025 minutes, second by Weber. All present voting AYE (17). Absent (2); Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

COMMUNICATIONS ON FILE WITH THE BOARD

Resolutions from other Counties; Outagamie, Winnebago

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

Forward Analytics - Motion by Weber to place all communications on file in the County Clerk's Office, second by Wirtz. All present voting AYE(17). Absent (2); Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried.

Conservation Easement – Letter of Support

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

Approval – Assurance of Compliance for DHS

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

APPOINTMENTS OR ELECTIONS

None

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Mary Thornton – Announcement of ½ marathon event

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Mary explained the FCP Community center will be doing a ½ marathon event on August 16th, 2025. They wanted to let the members know; they will be going out by the Wabeno Elk Farm. They know the weekend is the Corn boil in Laona so, they are planning to have the event done by 1:00 p.m. There will be food and kid's games. They used FCP Security Force and the Chamber also helped to fund it. Next year they are planning on going down County S or County G so, as to showcase all of their towns and bring runners to the area.

Conservation Easement – Letter of Support

Motion by Karl to entertain a motion to move forward with the letter of support, second by Lukas. All present voting AYE; Augustin, Dailey, Dehart, Fulcer, Goode, Karl, Landru, Lukas, Miller, Piasini. Voting NAY; Decorah, Dewing, Skallerud, Tallier, Thompson, Weber, Wirtz. Motion carried.

Visit Forest County – CEO

Chris Shafer updated the Board on current projects. They will be filming Discover Wisconsin the 2nd week in July to August. They will be promoting UTV's. He had an update on the towers, the Nelma, Newald and Cavour towers are online. Argonne and Harter will be done by June 30th. The consortium for going after the BEAD funding for 51.5 million was awarded the amount in phase I. As of June 6th, the preliminary awards have been pulled back and they have to re-apply. They had to cut all of the DEI, etc. out of the applications. They will not give up and will re-apply. He thinks the odds for getting the grant are still very good and the funds will be issued by the end of 2025.

Chairperson Report

Maggi Cronin from Tom Tiffany's office was present to speak to the Board. She wanted to thank the board members first for serving, as that is one of the things Tiffany always does.

Items she discussed:

FEMA grant for firefighters, with a deadline of July 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

The Congressman is working on a bill that he has put in front of Congress to turn the Apostle Islands into a National Park. The thought is this will bring economic growth and tourism into our State, because we do not have a National Park in Wisconsin. They have a sample resolution out there in support of this.

Saturday, July 12th they will be having a Service Academy Day in Merrill with a presentation and luncheon.

Jeff Musson – Lukas told the Board they are working on the south end of the building and he wants Musson to discuss the Jail bars, which the committee has decided need to come out. The question came up because the Board awhile back wanted to save them.

Musson showed pictures on the boardroom screen the brick he felt would work and the brick could be painted to look like bars. The thought is if the bars are not taken out there will be more problems down the road with erosion of the bricks on the building. The rusty bars are already causing a problem for Maintenance. What is going to be behind the bars is only storage. He will be getting a cost for the building committee before anything moves forward.

The north annex project has been halted because the State did not like the preliminary firewall plan. Musson worked on a resolution and he heard back today from the State and they approved the plan with his resolution.

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Augustin – Human Service Committee

The department and committee are still busy putting MOUs in place and working on the department.

Library – There will be a 25th anniversary on June 30th and they have a lot of summer programs running.

I.T. – Had the first meeting and the committee is looking for ways to save the county money.

Dewing – Health Department

The department is using the new trailer and held a shot clinic today. They have grant money that has to be used by the end of June. The department has an intern for the summer.

Karl – Zoning

The department is down on revenues (permits/land use/sanitary) compared to last year at this time. The revenues are down around \$7,000 from last year at this time.

Forestry – The department put out 7 sales for about 510 acres; bids were as high as 34% over minimum. Two sales were taken back and will be bid out in mid-August to September.

Weber – Highway

They approved North East Asphalt for short S and the pulverizing of Long S to 8 North (two bids).

The storm clean-up is almost finished. The logging company that did the clean-up went and finished the County part of the clean-up as well. They have a resolution coming up in the meeting.

Miller – ADRC/Aging

The EBS Specialist position is vacant and needing to be filled. The Aging is working on setting up special outings for the seniors and is looking for additional drivers.

Skallerud – forego giving a report.

RESOLUTIONS/DECLARATIONS

Resolution 34-2025 Offered by Finance and Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS hereby sets a uniform comp time accumulation allowance of 40 hours for all non-union employees, effective January 1, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective on January 1, 2026, non-union employees can accumulate comp time as long as their department's overtime budget has sufficient funds to cover the potential end-of-year payout of unused comp time; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Department Head, or Constitutional/Elected Officer, will be responsible for monitoring and ensuring the comp time accumulation of their employees is within their approved overtime budget; and

Motion by Weber to approve the resolution as presented, second by Goode. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried.

Resolution 35-2025 Offered by Finance and Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, hereby approves the elimination of the current post-retirement policy effective December 31, 2025, and the creation of the attached PTO time-off policy, which will be effective January 1, 2026, for all non-union employees: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County will grandfather any non-union employees who have accumulated sick leave on December 31, 2025, to be converted to a booked liability to be paid out upon retirement “in good standing” of said employees following the current post-retirement policy. However, the payout and booked liability will be based on the employees' pay rate as of December 31, 2025, rather than their pay rate at the time of retirement: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the sick leave in this account shall be designated to support post-retirement policy as currently outlined in the existing post-retirement sick leave conversion benefit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Eligibility to utilize these benefits shall be limited to employees who retire in good standing and meet all the conditions outlined in the existing county retirement sick leave conversion benefit policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Clerk's shall oversee the administration of the account, including tracking, management, and application of the converted sick leave towards post-retirement insurance benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any previous Ordinance, Resolution, or Policy in conflict with this Resolution is repealed to the extent of such conflict.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any section, clause, provision, or portion of this Resolution is judged unconstitutional, in violation of established Wisconsin law, or invalid by the County of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Resolution shall not be affected.

Motion by Weber to approve the resolution as presented, second by Wirtz. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried.

Resolution 36-2025 Offered by Forestry

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forest County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Chair of the Forest County Forestry Committee to act on behalf of Forest County to:

Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available; sign documents; and take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

Motion by Tallier to approve the resolution as presented, second by Karl. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried.

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Resolution 37-2025 Offered by Finance and Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, hereby approve the conveyance of any and all interest they have in the above-mentioned properties to Oneida County for the sum of \$162,000.00

Motion by Goode to approve the resolution as presented, second by Weber. All present voting AYE (16); Abstain (1) Decorah; Absent (2) Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried.

Resolution 38-2025 Offered by Finance and Personnel

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 \$2,662.50 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 Health for a period of three years from the date the employee obtains their Bachelor of Nursing.
- 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 Health Department.

Motion by Landru to approve the resolution as presented, second by Wirtz. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried.

Resolution 39-2025 Offered by Highway

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:

- Failure to obtain Class “A” Commercial Driver’s License within three (3) months of commencing the CDL Program, 100% repayment of the County-Approved Educational Costs;
- Termination before one (1) year of employment following attainment of the Class “A” Commercial Driver’s License, 100% repayment of the County-Approved Educational Costs;
- Termination after one (1) year of employment but before two (2) years of employment following attainment of the Class “A” Commercial Driver’s License, 75% repayment of the County-Approved Educational Costs;
- Termination after two (2) years of employment but before three (3) years of employment following attainment of the Class “A” Commercial Driver’s License, 25% repayment of the County-Approved Educational Costs;

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- Termination after three (3) years of employment following attainment of the Class “A” Commercial Driver’s License, 0% repayment of the County-Approved Educational Costs.
- Motion by Dehart to approve the resolution as presented, second by Wirtz. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried.

Resolution 40-2025 Offered by Personnel and Finance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the tower repair and upgrade for the sum of \$2225.00 is hereby approved. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the money for the repairs and upgrade shall be taken from the Local Assistance Tribal Consistency fund.

Motion by Weber to approve the resolution as presented, second by Lukas. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

None

ANNUAL REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Motion by Fulcer, second by Dewing to adjourn. All present voting AYE (17); Absent (2) Marvin, Peterson. Motion carried. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the July 15, 2025 Forest County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Nora Matuszewski
Forest County Clerk