

**MEETING OF THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MARCH 31, 2015**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Kichak to approve minutes of February 24, 2015 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Clerk gave a letter to all board members asking them to contact State Senator Bewley and Representative Meyers asking them to contact Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and ask the department to ease requirements from counties on requirements to receive the \$8,500 grant for Veterans Service Office. County has to jump through so many hoops that it's almost impossible to receive the grant dollars under new rules implemented this year.

COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Kichak reported that a new road sweeper and compressor have both been delivered to Highway Department. Kichak also reported that our roads are falling apart and crack sealing will begin on April 24th. Highway had a new truck delivered and is being equipped for future use.

Kichak reported that Zoning Committee will hold a public hearing on the proposed mining ordinance at the Oma Town Hall on April 22nd at 6:30 PM.

Thompson reported that stumpage revenue as of today is \$678,265.70 and Forestry has 3 resolutions on tonight's agenda.

Will Andresen told board that 30 acres of land on Wisconsin Michigan border will be purchased and then a parking lot and walking trail will be built to access Interstate Falls on the Wisconsin side of the Montreal River.

Thompson reported that numbers at libraries are on the decrease with library board looking at ways to correct this.

Ouimette handed out the business plan contest to board members and reported that the contest will run from June through September with prizes awarded to top 3 ideas. Ouimette also reported that he attended the State Tourism Conference in La Crosse and heard a lot of good ideas pertaining to tourism in the state.

Roberts reported that the county will sell a 2.27 acre island to the State of Wisconsin located in the Flambeau Flowage wilderness area for \$5,500.00.

Roberts reported that the Aging Unit had 4 expired terms to fill at their last meeting with Mercer area losing 1 seat with Hurley picking up the extra seat.

Erickson reported that the county will be trying to get reimbursement for expenses incurred by Mining Impact Committee and no future meetings are scheduled.

Smith reported that the Health Department Annual Report is on tonight's agenda and Sanitarium position will be advertised for a 2015 hiring.

Thomas reported that a new wildlife damage contract has been signed with Ashland County.

Thomas reported that porketta benefit meal at Memorial Building netted \$1,400 for new tables.

Thomas also reported that 7th and 8th graders will be added to summer camp this year.

Youngs reported that the next Joint Impact Meeting will be held at the Town of Morse.

Mullard reported that Administrative Assistant at the Airport will be a grade 6 with an hourly rate of \$17.18/hour. A new hanger site has been looked at by airport personnel and cancellation problems with airline was due to a pilot getting hurt and plane trouble. Air Choice 1 CEO will be present at airport committee meeting tomorrow to discuss problems with cancellations and board has called for bids for a new lawnmower.

Mullard reported that summer work has begun at fair grounds and next meeting on April 16th will be held in Mercer.

Mullard also reported that the next Recycling meeting will be held on April 21st.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Wendy Thiede, Oma had Clerk hand out letter to board members asking county lawyers for a report on items Chris Jaekels researched and charged Iron County for which could be used in the future.

Russell Buccanero, Iron Belt gave each board member a pint of homemade maple syrup and told the board that our most valuable asset in Iron County is our children.

Diane O'Krongly, Mercer told board that she hoped the Interstate Falls project would proceed and that non-motorized sports are important.

Motion by Kichak, seconded by Krall to approve deputy sheriff's contract between Iron County and road deputy's union. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mullard, seconded by Matson to approve 2014 Health Department's annual report. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kichak, seconded by Roberts to approve 2014 Zoning Department's annual report. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Matson to sell State of Wisconsin/DNR an island in the Town of Sherman, Township 42 North, Range 3 East, Section 32, Government Lot 8. Consists of all of Government Lot 8 which is approximately 35 acres of mostly flowed land, except for an island that is approximately 2.27 acres in size as measured from a GIS in low pool. Selling price/DNR's offer is \$5,500. All aye except Thompson who voted no. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING/LAND & ZONING COMMITTEE TO COUNTY BOARD ON
HEARING OF PETITION TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE**

Rezone the following:

Rezone from an F-1 (Forestry) District to an R-3 (Rural Residential) District, part of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼, Section 33, Township 42 North, Range 2 East, Town of Mercer, to bring the property into zoning compliance. (Site address is Koshak Road). Ken and Lisa Neidlein, owners.

Motion by Kichak, seconded by Smith to adopt. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2866

AMENDMENT TO THE IRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2010-2015

WHEREAS, the Town of Kimball and the Northwoods Land Trust is pursuing a grant to acquire land adjacent to Interstate Falls to enhance and protect natural resources and recreational opportunities for Iron County residents and tourists; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that enhancing the county's outdoor recreational opportunities will enhance the tourist economy of the county and provide healthy recreational opportunities for Iron County residents; and

WHEREAS, the proposed land acquisition project must be included in the county's outdoor recreation plan in order to obtain grant funding for this important project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors shall amend the "Iron County, Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan 2010-2015" as follows:

Insert the following language into page 17 of said plan:

"Montreal Riverside Trail – An effort is underway to create a non-motorized trail in the City of Hurley and the Town of Kimball that would follow along the Montreal River. The trail would start from Interstate and Peterson Falls on the north end and follow the river south to downtown Hurley. On the south end, this proposed trail would then connect with the regional trail being planned between Montreal and Hurley and into the State of Michigan along an abandoned railroad grade. The junction

between the riverside trail and the regional trail would be a perfect place for a trail head serving the downtown businesses, tourists travelling on adjacent Highway 51 and users of both trail systems. This trail will provide easy and accessible opportunities for Iron County residents and visitors to enjoy the beautiful Montreal River and two significant waterfalls along the way.”

Motion by Youngs, seconded by Erickson to adopt. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2867

RESTORING FUNDING FOR COUNTY FOREST ADMINISTRATION GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Iron County has land entered into the Wisconsin County Forest Law (state statutes 28.10 and 28.11) and is a member of the Wisconsin County Forest Association (WCFA); and

WHEREAS, the WCFA represents the forestry interests of 29 counties with 2.4 million acres of forest lands entered into the Wisconsin County Forest Law; and

WHEREAS, State Statute 28.11 states (1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this section is to provide the basis for a permanent program of county forests and to enable and encourage the planned development and management of the county forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple-use to assure maximum public benefits; to protect the public rights, interests and investment in such lands; **and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie;** and

WHEREAS, Iron County depends on the funds from the County Forest Administration Grant to assist in the operations and funding of the Iron County Forest for the public’s benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin forestry mill tax (segregated funds) provides the funding for the County Forest Administration Grant; and

WHEREAS, the WCFA and Iron County through Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) strategic direction have identified the County Forest Administration Grant as our number one priority to be funded through the forestry mil tax fund; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walker’s proposed budget has removed language for the entire County Forest Administration Grant program and eliminated the mechanism for awarding traditional county forest administrator grants of \$1.2-1.3 million along with the \$50,000 grant for organizational dues payment; and

WHEREAS, if these budget cuts are to go through it will mean a reduction in the level of service and possibility staff provided for the public’s benefit on the Iron County Forest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS opposes the currently proposed budget removing the funding for the County Forest Administration Grant Program

and asks that the funding and funding authority be restored to its original amount.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are sent to Governor Scott Walker, WDNR Secretary Cathy Stepp, Representative Beth Meyers, Senator Janet Bewley, Senator Tom Tiffany and WDNR Ashland/Iron Team Leader Heather Berklund.

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

RESOLUTION 2868

RESTORING FUNDING FOR LAND ACQUISITION BY COUNTY FORESTS UNDER THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP LAND ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Iron County has land entered into the Wisconsin County Forest Law 28.10 & 28.11, Wis. Stat., and is a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA); and

WHEREAS, the WCFA represents the forestry interests of 29 counties with 2.4 million acres of forest lands entered into the Wisconsin County Forest Law; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. 28.11 states: (1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this section is to provide the basis for a permanent program of county forests and to enable and encourage the planned development and management of the county forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple-use to assure maximum public benefits; to protect the public rights, interests, and investments in such lands; and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie; and

WHEREAS, the Iron County Board of Supervisors on the 27th day of November, 2006 adopted Resolution No. 2659 approving the Iron County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for a period of 15 years; and

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

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 of the County Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Iron County Board of Supervisors on the 27th day of January, 2015 approved a Memorandum of Agreement to participate with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Program; and

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

WHEREAS, Governor Walker's proposed budget places a moratorium on new land purchases through

the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Program until 2028; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin County Forests apply for funding through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Program to purchase and protect Wisconsin land which support Wisconsin's \$22.9 billion forest products industry and \$17.5 billion tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, without grant funding of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Program, acquisition of most critical lands that support Wisconsin's forest products, tourism, hunting and fishing industries, our local economies, revenues to Counties and improved property administration of County Forests will be at risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Iron County Board of Supervisors hereby opposes the currently proposed budget placing a moratorium on new land purchases through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Program until 2028.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we respectfully request that the moratorium on new land purchases through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Program be lifted for the acquisition of County Forests Lands and that the funding and funding authority be restored to their original amount.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, WDNR Secretary Cathy Stepp, Representative Meyers, Senator Bewley, and Senator Tiffany.

Motion by Thomas, seconded by Ouimette to adopt. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2869

INCREASE THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) FOR COUNTY FOREST LANDS FROM \$.30 TO \$1.00 PER ACRE

WHEREAS, Iron County has nine (9) towns with County Forest totaling 174,159 acres of land; and

WHEREAS, County Forest Lands are entered under Wis. Stat. 28.11 County Forest Law, which outlines the framework for County Forest Management; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. 28.11 requires compensation and a reasonable revenue to towns; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin currently provides a PILT payment of \$.30 per acre to local units of government containing County Forest Lands. This amount was established in 1989 and has not increased in over 25 years; and

WHEREAS, National PILT payments for National Forest Lands are approximately \$1.00 per acre to local units of government; and

WHEREAS, PILT payments to towns help maintain forest roads providing access into the County Forests; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the County Forest PILT payment to \$1.00 would increase payments to towns in Iron County by over \$121,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available in the forest mil tax for at least three years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Iron County Board of Supervisors that we support an increased PILT payment to Counties with County Forest Lands to \$1.00 per acre, and ask that the funding and funding authority be included in the State of Wisconsin's Biennial Budget (2015-2017).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are sent to Governor Scott Walker, WDNR Secretary Cathy Stepp, Representative Swearingen, Representative Meyers, Senator Bewley and Senator Tiffany.

Motion by Kichak, seconded by Thomas to adopt. All aye. Motion carried.

**AMENDMENT CREATING SECTION 6-2 "TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON LIVESTOCK FACILITIES"
IN IRON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TITLE 6 "PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES"**

(See attached copy)

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

Motion by Kichak, seconded by Koski to adjourn at 6:45 PM. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari
Iron County Clerk