

**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017  
7:00 P.M.**

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

Roll Call. Present – 17. Excused – 2. Present: Rathsack, Hauser, Knops, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, Swoverland, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Mai, Willingham, Hraban, Boss. Corporation Counsel, Rich Summerfield. Excused: Biller, Platteter.

Introduction and brief bio of Allen Phetteplace by Chair Boss.

Invocation by David Willingham of Island Lake Church of Christ.

Pledge of Allegiance with definitions recited by Allen Phetteplace.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Hraban, second by Gierke to approve minutes from July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 & August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Motion carried by aye vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chrysa Ostenso provided handouts and spoke regarding resolution coming up, fair elections and redistricting.

Joe Baye spoke regarding the resolution, gerrymandering and large amounts spend on redistricting.

Al Manson spoke to the board regarding the resolution and redistricting.

Kenny Tomaszewski voiced concerns regarding law enforcement agencies purchasing new large equipment and was curious as to the necessity for such equipment.

**PRESENTATION**

WEDC Capacity Grant – Old Weyerhaeuser Building: Andy Albarado, Economic Development Director gave an update on the grant and informed board that Sarah Peterson & Bob Lorkowski had presented to the Health & Human Services board. Albarado explained that the facility would be used to educate (High School Dipoloma, GED, etc.) and would be a “soft” training site to get those who need jobs into jobs with employers who are looking for people to fill positions. Discussion on grant, utilization and state funding.

**RESOLUTION 17-23 AMEND RUSK COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE RESERVE DEPUTY (PART-TIME) WAGE COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Sheriff’s Office utilizes part-time (Reserve) Deputy Sheriff’s to work assignments and fill shift vacancies within the dispatch/jail and patrol; and

WHEREAS, the last wage increase for these positions was approved August 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee met on March 3, 2016 and approved a Reserve Transport Wage of \$15 per hour which was approved by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors on May 24, 2016; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended to approve the following wage schedule for Reserve Deputies to: Non-certified dispatch/jail - \$12/hr; Certified dispatch/jail - \$15/hr; Certified patrol deputy - \$15/hr.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does hereby increase the wages for Reserve Deputy effective September 1, 2017.

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

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

**RESOLUTION 17-24 PHASE OUT AND CLOSURE OF THE RUSK COUNTY HOME HEALTH CARE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Rusk County has long recognized the value of assisting residents in obtaining home health services and has directly provided said services for 41 years, and

WHEREAS, at the time the program was created there were few if any alternatives to a publicly funded home care program. This has changed in the past several years as a number of outside providers have entered into the home care field resulting in a duplication of services and often a direct competition with services provided by the County, and

WHEREAS, 65 other counties within the state have made the determination that outside providers can adequately meet the need for such services and have ended their publicly-funded home care programs. Recently, information obtained by Rusk County Home Care solidifies outside providers could meet all or nearly all of the demands for home care services in Rusk County, and

WHEREAS, it is possible at this time to transition clients to a private provider, assuring no disruption in service thus allowing Rusk County to phase out of providing home health services, and

WHEREAS, on September 14th 2017 the Rusk County Health & Human Services Board passed a motion bringing forth a resolution to the County Board of Supervisors, that Rusk County phase out and close the Rusk County Home Health Care Program, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors approves the closure of the Rusk County Home Health Program.

Submitted by Health & Human Services Board: S/Schneider, Tatur, Mai, Schmitt, Gierke, Boss & Schneider.

Motion by Mai, second by Gierke to adopt. Explanation by Mai. Chris Atwood provided information regarding history and services of program. Discussion on reduction of staff through the years. Atwood explained that Lakeview Medical will serve all Rusk County residents and may offer more services. Schneider expressed gratitude to Kathy Mai and Chris Atwood for the work well done through the years. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**RESOLUTION 17-25 RESOLUTION TO CREATE A NONPARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS**

WHEREAS, currently under the state constitution, the legislature is directed to redistrict legislative districts according to the number of inhabitants at its next session following the decennial federal census by the majority party; and at the same intervals, the legislature also reapportions congressional districts pursuant to federal law, and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting plans enacted pursuant to this procedure are used to elect members of the legislature and members of Congress in the fall of the second year following the year of the census, and

WHEREAS, historically legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to partisan influence that put the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of the people, and

WHEREAS, the 2011 process to draw the maps and fight litigation contesting those maps cost taxpayers nearly \$1.9 million, and

WHEREAS, a panel of federal district court judges has ruled that the redistricting that was done in Wisconsin in 2011 was unconstitutional, and

WHEREAS, redistricting to achieve partisan gains is improper, whether it is done by Republicans or Democrats,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors insists upon the creation of a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the process promotes more accountability and transparency and prohibits the consideration of voting patterns, party information, and incumbents' residence information or demographic information in drawing the maps, except as necessary to ensure minority participation as required by the U.S. Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all members of the local Legislature.

Submitted by County Board Supervisor David Willingham. S/Willingham.

Motion by Willingham, second by Knops to adopt. Willingham explained resolution, legislation and redistricting. Swoverland voiced concern over parties not moving on from the past. Knops request roll call vote. Hauser voiced concerns over the same court battles taking place every time there is a new census and redistricting. Discussion. Roll call vote. Voting yes: 16. Voting no: 1. Voting yes: Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Mai, Willingham, Hraban, Rathsack, Hauser, Knops, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring. Voting no: Swoverland. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Motion by Willingham, second by Tatur to appoint Joe Lorence to a 3 year term on the Ethics Board. Boss explained that Lorence is incumbent. Motion carried by aye vote.

Motion by Gierke, second by Schmitt to appoint Ted Hakkala to fill vacated term on Health & Human Services Board. Motion carried by aye vote.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Lieffring to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Next meeting: October 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

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