

**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
June 27, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order by Chair Peter Boss at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call. Present – 19. Excused – 0. Present: Biller, Rathsack, Hauser, Knops, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, Swoverland, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Mai, Willingham, Hraban, Platteter, Boss. Corporation Counsel, Rich Summerfield.

Introduction and brief biography of Tom Christman by Chair Boss.

Invocation by David Willingham of Island Lake Church of Christ.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Christman.

APPOINTMENTS

Brief explanation of Public Health Officer appointment and recommendation by Jeremy Jacobs, Health and Human Services Director. Motion by Schneider, second by Gierke to appoint Dawn Brost as Public Health Officer. Motion carried by aye vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Stout, second by Gierke to approve minutes of April 18, 2017. Motion carried by aye vote.

PRESENTATION

Highway Department – Building Update: Karl Fisher, Highway Committee Chair, gave summary of building study findings from 2008/2009 and explained that the committee has been working with Ayres Associates and Barrientos Design & Consulting on finding the best solution to the issues they are facing with the building. Gave estimated amounts on using current building versus moving the Highway Department to the Conwed building. Presentation by Norman Barrientos on the designs they have come up with and costs associated with upgrading the Conwed building to suit the needs of the equipment. Discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Jandert: Addressed the board regarding concerns about the hospital.

Stanley Kromrey: Addressed the board regarding concerns about the hospital and negotiations.

Paula Carow: Addressed the board regarding the need for the animal shelter and all the donations and funds available through the Friends of the Animal Shelter.

Dick Moore: Addressed the board regarding city council meeting and the animal shelter.

RESOLUTION #17-16 TRANSFER MONEY FROM GENERAL FUND FOR 2016 CONTINGENCY

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Board of Supervisors approved a 2016 contingency fund budget in the amount of \$150,000.00; and

WHEREAS, total 2016 contingency fund requests amounted to \$335,312.86; and

WHEREAS, these contingency requests include :

Discover Wisconsin Project (approved 01/16)	\$1,222.00
Embrace (approved 01/16)	\$4,000.00
IT Projects (approved 04/16)	\$110,000.00
Administrative Coordinator	\$24,871.11
Guardian Ad Litem	\$4,082.85
Corporation Counsel	\$934.12
Ambulance	\$22,419.66
Library Assessment	\$12,413.70
Maintenance	\$42,206.59
Airport Grant Matching Funds	\$24,040.00
Fairgrounds	\$24,897.70
Trails End	\$1,480.07
Other County Property	\$4,868.76
Senior/Youth Building	\$1,770.85
Register of Deeds	\$40,610.91
Sheriff	\$749.78
Jail	\$14,744.76
TOTAL 2016 REQUESTS	\$335,312.86
2016 BUDGETED	\$150,000.00
NEEDED FROM GENERAL FUND	\$185,312.86; and

WHEREAS, at its April 19, 2017, meeting, the Finance Committee approved a motion to approve these line item transfers and request \$185,312.86 from the general fund to cover the 2016 contingency fund shortfall.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors approves amending the 2016 budget using \$185,312.86 from the general fund to cover the 2016 contingency fund requests.

Submitted by the Finance Committee: S/Boss, Tatur, Fisher, Hraban.

Motion by Knops, second by Fisher to adopt. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #17-17 RUSK COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

WHEREAS, animal shelters provide care and treatment to animals needing protection, attempt to find homes for homeless animals and reunite lost pets with their families. When necessary, animal shelters provide a humane death for homeless or unadoptable animals and;

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Animal Shelter serves as the isolation facility for animals to be quarantined in compliance with Wisconsin Statute 95.21 (5) and; WHEREAS, in 2016 the Rusk County Animal Shelter took in 129 dogs (48% from the City of Ladysmith and 52% from the County of Rusk) and 158 cats (62% from the City of Ladysmith and 38% from the County of Rusk.) and;

WHEREAS, the current facility has become antiquated and fallen into a state of disrepair and;

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Rusk County Animal Shelter and the Animal Shelter Endowment Fund have contributed \$254,899.00 towards the construction of a new facility. The remaining balance of \$289,529.00 would be proportioned; \$115,811.00 for the City of Ladysmith and \$173,218.00 the County of Rusk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that County Board of Supervisors approves securing a loan through the State Trust Fund in amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 at an interest rate not to exceed 3.5%.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Rusk will secure in writing a financial agreement with the City of Ladysmith for the payment of their portion of said costs prior to encumbering the County.

Submitted by Animal Control/Shelter Committee: S/Gierke, Pedersen, Mai.

Motion by Pedersen, second by Gierke to adopt. Discussion regarding funding, original agreement, proposed agreement. Karen Welke, Animal Control Officer, gave presentation explaining handouts given to board members that included pictures of donated cages/equipment, outline proposed facility and opportunity for increased revenue. Continued discussion on agreement, city proposal and counter proposal offered by county. Joanne Spooner commented on donated funds and the amount that the fundraising and donations have provided to the fund for the new shelter. Continued discussion on resolution, meetings with city and attempts at negotiation. Summerfield clarified that an agreement will have to be in place between the city and county in order to move forward. Contract with builder will expire shortly if not signed and there is a two year limit on the state approved plans. Roll call vote. Voting yes: 16. Voting no: 2. Voting yes: Lieffring, Swoverland, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Mai, Willingham, Hraban, Platteter, Biller, Knops, Stout, Tatur. Voting no: Rath sack, Hauser. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #17-18 COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS JOB DESCRIPTION

WHEREAS, Wisconsin county government structure is unique – No public sector comparable – No private sector comparable – No nonprofit comparable and;

WHEREAS, as stated in the Supervisor job description, service as a County Supervisor is an honor and a trust. This should compel the office holder to serve the public through use of his or her judgment for the benefit of the public. In addition it should bind him or her to uphold the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and to carry out impartially the laws of the Nation, State and County and;

WHEREAS, County Board Supervisors have overall budget and policy making authority , therefore it is essential their relationship to county offices and departments is consistent with the statutes and the constitution and;

WHEREAS, the attached County Board Supervisor job description is intended to provide clarity as to the role of a supervisor, without such clarification and understanding of roles, there is confusion and opportunity for discord.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors do hereby adopt the attached job description for County Board Supervisor, Board of Supervisors.

Submitted by Personnel Committee: S/ Hanson, Fisher, Mai, Willingham, Stout.

Motion by Fisher, second by Mai to adopt. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #17-19 AMEND 2017 BUDGET FOR ROAD AIDS

WHEREAS, Forestry Road projects that were in progress in 2016 need to be completed in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Finance Committee passed a motion at its December 21, 2016, to take up to \$100,000 from 2016 excess stumpage revenue to complete these road projects; and

WHEREAS, these road projects were not included in the 2017 budget when it was adopted; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the \$100,000 there is \$39,006 in additional prior year funds to use for these road projects including the \$9,065 that was included in the 2017 approved budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors approves amending the County Forest 2017 Road Aid and Trails budget as follows:

Account Number and Name	Budget	Amended	Difference
100-82-56113-366 Maintenance	24,131	149,492	125,361
100-82-56113-812 Trails	0	4,083	4,083
Total Expenses	24,131	153,575	129,444
100-82-43573-000 Road Aids	7,533	7,036	(497)
100-82-49990-000 Prior Year Funds	9,065	139,006	129,941
Total Revenue	16,598	146,042	129,444
LEVY	7,533	7,533	0

Submitted by Finance Committee: S/ Boss, Tatur, Fisher, Hraban.

Submitted by Forestry Committee: S/ Knops, Schneider, Boss, Lieffring, Biller.

Motion by Knops, second by Biller to adopt. Schneider informed board that the full Forestry Committee signed the resolution today. Roll call vote. Voting yes: 18. Voting no: 0. Voting yes: Swoverland, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Mai, Willingham, Hraban, Platteter, Biller, Rath sack, Hauser, Knops, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #17-20 PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) FOR COUNTY FOREST LANDS

WHEREAS, Collectively, counties manage nearly 2.4 million acres of land in Wisconsin, making County Forests the largest public ownership in the state; and
WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin currently provides \$.30 per acre to towns with county forest property enrolled in the County Forest Land (CFL) program ; and
WHEREAS, this \$.30 per acre goes to pay for town roads, elections and emergency services; and
WHEREAS, the rate of \$.30 per acre was set in 1989 and has not changed over the past 28 years; and
WHEREAS, cost to provide road, election and emergency services have increased dramatically since 1989; and
WHEREAS, the Federal Forest Payment in Lieu of Taxes is \$2.00 per acre; and
WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin pays, on average, at least \$10.00 per acre for lands not on the tax roll but owned by the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors petition the state legislature and the Governor to increase the fee paid to towns from \$.30 to \$2.00 per acre for County Forest Land enrolled in the CFL program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with all other counties and towns with county forests in the State of Wisconsin.

Submitted by Forestry Committee: S/Knops, Schneider, Boss, Lieffring, Biller.

Motion by Biller, second by Lieffring to adopt. Explanation by Boss. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE MOTION

Application for Housing Funds for Tornado Victims: Chair Boss asked for a motion to authorize Douglas County to prepare and submit an application to the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), on behalf of Rusk County, to assist eligible clients financially, to make repairs or replace homes damaged by the May 16-17 storms. Motion by Rathsack, second by Tatur. Tatur informed board that Douglas county has taken the lead on this part of the storm recovery. Motion carried by aye vote.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Gierke, second by Pedersen to appoint Mary Schneider to Health & Human Services Board. Motion carried by aye vote. Schneider abstained.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schneider announced that the Health & Human Services Board is looking for one more member to serve on the board, if anyone knows of someone who would be interested please let him know.

Tatur announced that the Rusk County Housing Authority had another resignation and asked board members to please send anyone interested his way, also explained briefly what the housing authority does.

ADJOURNMENT

Lieffring moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Next meeting, July 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Loren Beebe, Rusk County Clerk
Danielle Zimmer, Chief Deputy Clerk