

**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OCTOBER 22, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

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

Roll Call. Present – 16. Excused – 2. Present: DuSell, Rathsack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieftring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Brown, Willingham. Corporation Counsel, Rich Summerfield. Excused: Biller & Schmitt

Chair Willingham informed board of Fisher's resignation and one letter of interest received by County Clerk. Committee on Committees met and unanimously appointed Lisa Dobrowolski to the remaining term for District 14 Supervisor.

OATH OF OFFICE

Lisa Dobrowolski sworn in as District 14 Supervisor by Loren Beebe, County Clerk.

Invocation by David Willingham of Island Lake Church of Christ.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Willingham.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Gierke, second by Hraban to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Arian Knops – Comments regarding Dobrowolski being an asset for the County Board of Supervisors

RECOGNITION

Not present – will move to November.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Land Purchase – Boat Landing: Jeremy Koslowski, Forestry Administrator, explained purchase of boat landing for \$1. Legal description: *A parcel of land located in Lot 7 of Rusk County Certified Survey Map Number 1077, Volume 6 Pages 346-349, Document Number 328373, part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW-NW) of Section 19, T33N, R8W, Town of Big Bend, Rusk County, Wisconsin, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the northernmost corner of Lot 7 of Rusk County Certified Survey Map Number 1077, Volume 6 Pages 346-349, Document Number 328373, on a meander line of Potato Lake, thence N10°06'16"W to the shore of Potato Lake, being the Point of Beginning; thence S10°06'16"E, 2 feet plus or minus to the northernmost corner of said Lot 7, thence S10°06'16"E, 60.57 feet to the easterly line of said Lot 7 at the end of the Town Road; thence N 67°05'30"W, perpendicular to the East line of said Lot 7 (Westerly/Northwesterly following the end of the town road) to the shore of Potato Lake, thence Northeasterly along the Shore of Potato Lake to the Point of Beginning. Said Parcel Contains 0.02 Acres plus or minus. The bearings of this description are referenced to Certified Survey Map Number 1077, Volume 6 Pages 346-349, Document Number 328373.* Motion by Schneider, second by Lieftring to purchase land described for \$1. Motion carried.

Summerfield excused.

PRESENTATIONS

Westlake: Richard Tuisl, Community Job Developer, introduced Joe Baye and handed out an invitation to the Community Conversation on October 30th at 12:30 p.m. Baye gave history of Westlake from beginning in 1971 and encourages all to visit. Tuisl commended the workforce they have at Westlake and the high level of enthusiasm of all employees.

Alcohol Subcommittee: Breanne Meyer, Rusk Restorative Youth Program Coordinator, introduced herself and Cheyanne Makinia and passed out packets of information to each supervisor. Makinia & Meyer presented information in power point regarding stats from a survey of students; as well as mission, values & goals of Alcohol Subcommittee. Meyer went through packet; which included: letter informing businesses that check would be coming, resources provided to businesses including signs. Meyer invited anyone interested to meetings that are held the last Monday of the month from 1-2:00 p.m. in the Extension Office. Also invited all interested to any of the four vaping presentations that will be held.

Budget: Kitzie Winters, Finance Director, explained the budget process and presented changes in budget lines and wages. Informed board that notice went in the paper this week. Discussion on levy versus per capita.

RESOLUTION #19-21 POSSESSION OF TOBACCO AND VAPOR PRODUCTS BY MINORS

WHEREAS, Section 24-297 through 24-305 is hereby revised to address local concerns relating to possession of tobacco and vapor products by minors; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance is to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the property and persons of Rusk County; and

WHEREAS, Adoption of these revised ordinances will prohibit minors from possessing tobacco or vapor products, and smoking or vaping in a public place. Also, prohibits minors from purchasing or attempting to purchase tobacco or vapor products and falsely reporting age while attempting to purchase tobacco or vapor products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does approve the attached ordinance, repealing all ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict with the attached ordinances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, This ordinance shall take effect on and after its passage and publication.

Submitted by the Rusk County Emergency Services Committee: S/Schmitt, Schneider, Pedersen, Stout.

Motion by Schneider, second by Hraban to adopt. Jeff Wallace, Sheriff, explained the ordinance change. Discussion. Willingham clarified that this resolution amends the current minor tobacco ordinance. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #19-22 AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF TWO ADDITIONAL POSITIONS IN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, Rusk County Health & Human Services mission is to enhance the health and well-being of all county residents through assurance and/or provision of an array of programs, services and education that enable individuals, families and communities to improve their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, due to increased familial complexity surrounding the heightened methamphetamine epidemic that adversely affects child development and parenting, human services will continue the approach of case management by treating the entire family; and

WHEREAS, children and family services has maintained average caseload status regionally while experiencing increased initial assessment investigations due to significant child protection concerns around the population of methamphetamine addicted parents and caretakers; and

WHEREAS, the Department does not anticipate any reduction in the unprecedented influx of children entering the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, To treat this demand and be proactive with families, Health and Human Services is in need of two additional full-time social work positions specifically to address outreach, prevention, collaboration with community partners and case management; and

WHEREAS, these additional positions will be part of the Youth Justice and Coordinated Services teams, and will allow caseloads to remain within best practices and lessen time children would remain in alternative care. In addition it will help prevent employee burnout and turnover and the additional costs associated with it; and

WHEREAS, the State has allocated additional funds within the Youth Justice and Coordinated Services Team State grant funding allocation which allows these positions to be created within the Health and Human Service budget with no effect on the levy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Rusk County Health and Human Services is allowed to create two additional full-time social work positions starting January 1, 2020.

Submitted by the Rusk County Health & Human Services Board: S/Schneider, Tatur, Mai, Gierke, Schmitt, Vacho, Brown.

Submitted by the Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/Hanson, Mai, Willingham, Stout.

Motion by Tatur, second by Hauser to adopt. Jeremy Jacobs, Health & Human Services Director, explained resolution and request that involves creating two county positions that are currently contained in the budget through contracted positions. Discussion and questions. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #19-23 AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF PARALEGAL POSITION IN THE RUSK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE

WHEREAS, Rusk County employs support staff in the District Attorney's (DA) office including one full-time Legal Secretary, one full-time Paralegal, and one half-time Crime/Victim Witness Coordinator, and

WHEREAS, when the current DA took office in January 2017, there was a backlog totaling over 300 case referrals ranging from traffic offenses to violent felony cases, and

WHEREAS, since 2017, the DA has requested additional staff assistance to address case backlog and to maintain processing of ongoing referrals in a timely manner, and

WHEREAS, the DA was granted a contracted Paralegal position full-time (40 hours per week) in 2017, and full-time (32 hours per week) in 2018 and 2019, and

WHEREAS, the DA has continued to request that this Paralegal position be a permanent full-time County employee position, and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has funded the employment of the full-time District Attorney and half-time Assistant District Attorney (ADA) in Rusk County, and recently allocated funds to support the ADA position increasing to full-time effective July 1, 2019, and

WHEREAS, by increasing the ADA position from half-time to full-time, the State of Wisconsin has recognized the need to recruit and retain attorneys to provide necessary staff in prosecutors' offices to effectively protect the public, resolve cases, and hold offenders accountable, and

WHEREAS, the DA has presented case volume data, comparative staffing in other counties, and justification for the creation of an additional full-time paralegal position in the DA office prior to the State of Wisconsin increasing the ADA position, and

WHEREAS, with the ADA position moving from half-time to full-time, a permanent, full-time Paralegal is even more necessary to support the additional attorney time awarded by the State, and

WHEREAS, extra support staff time allows the DA's office to resolve cases in a timely and effective manner, maintain caseload, eliminates cost to other county departments and increase revenues to the County, and

WHEREAS, adequate support staff allows the DA's office to implement and participate in evidence-based programming as alternatives to other more costly and ineffective case resolutions, and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the County budgeted \$49,920.00, for the contracted Paralegal position, and

WHEREAS, the rate of pay for the full-time Paralegal position in 2020 would be \$20.81, with a total estimated fiscal impact of \$57,878.09 to \$71,808.09, supported by tax levy

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Personnel Committee has reviewed the DA's request for an additional Paralegal position, as well as the current staffing levels in the DA's office and has determined that the current part-time contracted legal position should become a full-time County employee position.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the an additional Paralegal position in the Rusk County DA's office shall be created effective January 1, 2020.

Submitted by the Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/.

Amended copy of resolution passed out to supervisors. Motion by Schneider, second by Gierke to adopt. Motion by McBain, second by Vacho to substitute resolution handed out for original resolution. Annette Barna, District Attorney, explained the resolution and provided a breakdown of costs, wage range, position recruitment and retention. Discussion on policy, committees, and information to consider in the process. Roll call vote. Voting Yes – 15. Voting No – 1. Mai abstained. Voting Yes: Hanson, Hraban, Brown, DuSell, Rathack, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Dobrowolski, Willingham. Voting No: Hauser. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Willingham asked any board members interested in filling positions on committees with openings due to Fisher's resignation to let him know by next Wednesday.

Winters announced that anyone interested in a hard copy of the budget let her know.

Tatur announced that updating the comprehensive plan will have to be taking place.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lieffring, second by McBain to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Next meeting November 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.