

**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AUGUST 21, 2018  
7:00 P.M.**

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

Roll Call. Present – 19. Excused – 0. Present: DuSell, Biller, Rathsack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Brown, Willingham. Corporation Counsel, Rich Summerfield.

Introduction and brief biography of Leroy DuBiel by Chair Willingham.

Invocation by David Willingham of Island Lake Church of Christ.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Leroy DuBiel.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Gierke, second by Hraban to approve minutes of July 24, 2018. Motion carried by aye vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judy Johnson spoke against Rusk County implementing a \$30 wheel tax.

**RESOLUTION # 18-17 “JUST FIX IT”**

WHEREAS, local government in Wisconsin is responsible for about 90% of the road miles in the state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads as well as city and village streets and transit systems across the state; and

WHEREAS, Rusk County and other local governments across Wisconsin have been highlighting our unmet transportation needs in many different avenues including events such as the historic Turnout for Transportation event in September of 2016 where local governments in every region of this state held simultaneous meetings calling on the state legislature to prioritize transportation and pass a sustainable funding package; and

WHEREAS, while the increase in transportation funding for locals in the last budget was certainly appreciated, many still aren’t back to 2011 levels when you adjust for inflation; and

WHEREAS, locals, including Rusk County continue to struggle to meet even the most basic maintenance needs for our transportation system; and

WHEREAS, states surrounding Wisconsin and across the country have stepped up with sustainable funding plans for their state and local roads; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin will be at a competitive disadvantage if it does not implement a revenue and spending plan that addresses both our Interstates that were built in the 1950’s and 60’s and our local and state roads; and

WHEREAS, levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration of state funding; and

WHEREAS, local governments would not be forced to turn to local wheel taxes or increased borrowing or exceeding their levy limits if the state would finally pass a sustainable funding plan for transportation.; and

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Board recognizes that our state highway and interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of Wisconsin. Both local and state roads need to be properly maintained in order for our economy to grow; and

WHEREAS, from a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than any of our neighbors when you combine that annual report of the State gas tax

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Rusk County Board of Supervisors urge the Governor and Legislature to Just Fix It and agree upon a sustainable solution; one that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately and sustainably fund Wisconsin’s transportation system. Furthermore, the County Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker.

Submitted by the Rusk County Highway Committee: S/Biller, Hraban, Stout, Pedersen, Lieffring.

Motion by Lieffring, second by Rathsack to adopt. Brief explanation by Scott Emch, Highway Commissioner. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION**

Highway Shop Relocation: Fisher gave history of current building, studies done, and options considered previously. Discussion regarding insurance, Finance Committee only giving approval for an RFP to be done in 2016, the hidden costs of a new building and implications of bonding. Emch offered comments regarding sites considered and what the ending cost could be for a new highway shop. Willingham asked that Finance Committee review policies regarding RFP and the process after received, asked Finance Committee Chair Tatur to place on the next agenda. Discussion on Conwed building; Andy Albarado, Economic Development Director, clarified the current use of the building and the revenue brought in. Summerfield clarified the need for this discussion prior to a decision on the next agenda item.

Purchase Agreement from MCHS Hospitals, Inc. for N4711 State Hwy 27, Ladysmith, WI 54848: Motion by Rathsack, second by Hauser to reject offer. Discussion on offer, why location would be ideal for the new hospital. Motion carried by aye vote.

Hiring of Administrative Coordinator: Willingham explained process and thanked Ted for his assistance with the logistical piece of the hiring process. Handout distributed regarding possible changes within the administration of the county. Willingham announced that the committee is recommending that Andy Albarado be appointed the new Administrative Coordinator for Rusk County. Willingham also asked that the Ad Hoc Search Committee remain and continue with the process of realigning the positions and job descriptions. Motion by Tatur, second by Rathsack to appoint Andy Albarado as Administrative Coordinator. Motion carried. Albarado thanked the committee and board and stated he is looking forward to working with everyone.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Hospital Advisory Board (citizen members): Summerfield explained the appointments to the board that was laid out in the agreement during the purchase of the hospital by Marshfield Clinic: “The initial Community Board Members shall be chosen by the County Board in its sole discretion at Closing from among a panel of candidates proposed by the RCMH Board of Trustees and approved by MCHS, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed. Thereafter, the Community Board Members’ successors shall be approved by the MCHS Board from a panel of candidate proposed by the incumbent Community Board Members.” Paper ballots passed. Gordy Dukerschein, Jim Platteter, Jim Loe and Mark Brost appointed to Hospital Advisory Board.

Hospital Advisory Board (county member): Motion by Pedersen to confirm appointment of Dave Willingham, second by Lieffring. Motion carried. Dave Willingham appointed to Hospital Advisory Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Lieffring to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Next meeting: September 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.