

**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
DECEMBER 17, 2019  
7:00 P.M.**

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

Roll Call. Present – 18. Excused – 1. Present: DuSell, Biller, Rathack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Brown, Willingham. Corporation Counsel, Rich Summerfield. Excused: Dobrowolski.

Chair Willingham advised he has asked all Veterans in attendance to lead pledge following the invocation and asked all Veterans to stand for recognition.

“Joy to the World” led by David Willingham of Island Lake Church of Christ, in place of invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Veterans in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Hraban, second by McBain to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION**

Veteran’s Hospital Presentation: Marty Reynolds talked about letter sent to each supervisor and the proposal for creating a Veterans Hospital from RCMH. Erik Stoker, John Vacho, Walter Johnson, and Robert Lincoln all spoke regarding their support for a Veteran’s Hospital coming to Northern Wisconsin and travel time Veteran’s currently face to get care. Willingham explained that Schneider has agreed to work with the Health & Human Services Board to get a proposal together.

**RUSK COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

Scott Emch, Highway Commissioner, provided summary page and presented detailed report regarding projects done in 2019.

**PRESENTATION**

Bonding – R. W. Baird: Justin Fisher provided hard copy of presentation to supervisors and gave the background of work done with Winters and Albarado; presentation included information on interest rates, borrowing structure and the bonding impact.

**RESOLUTION #19-28 INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NOT TO EXCEED \$3,115,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PROMISSORY NOTES FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, Rusk County, Wisconsin (the “County”) is in need of an amount not to exceed \$3,115,000 for the public purpose of financing 2019 and 2020 capital improvement plan projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to authorize the issuance of general obligation promissory notes for such purpose pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors that the County borrow an amount not to exceed \$3,115,000 by issuing its general obligation promissory notes for the public purpose of financing 2019 and 2020 capital improvement plan projects. There be and there hereby is levied on all the taxable property in the County a direct, annual tax in such years and in such amounts as are sufficient to pay when due the principal and interest on such notes.

Submitted by Rusk County: S/Willingham.

Motion by Hauser, second by Hraban to adopt. Explanation by Kitzie Winters, Finance Director. Roll call vote. Voting Yes – 18. Voting No – 0. Voting Yes: Hraban, Brown, DuSell, Biller, Rathack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Hanson, Mai, Willingham. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #19-29 INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NOT TO EXCEED \$860,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PROMISSORY NOTES TO REFUND OBLIGATIONS OF THE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Rusk County, Wisconsin (the “County”) is in need of an amount not to exceed \$860,000 for the public purpose of refunding obligations of the County, including interest on them; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to authorize the issuance of general obligation promissory notes for such purpose pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors that the County borrow an amount not to exceed \$860,000 by issuing its general obligation promissory notes for the public purpose of refunding obligations of the County, including interest on them. There be and there hereby is levied on all the taxable property in the County a direct, annual tax in such years and in such amounts as are sufficient to pay when due the principal and interest on such notes.

Submitted by Rusk County: S/Willingham.

Motion by Lieffring, second by Schmitt to adopt. Explanation by Winters. Roll call vote. Voting Yes – 18. Voting No – 0. Voting Yes: Brown, DuSell, Biller, Rathack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Willingham. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #19-30 RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$3,975,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PROMISSORY NOTES**

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors of Rusk County, Wisconsin (the "County") has adopted initial resolutions (the "Initial Resolutions") authorizing the issuance of general obligation promissory notes (i) in an amount not to exceed \$3,115,000 for the public purpose of financing 2019 and 2020 capital improvement plan projects and (ii) in an amount not to exceed \$860,000 for the public purpose of refunding obligations of the County, including interest on them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The County shall issue its General Obligation Promissory Notes (the "Notes") authorized by the Initial Resolutions in an amount not to exceed \$3,975,000 for the purposes above specified.
2. The County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs the officers of the County to take all actions necessary to negotiate the sale of the Notes with Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated. At a subsequent meeting, the County Board of Supervisors shall take further action to approve the details of the Notes and authorize the sale of the Notes.
3. The County Clerk shall cause an Official Statement concerning this issue to be prepared by Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated. The appropriate County officials shall determine when the Official Statement is final for purposes of Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2 12 and shall certify said Statement, such certification to constitute full authorization of such Statement under this resolution

Submitted by Rusk County: S/Willingham.

Motion by Hauser, second by Brown to adopt. Explanation that this is the sale of the bonds by Winters. Roll call vote. Voting Yes – 18. Voting No – 0. Voting Yes: DuSell, Biller, Rathack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Brown, Willingham. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #19-31 RESOLUTION DECLARING OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES ON BLACKTOP PLANT REPLACEMENT PROJECT FROM PROCEEDS OF BORROWING**

WHEREAS, Rusk County, Wisconsin (the "Issuer") is undertaking a blacktop plant replacement project (the “Project”);

WHEREAS, the Issuer expects to finance the Project on a long-term basis by issuing tax-exempt bonds or other tax-exempt obligations (the "Bonds");

WHEREAS, because the Bonds will not be issued prior to commencement of the Project, the Issuer must provide interim financing to cover costs of the Project incurred prior to receipt of the proceeds of the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors (the "Governing Body") of the Issuer deems it to be necessary, desirable, and in the best interests of the Issuer to advance moneys from its funds on hand on an interim basis to pay the costs of the Project until the Bonds are issued.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Issuer that:

Section 1. Expenditure of Funds. The Issuer shall make expenditures as needed from its funds on hand to pay the cost of the Project until proceeds of the Bonds become available.

Section 2. Declaration of Official Intent. The Issuer hereby officially declares its intent under Treas. Reg. Section 1.150-2 to reimburse said expenditures with proceeds of the Bonds, the principal amount of which is not expected to exceed \$464,000.

Section 3. Unavailability of Long-Term Funds. No funds for payment of the Project from sources other than the Bonds are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside by the Issuer pursuant to its budget or financial policies.

Section 4. Public Availability of Official Intent Resolution. The Resolution shall be made available for public inspection at the office of the Issuer's Clerk within 30 days after its approval in compliance with applicable State law governing the availability of records of official acts including Subchapter II of Chapter 19, and shall remain available for public inspection until the Bonds are issued.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption and approval.

Submitted by Rusk County: S/Willingham.

Motion by Hraban, second by Gierke to adopt. Explanation by Winters. Roll call vote. Voting Yes – 18. Voting No – 0. Voting Yes: Biller, Rathack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieftring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Brown, DuSell, Willingham. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

#### **RESOLUTION #19-32 AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A \$157,187 STATE TRUST FUND LOAN**

WHEREAS, By the provisions of Sec. 24.66 of the Wisconsin Statutes, all municipalities may borrow money for such purposes in the manner prescribed, and,

WHEREAS, By the provisions of Chapter 24 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin is authorized to make loans from the State Trust Funds to municipalities for such purposes. (Municipality as defined by Sec. 24.60(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes means a town, village, city, county, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, town sanitary district created under Sec. 60.71 or 60.72, metropolitan sewerage district created under Sec. 200.05 or 200.23, joint sewerage system created under Sec. 281.43(4), school district or technical college district.)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Rusk, Wisconsin, borrow from the Trust Funds of the State of Wisconsin the sum of one hundred fifty seven thousand one hundred eight seven and 00/100 dollars (\$157,187.00) for the purpose of financing fairground improvements and for no other purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The loan is to be payable within 10 years from the 15th day of March preceding the date the loan is made. The loan will be repaid in annual installments with the interest rate at 3.25 percent per annum from the date of making the loan to the 15th day of March next and thereafter annually as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there shall be raised and there is levied upon all taxable property, within the County of Rusk, Wisconsin a direct annual tax for the purpose of paying interest and principal on the loan as they become due.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no money obtained by the County of Rusk by such loan from the state be applied or paid out for any purpose except financing fairground improvements without the consent of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the case the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin agrees to make the loan, that the chairman and the clerk of the County of Rusk, Wisconsin, are authorized and empowered, in the name of the county to execute and deliver to the Commission, certificates of indebtedness, in such form as required by the Commission, for any sum of money that may be loaned to the county pursuant to this resolution. The chairman and clerk of the county will perform all necessary actions to fully carry out the provisions of Chapter 24, Wisconsin Statutes, and these resolutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this preamble and these resolutions and the aye and no vote by which they were adopted, be recorded, and that the clerk of this county forward this certified record, along with the application for the loan, to the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin.

Submitted by Rusk County: S/Willingham.

Motion by Hauser, second by Gierke to adopt. Explanation by Winters. Roll call vote. Voting Yes – 18. Voting No – 0. Voting Yes: Rathack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieftring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Brown, DuSell, Biller, Willingham. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

#### **RESOLUTION #19-33 2020 COUNTY FOREST VARIABLE ACREAGE SHARE PAYMENTS**

WHEREAS, Counties having lands entered as "County Forest Lands" under the provisions of s.s. 28.11 (4) (b) of the WISCONSIN STATUTES, annually receive from the state as a non-interest bearing loan, the amount of preservation and maintenance of such lands; and

WHEREAS, said loan monies are repaid through a 20% Severance tax on timber sales revenue coming from County Forest Lands unless a higher rate is mutually agreed to by the County and Department; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of Section 28.11 (8) (b) 1. enacted in 1979 make it possible for the County at its option to receive instead of the payment based on 10 cents per acre, a payment more closely related to meeting the needs identified in its County Forest 15 Year Plan on the basis of \$.50 cents per acre.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the Rusk County Board of Supervisors in consideration of meeting the needs identified in our County Forest 15 Year Plan hereby request the Department of Natural Resources to provide the 2020 payment to the County under s.s. 28.11 (8) (b) 1. on the basis of \$.50 cents for each acre of our County Forest Lands, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to file this request with the Department of Natural Resources prior to December 31 preceding the year in which said payment is being requested to be made.

Submitted by the Rusk County Forestry Committee: S/Schneider, Lieftring, DuSell, Rathack, Biller.

Motion by Lieftring, second by Biller to adopt. Jeremy Koslowski, Forestry Administrator, explained resolution. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION**

Forestry 2020 Work Plan: Koslowski gave explanation and discussed specific items outlined in plan. Discussion on managing the county forest. Motion by Biller, second by Schneider to approve work plan. Motion carried. Work plan approved by aye vote.

#### **RESOLUTION #19-34 CREATION OF ZONING TECHNICIAN POSITION**

WHEREAS, as a result of prior staffing changes in 2019 in the Land Conversation & Development Department a need to staff another position in the Zoning division was identified ; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk position in the LCDD office will be eliminated as of December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that a new LCDD position of Zoning Technician should be created to assist the Zoning Administrator with duties in the Zoning division; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee has reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the position, approved the job description, and determined the point factor and wage for the position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the creation of a Zoning Technician position with a pay range of \$18.50-\$22.50 per hour, effective January 1, 2020.

Submitted by the Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/Willingham.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Stout to adopt. Andy Albarado, Administrative Coordinator, explained resolution and rearranging of office staff done earlier in 2019 with a change like this as part of the plan. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**RESOLUTION #19-35 DEVILS CREEK STREAM AND WATERSHED ASSESSMENT AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The Rusk County Land & Water Conservation Division is interested in obtaining a cost-share grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of assessing the quality and condition of lower Devils Creek (as described in the grant application);

WHEREAS, the applicant attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the grant application;

WHEREAS, a grant agreement is requested to carry out the project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Land & Water conservation Division will meet the financial obligations necessary to fully and satisfactorily complete the project and hereby authorizes and empowers the following employees to submit the following documents to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance that may be available:

Task	Title of Authorized Representative	Email address and Phone Number
Sign and submit a grant application	County Conservationist	<a href="mailto:nstadnyk@ruskcountywi.us">nstadnyk@ruskcountywi.us</a> (715) 532-2162
Enter into a grant agreement with the DNR	County Conservationist	<a href="mailto:nstadnyk@ruskcountywi.us">nstadnyk@ruskcountywi.us</a> (715) 532-2162
Submit quarterly and/or final reports to the DNR to satisfy the grant agreement, as appropriate	County Conservationist	<a href="mailto:nstadnyk@ruskcountywi.us">nstadnyk@ruskcountywi.us</a> (715) 532-2162
Submit reimbursement request(s) to the DNR no later than the date specified in the grant agreement	County Conservationist	<a href="mailto:nstadnyk@ruskcountywi.us">nstadnyk@ruskcountywi.us</a> (715) 532-2162
Sign and submit other administrative forms, as needed	County Conservationist	<a href="mailto:nstadnyk@ruskcountywi.us">nstadnyk@ruskcountywi.us</a> (715) 532-2162

Submitted by the Rusk County Land & Water Conservation Committee: S/Gierke, Stout, McBain, Schmitt, DuSell.

Motion by Stout, second by Gierke to adopt. Nick Stadnyk, County Conservationist, explained resolution. Discussion on specific location of proposed project location. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**RESOLUTION #19-36 CREATING AN ADDITIONAL JAILER/DISPATCHER POSITION**

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Sheriff's Department currently staffs 14 full-time Jailer/Dispatchers (7 male/7 female); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to staff shifts with an equal number of male and female Jailer/Dispatchers; and

WHEREAS, due to longer tenured employees with more time off, and other leave, the male Jailer/Dispatcher shifts have had an increasing number of open shifts annually; and

WHEREAS, open shifts result in straining staff and considerable overtime expense to the Department; and

WHEREAS, adding an additional male Jailer/Dispatcher position would allow the Department greater flexibility to cover shifts resulting in lower overtime expense and less strain on staff; and

WHEREAS, the additional position will have a neutral effect on the overall operating budget as it will not increase the number of shifts and will be absorbed in the Jail budget and through lowered overtime cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sheriff's Department be allowed to increase their male Jailer/Dispatcher staffing from 7 positions to 8 positions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the additional position will have a neutral effect on the overall Sheriff's Department Jail budget, and that the staffing costs be monitored and reported to the EMS committee to verify reduced open shifts and overtime costs.

Submitted by the Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/Willingham.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Pedersen to adopt. Jeff Wallace, Rusk County Sheriff, explained resolution and that there would be no change in the budget. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**RESOLUTION #19-37 MODIFYING PTO EMPLOYEE BENEFIT**

WHEREAS, Rusk County provides a benefit package to employees as part of their employment compensation; and

WHEREAS, having an adequate compensation and benefit package is critical to attracting and retaining employees; and

WHEREAS, this benefit package includes Paid Time Off (PTO); and

WHEREAS, PTO is a valuable benefit to the employer and employees to allow for work-life balance, time for illness and recovery, leave time for personal reasons, and promotes positive employee mental health; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee has reviewed the current PTO structure and is recommending adjustments to this component of the employee benefit package.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the recommended adjustments to the employee PTO structure as outlined below, to be effective January 1, 2020.

Full time employees will accrue Personal Time-Off (PTO) as follows:

1. During the initial year of employment a full-time employee will receive PTO prorated based on hire date per the following schedule.
  - a. If the employee begins employment between January 1 and June 30, he or she will receive 7 days of PTO
  - b. If the employee begins employment between July 1 and December 31, he or she will receive 4 days of PTO
2. On January 1 of the following year (year 2) the employee will receive 13 days of PTO
3. On January 1 of the third year, the employee will receive 18 days of PTO
4. On January 1 of each fourth year, the employee will receive 19 days of PTO
5. On January 1 of each fifth year, the employee will receive 20 days of PTO
6. On January 1 of each subsequent year for years 6-10, the employee will receive two additional days of PTO (year 6=22 days - year 10 = 30 days of PTO).
7. Every five years after 10 years the employee will receive one additional day of PTO. (year 15 = 31 days of PTO, year 20 = 32 days, year 25 = 33 days, year 30 = 34 days, year 35 = 35 days, year 40 = 36 days, etc).

Submitted by the Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/Willingham.

Motion by Stout, second by Hraban to adopt. Albarado explained resolution and proposed PTO structure changes. Discussion on comparison to surrounding counties and the increased value of PRO as a benefit for employees. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION**

Ratify WPPA Sheriff Deputy/Investigator and Jailer/Dispatcher Contracts: Albarado passed out copies of proposed contracts to supervisors. Albarado explained Deputy/Investigator contract and changes. Motion by Schmitt, second by Stout to approve contract. Roll call vote. Voting Yes – 18. Voting No – 0. Voting Yes: Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Brown, DuSell, Biller, Rathsack, Willingham. Contract approved by aye vote. Albarado explained Jailer/Dispatcher contract and changes. Motion by Stout, second by Vacho to approve contract contingent on ratification by union. Roll call vote. Voting Yes – 18. Voting No – 0. Voting Yes: Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Brown, DuSell, Biller, Rathsack, Hauser, Willingham. Contract approved by aye vote.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Library Board: Willingham informed board that a vacancy has been created by a resignation and that Annette Barna has agreed to fill the position. Motion by Tatur, second by Lieftring to appoint Barna. Motion carried.

Rusk County Transit Commission: Explanation by Willingham, Jeremy Jacobs has agreed to fill position. Motion by Tatur, second by Gierke to appoint Jacobs. Motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Announced by Chair for discussion regarding a personnel investigation.

Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(f) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(g)

Motion by Hraban, second by Gierke to enter closed session. Roll call vote. Voting Yes – 18. Voting No – 0. Voting Yes: DuSell, Biller, Rath sack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieftring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Hanson, Mai, Hraban, Brown, Willingham.

Closed session at 9:00 p.m.

Open session at 9:18 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Loren Beebe, County Clerk, announced that the deadline for filing nomination papers is January 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and that anyone can stop by the Clerk's Office to pick up a packet.

Albarado invited supervisors to the potluck on Friday from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the County Board Room.

Winters asked that supervisors turn in December time sheets as soon as possible.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Lieftring, second by Brown to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Next meeting: January 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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