



MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
October 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
RUSK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER LEC BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chairman Kalepp at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call: Quorum Present (18 Present: 0 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

Others Present: A. Heath, J. Wilk, C. Meyer, A. Gudis, J. Buchholz-Jones, R. Summerfield, E. Webster, L. Jennerman, R. Rosolowski, Sheriff Wallace, K. Berner – Samuels Group, Jail Captain Murray, K. Green – U.W. Madison Division of Extension Program Manager, J. Jacobs, J. Waltz, R. Tatur, M. Stout, T. Lybert, N. Stadnyk, C. Beyer -Venture Architects, S. Brinker, A. Brinker, and S. Christianson

INVOCATION

Invocation led by Supervisor District # 16 Lois Goode.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor District # 8 Tom Cudo.

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Remembering Rusk County Sheriff Deputy Dan Glaze EOW 10-29-2016

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 19, 2024

Motion by Russell, seconded by Unterschuetz to approve the minutes from August 19, 2024. Motion carried.

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, 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 **Abstain:** Kathy Halbur

PUBLIC COMMENT – Randy Tatur, Rachael Rosolowski, Troy Lybert, Stephanie Christianson and Erin Webster spoke about agenda items.

PRESENTATION

Chippewa Valley Healthcare Cooperative

Karl Green gave a presentation about Closing of HSHS Hospitals, Closing of 19 Prevea Clinics, Formation of Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative and U.W. Madison Division of Extension of Role in CVHC.

Samuels Group – Venture Architect – Jail Project

Kurt Berner-Samuels Group and Cory Beyer-Venture Architect gave a presentation on the 2 jail options. Bed count, receiving cells, kitchen, laundry, housing pod, classifications, connection to existing building and correctional square foot cost. Also discussed needs at highway department.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Review Recommendation for Jail Location and Budget from Ad Hoc Construction Committee

Discussed jail location and budget.

Approve Letter of Thanks to the Rusk County Community Library Foundation

Motion by Russell, seconded by Unterschuetz to approve the letter of thanks to the Rusk County Community Library Foundation. 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

Removal of Public Stairway on County Highway W at Horseshoe Lake

Nick Stadnyk discussed public stairway on County Highway W at Horseshoe Lake.

Motion by Gorsegner, seconded by Russell to approve the removal of Public Stairway on County Highway W at Horseshoe lake. 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

Infill Building Proposed by City of Ladysmith to Connect Forest Industrial Park (1402 Jez Rd and 501 Doughty Rd)

Brian Coggins Chair of Joint Management gave an over view on the infill building proposed by City of Ladysmith to connect forest industrial park (1402 Jaz Rd and 501 Doughty Rd). The city would purchase the 2 buildings once the infill is finished.

Resolution 49-24

Supporting a Realistic Federal Definition of “Rural”

Submitted by Rusk County Board Chair: S/ John Kalepp

Motion by Moore, seconded by Wedwick to approve the resolution supporting a realistic federal definition of “rural”. 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 50-24

Mental Health Services and Funding Allocation

Submitted by Rusk County Health and Human Services: S/ Phil Schneider, Lois Goode, Sherry Wallace, John Moore and Tom Hanson.

Motion by Russell, seconded by Gudis to approve the resolution for mental health services and funding allocations. 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 51-24

Setting Fees Relating to Marriage Licenses

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

Motion by Russell, seconded by Gudis to approve the resolution setting fees relating to marriage licenses. 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 52-24

Designating American Rescue Plan Act Funds to be used for Rusk County Projects #8

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

Motion by Wedwick, seconded by Unterschuetz to approve the resolution designating American Rescue Plan Act Funds to be used for Rusk County Projects #8. 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, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis **No:** Dave Willingham

Resolution 53-24

Increase in Trails End Camp Caretaker Hours

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

Motion by Russell, seconded by Goode to approve the resolution increase in Trails End Camp Caretaker Hours. 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 54-24

Reassigning Maintenance Oversight of Rusk County Community Library, Rusk County Animal Shelter and Rusk County Visitor Center

Submitted by Joint Management Committee: S/ Brian Coggins and Jerry Biller

Motion by Coggins, seconded by Wedwick to approve the resolution reassigning Maintenance oversight of Rusk County Community Library, Rusk County Animal Shelter and Rusk County Visitor Center. 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, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis **Abstain:** Tom Cudo

Resolution 55-24

Highway Worker I to Highway Worker II Wage Increase

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

Motion by Russell, seconded by Moore to approve the resolution highway worker I to highway worker II wage increase. Motion carried.

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

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

No: Tom Cudo. **Abstain:** Suzanne Vohs.

Resolution

Amendment to Ad Hoc Interviewing Committee Ordinance

Submitted by Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/ Sherry Wallace, Mike Russell and Jim Meyer.

Motion by Russell, seconded by Schneider to approve the resolution for the amendment to Ad Hoc Interviewing Committee Ordinance. Motion to postponed until November 12, 2024.

Motion by Unterschuetz, seconded by Vohs to postpone till November 12, 2024 County Board Meeting. Motion carried.

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Phil Schneider, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham

No: John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Brian Coggins, Jim Meyer, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

Resolution

Changes to Chapter 4 of the Rusk County Personnel Handbook Recruitment – Selection – Affirmative Action

Submitted by Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/ Sherry Wallace, Mike Russell and Jim Meyer.

Motion by Willingham, seconded by Hanson to postpone Resolution 13, 14, 15 till November 12, 2024 County Board Meeting. Motion carried.

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Jerry Biller, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Suzanne Vohs, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz, Phil Schneider, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham

No: Terry Wedwick, Brian Coggins, Jim Meyer, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis

Resolution

Approve Changes to Chapter 8 – Payroll of the Financial Procedure Manual

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

No action will be taken until the November 12th meeting.

Resolution

Changes to Chapter 2 of the Rusk County Handbook: Employment Categories and Performance Evaluations

Submitted by Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/ Sherry Wallace, Mike Russell and Jim Meyer.

No action will be taken until the November 12th meeting.

Resolution 56-24

Addition of Leave of Absence Policy to the Rusk County Handbook

Submitted by Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/ Sherry Wallace, Mike Russell and Jim Meyer.

Motion by Gudis, seconded by Willingham to approve the resolution leave of absence policy. 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 57-24

Appointment of Rusk County Facilities Manager

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

Motion by Biller, seconded by Russell to approve the resolution appointment of rusk county facilities manager. 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 58-24

Initial Resolution Authorizing not to Exceed \$500,000 Taxable General Obligation Promissory Notes

Submitted by Rusk County Finance Committee: S/ Jim Meyer, Brian Coggins and Terry Wedwick.

Motion by Russell, seconded by Gudis to approve the resolution as amended to the initial resolution authorizing not to exceed \$500,000 taxable general obligation promissory notes. Motion carried.

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis **No:** Jerry Biller, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz **Abstain:** Jim Meyer

Motion by Wedwick, seconded by Willingham to add an additional Now Therefore Be It Further Resolved, that The County Board Chair is authorized to enter into a Note for the sum of \$500,000.00 with Cumberland Federal Bank for with a rate not to exceed 4.95%. Motion carried.

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** Alec Hampton, Kathy Halbur, John Moore, Terry Wedwick, Suzanne Vohs, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis **No:** Jerry Biller, Tom Cudo, Phil Unterschuetz **Abstain:** Jim Meyer

Resolution 59-24

Authorize Request for Qualifications for Design Services from a Highway Storage Facility

Submitted by Rusk County Ad Hoc Construction Committee: S/ John Kalepp, Terry Wedwick and Brian Coggins.

Motion by Moore, seconded by Wedwick to approve the resolution to authorize request for qualifications for design services from a highway storage facility. 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, Phil Unterschuetz, Brian Coggins, Phil Schneider, Jim Meyer, Kurt Gorsegner, John Kalepp, Tom Hanson, Lois Goode, Dave Willingham, Mike Russell, Dan Gudis **Abstain:** Tom Cudo

Resolution 60-24

Extension of Interim Facilities Manager Wage Increase for Training Purposes

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

Motion by Russell, seconded by Unterschuetz to approve the resolution for Extension of Interim Facilities Manager Wage Increase for Training Purposes. Motion carried.

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

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

Resolution 61-24

Wage Increases for 2025

Submitted by Rusk County Finance Committee: S/ John Kalepp

Motion by Russell, seconded by Meyer to approve the resolution for Wage Increases for 2025. Motion failed.

RESULT: Failed on Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **No:** 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 Coggins, seconded by Meyer to enter into closed session at 9:38 p.m. All responded yes.

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** 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

Conferring with legal counsel in regards to settlement demand pursuant to 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.

OPEN SESSION – at 9:45 p.m.

Motion by Unterschuetz, seconded by Biller to enter into closed session at 9:46 p.m. All responded yes.

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** 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

Consider offer from City of Ladysmith to acquire jointly owned industrial buildings 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 10:05 p.m.

Motion by Biller, seconded by Wedwick to enter into closed session at 10:06 p.m. All responded yes.

RESULT: Passed by Majority Vote of Members Present

Results tallied - **Yes:** 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

Consider response to City of Ladysmith correspondence regarding their intent to withdraw from Animal Shelter 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 10:27 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT - Next County Board Meeting is November 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Russell, seconded by Unterschuetz to adjourn at 10:29 p.m. Motion carried by Voice Vote.