

**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
FEBRUARY 25, 2020  
9:00 A.M.**

Meeting called to order by Chairman David Willingham at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call. Present – 15. Excused – 4. Present: DuSell, Rathsack, Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieffring, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Dobrowolski, Hanson, Mai, Willingham. Corporation Counsel, Rich Summerfield. Excused: Biller, McBain, Hraban, Brown.

Invocation led by David Willingham of Island Lake Church of Christ.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Willingham.

Chairman Willingham welcomed all present and thanked the American Legion for sponsoring County Government Day for areas school students, and Erik Stoker, County VSO for organizing the Government Day activities.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Gierke, second by Stout to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY**

Chairman Willingham continued the welcome. County Board Supervisors introduced themselves and stated the district they represent. Students from area schools introduced themselves and identified the school they are representing. John Terrill provided a brief history of Rusk County and a Wisconsin Counties Association video on counties was viewed.

Recess at 9:44 a.m.

In session at 9:46 a.m.

**PRESENTATION**

Conservation Speaking Contest Winners: Introduction of students by Nick Stadnyk, Rusk County Conservationist. Brooklyn Smith gave speech on food conservation. Caden Gerber gave speech on waterways.

**REPORT**

Animal Shelter: Karen Welke, Rusk County Human Officer/Shelter Manager, provided handout and gave brief explanation and update of what has gone on in the past year and what they are looking to do in the future out at the Animal Shelter.

**RESOLUTION #20-04 PROPOSAL TO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A MEDICAL FACILITY IN VACATED RUSK COUNTY HOSPITAL FACILITY**

WHEREAS, Rusk County owns a Hospital building that is currently leased to Marshfield Clinic Health System but is anticipated to be vacated upon the construction of a new Marshfield Medical Center-Ladysmith likely within three years, and

WHEREAS, Rusk County believes there is the potential for continued use of the building for similar medical purposes, and

WHEREAS, Rusk County has been approached by interested citizens and Veterans as to the possibility of utilizing the facility for Veterans medical care, and

WHEREAS, Rusk County is appreciative of the service military Veterans have provided and recognizes that these Veterans have the need for and right to ongoing medical care, and

WHEREAS, Rusk County recognizes that there is a significant unmet need within the region to provide medical care to Veterans close to home, and

WHEREAS, undue hardship is placed on these Veterans by the need to travel numerous hours to receive care at a Veterans Administration hospital, and

WHEREAS, it is not unusual for a Veteran to spend in excess of 10 hours in a day to travel and receive care, and

WHEREAS, Rusk County is willing to make the facility available should the Veterans Administration consider making it a VA medical facility, and

WHEREAS, best efforts will be made by the County, local citizens, and Veterans to prepare a proposal for the VA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors supports this effort and the siting of a VA Medical Facility in Ladysmith at the current location of Marshfield Medical Center-Ladysmith.

BE IT FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that upon approval the Ad Hoc Veterans Hospital Committee is directed to distribute the resolution to the Wisconsin Congressional delegation and others as deemed necessary to advance the proposal for the VA.

Submitted by Rusk County Ad Hoc Veterans Hospital Committee: S/Schneider.

Motion by Lieffring, second by Gierke to adopt. Explanation of typographical error edits and an updated version is on the screens. Albarado explained resolution and what will be done in regards to presenting resolution and background information to our senators who have agreed to present it to the VA. Discussion on resolution and implications, other options available. Summerfield clarified that this resolution is only opening it up to this option and is not binding. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION**

Approval of Emergency Fire Wardens List: Motion by Stout, second by Tatur to approve emergency fire wardens list as presented. Discussion on list and options for obtaining a permit. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #20-05 2020 COUNTY CONSERVATION AIDS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Rusk County is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application; and;

WHEREAS, Financial aid is required to carry out the project; and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Rusk County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project or acquisition; and;

HEREBY AUTHORIZES Jeremy Koslowski, Rusk County Forestry Department to act on behalf of Rusk County to:

- Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;
- Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months of project completion date;
- Submit signed documents; and
- Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Rusk County Board of Supervisors will comply with state or federal rules for the programs to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Submitted by Rusk County Forestry Committee: S/Schneider, Liefkring, DuSell, Rathsack, Biller.

Motion by Schneider to approve all remaining resolutions as one. Discussion. Motion withdrawn. Motion by Pedersen, second by Schmitt to adopt. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**RESOLUTION #20-06 2020 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Rusk County is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application; and;

WHEREAS, Financial aid is required to carry out the project; and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Rusk County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project or acquisition; and;

HEREBY AUTHORIZES Jeremy Koslowski, Rusk County Forestry Department to act on behalf of Rusk County to:

Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;  
Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months of project completion date;  
Submit signed documents; and  
Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Rusk County Board of Supervisors will comply with state or federal rules for the programs to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Submitted by Rusk County Forestry Committee: S/Schneider, Liefkring, DuSell, Rathsack, Biller.

Motion by Pedersen, second by Stout to adopt. Discussion on language in last paragraph. Explanation by Jeremy Koslowski, Forestry Administrator. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**RESOLUTION #20-07 2020 RECREATIONAL BOATING FACILITIES GRANT**

WHEREAS, Rusk County is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application; and;

WHEREAS, Financial aid is required to carry out the project; and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Rusk County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project or acquisition; and;

HEREBY AUTHORIZES Jeremy Koslowski, Rusk County Forestry Department to act on behalf of Rusk County to:

Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;  
Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months of project completion date;  
Submit signed documents; and  
Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Rusk County Board of Supervisors will comply with state or federal rules for the programs to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Submitted by Rusk County Forestry Committee: S/Schneider, Liefkring, DuSell, Rathsack, Biller.

Motion by DuSell, second by Schneider to adopt. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**RESOLUTION #20-08 2020 ATV/UTV TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Rusk County is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application; and;

WHEREAS, Financial aid is required to carry out the project; and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Rusk County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project or acquisition; and;

HEREBY AUTHORIZES Jeremy Koslowski, Rusk County Forestry Department to act on behalf of Rusk County to:

Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;  
Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months of project completion date;  
Submit signed documents; and  
Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Rusk County Board of Supervisors will comply with state or federal rules for the programs to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Submitted by Rusk County Forestry Committee: S/Schneider, Liefkring, DuSell, Rathsack, Biller.

Motion by Stout, second by Gierke to adopt. Discussion on county putting forth a portion of the funds. Koslowski explained that each resolution is for a recreational program and some require the county to have matching funds to secure the grant funding. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Albarado explained handout distributed before meeting containing information on proposed Chapter 2 amendments, possible youth governance addition to county board, and housing committee. Handout is for informational purposes and resolutions and final proposals will be going through committees and coming to the full county board in March.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Liefkring, second by Gierke to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Next meeting: March 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.