

**MEETING OF THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JANUARY 27, 2015**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Joe Pinardi at 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call taken, Present: Krall, Nasi, Erickson, Ouimette, Roberts, Thompson, Kichak, Matson, Mullard, Pinardi, Prospero, Youngs, Thomas, Koski and Smith. Absent: None.

Clerk Michael Saari certified that the meeting was properly called and posted.

Motion by Kichak, seconded by Mullard to approve minutes of December 17, 2014 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Pinardi read letter from Rick Klem, County Building Inspector stating that he would not renew his contract with Iron County as building inspection.

Pinardi explained to board that Gogebic Taconite has not paid \$20,000 installment to renew option on lease of county property which was due yesterday, January 26th. GTac has requested paying Iron County \$30,000 next January to cover a three year period. Pinardi suggested that the item be placed on next month's county board agenda and have county board act on new proposal.

COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Thompson introduced Eric Peterson as the new Iron County Forestry Administrator. Eric had worked for the Wisconsin DNR for the past 2 years out of the Mercer Office. 2014 stumpage revenue figure: \$2,558,180.09 a new record high. Stumpage revenue as of today for 2015 is \$133,355.07.

Thompson reported that Eric Snow jailer for Sheriff's Department has been going to Road School in Rice Lake.

Thompson told board that Northern Waters Library board elected officers at the last meeting.

Kichak reported that Zoning Committee will hold their next meeting on February 3rd and that he attended the Highway Conference in Wisconsin Dells with Iron County getting 2 bridge projects in Iron County worth \$ 1.2 million.

Kichak also reported that both US Highway 51 and State Highway 169 will have road work in the future. Kichak told board that the 2 new trucks have been put into service with another on order.

Ouimette reported that Economic Development will sponsor a business plan contest this summer and he has been named to sit on the County Mutual Insurance Underwriter Committee.

Roberts reported that a part-time jailer has been promoted to a full-time position in Sheriff's Department. Roberts also reported that Land Conservation Department has hired Zach Wilson to a full-time position.

Roberts told board that none of the applicants for Health Officer were qualified for position and Zona has agreed to stay on another year so search for qualified applicant can continue.

Roberts reported that Human Services has received a grant to pay for half of a new \$12,000 server and that Mark Marczak is now in charge of a \$632,000 child care budget for consortium. Roberts also reported that the Aging Unit of Iron County could be managed by ADRC program within Human Services Department. Roberts told board that the way the Aging Unit is set up the Executive Director has all the power and board has none.

Roberts reported that Housing Committee is still acting on future rehab projects managed by Northwest Regional Planning Commission for Iron County residents in the amount of \$126,000.

Erickson reported that Jason Laumann told mining committee that Iron County is in line for \$100,000 grant from Coastal Management to help with comprehensive plan update and mining impact analysis. Erickson also told board that the State of Wisconsin has \$211,000 in mining fund that can be used for local agreement negotiations. GTac reported that the company is looking at 4 smaller open mine pits to reduce the impact on the land.

Erickson also reported that there will be a joint mining impact meeting on February 3rd at the Bad River Convention Center.

Thomas reported that LCC has hired Zach Wilson, Mercer as a lake specialist.

Thomas reported that the bookings at the Memorial Building continue to be strong and sound reducing materials are being installed in hall to reduce echo noise.

Mullard reported that county fair will be held July 31st through August 2nd this year. Fair board's next meeting will be held in Mercer on April 16th.

Mullard reported that the Airport meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 4:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Six people spoke in public comment with 5 of those speaking about lease option agreement between Iron County and GTac. Majority of discussion was getting a better deal for the county from GTac. Mike Wiggins, Bad River Chairman spoke to the board about creating a better relationship between Iron County and Bad River Tribe and invited board to attend the Joint Impact meeting at 6pm on February 3rd with a meal to be held at 5pm prior to meeting.

Motion by Thomas, seconded by Thompson to approve the 2015 Forestry work plan. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Youngs, seconded by Krall to adopt a land access agreement between Grant Innes and Iron County. Discussion took place on who would have to maintain the access road. Motion by Youngs,

seconded by Krall to rescind previous motion. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kichak, seconded by Matson to postpone action on land access agreement between Gary Pelkola and Iron County. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2859

**AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO ADMINISTER
THE IRON COUNTY FOREST FOR THE YEAR 2015**

WHEREAS, Iron County is eligible to apply for various grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Department of Commerce, Department of Economic Development, Coastal Management Program and the Federal Government Section 154 Corps of Engineers authority; and

WHEREAS, the grant applications must include maps, designs, specifications, work plans and financial estimates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iron County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Forest Administrator and County Clerk to submit applications to the above mentioned funding authorities for grants in aid to administer the Iron County Forest for the year, 2015, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Iron County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Iron County Forest Administrator to seek out and apply for any and all other grants in aid to administer the Iron County Forest as they become available and depending on the County's eligibility.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Mullard to adopt. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2860

**APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP LAND
ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Iron County has lands enrolled as County Forest pursuant to ss. 28.11, Wis. Stats.;

WHEREAS, THE County Board of Supervisors on November 27, 2006, adopted resolution #2659 approving the Iron County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for a period of 15 years;

WHEREAS, the County Board has the authority to acquire properties for the purpose of establishing County Forest land pursuant to ss. 28.10, Wis. Stats. and as outlined in Chapter 400 of the Iron County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan;

WHEREAS, acquisition of said properties would perpetually provide forest products to our local economy, revenues to the County, outdoor recreation opportunities to the public and improve property administration on the County Forest;

WHEREAS, Iron County is eligible to participate and make application to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant program for land acquisition consistent with said Plan;

WHEREAS, grant funding may provide funding up to 50% of the acquisition price;

WHEREAS, participation in the grant program requires a county to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Natural Resources (as required by ss. NR 51.963 Wis. Adm. Code) to define the criteria for participating in the grant program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iron County Board of Supervisors approves the MOA with the Department of Natural Resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any potential County Forest land acquisitions eligible for Knowles-Nelson Land Acquisition Stewardship grant funding will be brought before the Iron County Board for approval prior to making application;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FORESTRY Committee is directed to forward this signed MOA to the Department of Natural Resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Iron County Board of Supervisors grants the authority to sign amendments to this MOA to the County Board Chair, Forestry Committee Chair and County Forest Administrator;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Iron County recognizes and acknowledges that if financial assistance is made available by the Department of Natural Resources, and the County accepts the financial assistance, the County will comply with state rules for the program and meet the financial obligations under the grant;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board will be notified if grant funding becomes available and then will consider authorization for the acquisition.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Krall to adopt. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kichak, seconded by Thomas to move into closed session per 19.85(1) c, Wisconsin Statutes to discuss a personnel issue. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried. CLOSED SESSION HELD:

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Thomas to return to open session. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Kichak to accept resignation agreement with a Deputy Sheriff. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Ouimette to adjourn at 7:18 PM. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari
Iron County Clerk

