



**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**December 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**RUSK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER LEC BOARD ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Kalepp at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call: Quorum Present (18 Present: 1 Absent)

Present: Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Brian Coggins, Lois Goode and Dan Gudis

Absent: Keith Jacobson

Others Present: A. Heath, J. Wilk, C. Meyer, A. Gudis, J. Buchholz-Jones, R. Summerfield, E. Webster, L. Jennerman, B. Dukerschein, G. Dukerschein, B. Rands, Y. Rands, J. Livingston, E. Nelson, K. Dressler, C. Scheidler, J. Wallenkamp, J. Schmidbauer and C. Cleveland.

**INVOCATION**

Invocation led by Supervisor District # 9 Phil Unterschuetz

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor District # 15 Tom Hanson

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – November 12, 2024 and December 3, 2024

*Motion by Gudis, seconded by Russell to approve the minutes from November 12, 2024 and December 3, 2024. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

**PUBLIC HEARING** – Proposed Community Development Block Grant Application

Emily Nelson, with Northwest Regional Planning Commission gave an over view on Identification of total potential funding available, Eligible CDBG activities, identified community development and housing needs, activities proposed for CDBG application, Reviewed any potential residential and non-residential displacement and Resident input regarding community development and housing needs, the proposed CDBG project, and other CDBG activities

**PRESENTATION** – Highway Storage Garage/Discussion and Possible Motion

Cedar Corporation

Kris Dressler and Cory Scheidler gave a presentation on Project Team, Designs, Construction, Scheduling, Details and Facility Tours.

Kueny Architects

Jon Wallenkamp and John Schmidbauer gave a presentation on Project Team, Expertise, Project Understanding, Discovery Process, Design Process, Creating Environments, Design Phase, Construction Phase, Sustainability, Why Kueny, Efficiencies, Construction Cost and Proposed Fee.

**Discussion and Possible Motion** - Highway Storage Garage

*Motion by Cudo, seconded by Hampton to approve the County Board Chair to enter into contract with Kueny Architects and continue moving forward with the process for Highway Storage Garage. Motion carried.*

Minutes prepared by:

Connie Meyer, Rusk County Clerk

Jill Buchholz-Jones, Chief Deputy Clerk

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION**

### Approval of the 2025 Forestry Work Plan

Ashley Heath, Administrative Coordinator gave an overview of the 2025 Forestry Work Plan.

*Motion by Biller, seconded by Schneider to approve the 2025 Forestry Work Plan. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

### Determine Funding Source for Stairs Removed on County Highway W

Jaimie Wilk, Finance Director is requesting a funding source for the Stairs Removed from County Highway W, Highway Maintenance Budget was a recommendation from the Finance Director.

*Motion by Unterschuetz, seconded by Russell to use the highway maintenance budget for stair removal on County Highway W. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

### **Resolution 64-24**

Child Support Specialist I to Child Support Specialist II

Submitted by Rusk County Finance Committee: S/ John Kalepp, Jim Meyer, Brian Coggins, Phil Unterschuetz and Terry Wedwick

*Motion by Russell, seconded by Meyer to approve the resolution Child Support Specialist I to Child Support Specialist II. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

### **Resolution 65-24**

IT Team Lead Job Description

Submitted by Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/ Mike Russell, Tom Cudo, Jim Meyer and Dave Willingham.

*Motion by Russell, seconded by Meyer to approve the resolution IT Team Lead Job Description. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

### **Resolution 66-24**

Policy to Prohibit the use of Excessive Force and to Enforce Applicable State and Local Laws Prohibiting Physically Barring Entrances/Exits for Non-Violent Civil Rights Demonstrations

Submitted by Rusk County Land Info/Surveyor, Zoning Committee: S/ Dave Willingham, Kurt Gorsegner, John Moore, Mike Russell and Brian Coggins

*Motion by Willingham, seconded by Gudis to approve the resolution Policy to Prohibit the use of Excessive Force and to Enforce Applicable State and Local Laws Prohibiting Physically Barring Entrances/Exits for Non-Violent Civil Rights Demonstrations. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

#### **Resolution 67-24**

Wisconsin Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs

Submitted by Rusk County Land Info/Surveyor, Zoning Committee: S/ Dave Willingham, Kurt Gorsegner, John Moore, Mike Russell and Brian Coggins

*Motion by Russell, seconded by Willingham to approve the resolution Wisconsin Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

#### **Resolution 68-24**

Adopt a Citizen Participation Plan

Submitted by Rusk County Land Info/Surveyor, Zoning Committee: S/ Dave Willingham, Kurt Gorsegner, John Moore, Mike Russell and Brian Coggins

*Motion by Willingham, seconded by Moore to approve the resolution adopt a citizen participation plan. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

#### **Resolution 69-24**

Authorizing Resolution to Submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

Submitted by Rusk County Land Info/Surveyor, Zoning Committee: S/ Dave Willingham, Kurt Gorsegner, John Moore, Mike Russell and Brian Coggins

*Motion by Willingham, seconded by Russell to approve the resolution Authorizing Resolution to Submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

#### **Resolution 70-24**

Authorizing Resolution to Commit Matching Funds & Certification of Matching Funds Secured

Submitted by Rusk County Land Info/Surveyor, Zoning Committee: S/ Dave Willingham, Kurt Gorsegner, John Moore, Mike Russell and Brian Coggins

*Motion by Russell, seconded by Coggins to approve the resolution Authorizing Resolution to Commit Matching Funds & Certification of Matching Funds Secured. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

#### **Resolution 71-24**

Reassign Victim Witness Hours in Sheriff's Department to District Attorney's Office

Submitted by County Board Chair John Kalepp: S/ John Kalepp

*Motion by Russell, seconded by Gudis to approve the resolution to Reassign Victim Witness Hours in Sheriff's Department to District Attorney's Office. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

**Resolution 72-24**

Eliminate Sec 2-296 and Amend Sec 8-5 of the General Code of Rusk County, WI – regarding the Animal Shelter Operations.

Submitted by Supervisor Terry Wedwick: S/ Terry Wedwick

*Motion by Cudo seconded by Wedwick to approve the resolution to Eliminate Sec 2-296 and Amend Sec 8-5 of the General Code of Rusk County, WI – regarding the Animal Shelter Operations. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

**Resolution 73-24**

Acknowledging the Investment of sales Revenue from City Owned Economic Development Property to Jointly Managed Economic Development Property for constructing a 20,000 sq ft. building to connect 501 Doughty Rd and 1402 Jez Rd.

Submitted by Supervisor Brian Coggins: S/ Brian Coggins

*Motion by Coggins, seconded by Unterschuetz to approve the resolution Acknowledging the Investment of sales Revenue from City Owned Economic Development Property to Jointly Managed Economic Development Property for the construction of 20,000 sq. ft. building to connect 501 Doughty Rd and 1402 Jez Rd. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

*Motion by Cudo, seconded by Moore to enter into closed session at 8:08 p.m. All responded yes.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

**CLOSED SESSION** – announced by Chair

Response to RFP from HCA Charity Inc. to acquire County-owned land pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(e). Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

**OPEN SESSION** – at 8:31 p.m.

*Motion by Coggins, seconded by Willingham to accept supplemental proposal offer from HCA Charities to purchase 246-03658-0005 and 246-03560-000 lying west of 10<sup>th</sup> street contingent on buyer acknowledgment of road and road right away on parcel 246-03658-0005 as not being part of sale and authorize board chair to negotiate amended purchase based on prorated square footage. Motion carried.*

**CLOSED SESSION** – announced by Chair – (NOT NEEDED)

Conferring with legal counsel in regards to settlement demand pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g) for 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.

*Motion by Cudo, seconded by Russell to enter into closed session at 8:34 p.m. All responded yes.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

**CLOSED SESSION** – announced by Chair

Minutes prepared by:

Connie Meyer, Rusk County Clerk

Jill Buchholz-Jones, Chief Deputy Clerk

Consider offer from City of Ladysmith to acquire jointly owned industrial buildings and land pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(e). - Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

**OPEN SESSION** – at 8:37 p.m.

*Motion by Cudo, seconded by Biller to approve Joint Management Chair Coggins and County Board Chair Kalepp to meet with the City of Ladysmith to negotiate terms for the offer to purchase and property exchange of jointly owned buildings and come back to the county board with progress. Motion carried.*

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied – **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

**ANNOUNCEMENT** – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Next County Board Meeting January 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Russell, seconded by Hampton to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Motion carried by Voice Vote.*