

**MEETING OF THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DECEMBER 19, 2017**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call taken, Present: Smith, Krall, Hanson, Erickson, Sendra, Roberts, Thompson, Kichak, Matson, Mullard, Pinardi, Youngs and Thomas. Saari showed up as roll call was finishing. Absent: Prospero, Clerk told board that Jack would not be attending anymore meetings since he moved into a nursing home and will not run for another term.

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

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Smith to approve minutes of November 07, 2017 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Pinardi passed a card around the table for members to sign for Jack Prospero now living in a nursing home.

Neil Klemme, UW Extension introduced 5 students from Hurley and Mercer School Districts that will participate in county board meetings beginning tonight.

Dayne Stuhr, Hurley
Tabitha Morello, Hurley
Haley Allen-Rodriguez, Mercer
Molly Hohner, Mercer
Billie Botes, Mercer

Aiyana Nickel, Hurley was absent tonight/playing a basketball game in Ironwood tonight.

Clerk Mike Saari administered the oath of office to the 5 members present.

COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Matson reported that Zoning looked at changes the State has implemented recently and how they will affect Iron County.

Matson reported that he has been elected to represent the Northwest Region on the Land and Water Conservation State Board.

Thomas reported that stumpage revenue as of December 12th was \$2,139,973.00. He also reported that Lake of the Falls campground took in \$48,000.00 in revenue in 2017.

Roberts reported that Finance approved a reclassification for a Social Worker in Human Services from a grade 1 to a grade 2 and approved ordering new plat books in 2018. Finance Committee also considered

carry over or payout of vacation days employees were unable to use in 2017. Five people will be paid out and one will carryover days that should be used up in January.

Roberts reported that the Human Services Committee has raised the hourly pay rate for Leslie Kolesar in 2018 and a few placements have been moved to different facilities at a cheaper rate.

Smith reported that Dr. Rocco will be the new Medical Director for Health Department since the departure of Dr. Lewis from the area.

Youngs reported that a new highway maintenance contract has been signed with the DOT and discussion has begun on a garage concept design for a new Mercer Highway shop.

Mullard reported that the union contract with Airport employees has been finalized. Any discussion of construction in 2018 at the airport has been tabled for lack of grant funds. Mullard told board that the next Airport meeting will be the 3rd Monday of January.

Mullard reported that Eagle Waste is suggesting that Iron County purchase new compactors for both Hurley and Mercer sites and the next Recycling meeting will be January 24th.

Mullard reported that Fair storage fees amounted to \$17,500.00 this fall.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Jason Laumann, NWRPC gave an overview of the Asset Based Community Development Plan asking the County Board members to read over the plan strategy, volume 2 and see what they think a public hearing should cover.

Motion by Kichak, seconded by Thomas to refer this back to Zoning Committee to hold a public hearing or maybe 2 in the spring and early summer. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion held on obtaining a General Obligation Note to reconstruct Saxon Harbor and Campground after flood destruction on July 11, 2016 in the amount of \$10,000,000.00 at an interest rate of 2.75%. Payment schedule of 30 interest payments monthly with final payment of interest & principal due on June 01, 2020. County will be levying a direct annual irrepealable tax sufficient to pay principal payments & interest on the note as it becomes due & payable. The tax for each year after receipt of the borrowed money shall become and continue irrepealable and shall become and shall be carried into the tax rolls each year and shall be collected except that (i) if the note is paid prior to maturity, the still uncollected portions of the tax levied to provide repayment need not be carried into the tax roll; and (ii) the amount of tax carried into the tax roll may be reduced in any year by the amount of any surplus in the debt service account under Section 67.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Motion by Mullard, seconded by Krall to approve borrowing from Chippewa Valley Bank at the terms stated above: Reconstruct Saxon Harbor and campground after destruction of flooding on July 11, 2016 in the amount of \$10,000,000.00 at an interest rate of 2.75%. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

Appearance of Tony Tijan to address noise issues from ATV and snowmobiles in the Town of Kimball. Discussion held on what could be done to stop the noise issues next to his property. Motion by Youngs, seconded by Mullard to set up a meeting with Zoning Department, Law Enforcement personnel, Corporation Counsel, board members and citizens living next to the property in question to discuss

possible solutions to noise problem. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Kichak to approve 2018 Forestry work plan. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion held on purchase of a portion of railroad grade north of Mercer. Clerk told board that a title search has been completed and property is safe to purchase.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Erickson to purchase a section of former railroad grade in the Town of Mercer for \$2,500.00 from Sharon Lambert. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2935

AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO ADMINISTER THE IRON COUNTY FOREST FOR THE YEAR 2018

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 2018, 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 Thomas, seconded by Saari to adopt. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2936

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND THANKS TO LEGISLATORS FOR SAXON HARBOR STEWARDSHIP GRANT

WHEREAS, Iron County owns and operates the Saxon Harbor Marina and Campground Facility; and

WHEREAS, the storm event of July 11-12, 2016 destroyed the Saxon Harbor Facility rendering it inoperable; and

WHEREAS, a federal disaster was declared by President Obama making FEMA resources available to Iron County; and

WHEREAS, estimated reconstruction costs could exceed \$11 million; and

WHEREAS, Iron County is required to pay 12.5% of reconstruction costs per FEMA regulations to be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walker and members of the Joint Committee on Finance authorized a \$1million Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant to Iron County to help offset Iron County's 12.5% share of the reconstruction costs as part of the current Wisconsin State Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iron County Board of Supervisors would like to express their appreciation and thanks to Governor Walker, members of the Joint Committee on Finance, Senator Janet Bewley and Representative Beth Meyers for their continued support of Iron County and the rebuilding efforts at Saxon Harbor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are sent to Governor Walker, members of the Joint Committee on Finance, Senator Bewley, Representative Meyers and WDNR Secretary Dan Meyer.

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

RESOLUTION 2937

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF IRON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, Iron County (County) is concerned with the recent rapid rise in troubles among County citizens, residents, and visitors in relation to problems arising out of the use, abuse and overuse of opioid medications, which according to certain studies, impacts millions of people across the county; and

WHEREAS, issues and concerns surrounding opioid use, abuse and overuse by citizens, residents and visitors are not unique to County and are, in fact, issues and concerns shared by all other counties in Wisconsin and, for that matter, states and counties across the country, as has been well documented through various reports and publications, and is commonly referred to as the Opioid Epidemic ("Opioid Epidemic"); and

WHEREAS, the societal costs associated with the Opioid Epidemic are staggering and, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, amount to over \$75 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute for Health has identified the manufacturers of certain of the opioid medications as being directly responsible for the rapid rise of the Opioid Epidemic by virtue of their aggressive and, according to some, unlawful and unethical marketing practices; and

WHEREAS, certain of the opioid manufacturers have faced civil and criminal liability for their actions that relate directly to the rise of the Opioid Epidemic; and

WHEREAS, County has spent millions in unexpected and unbudgeted time and resources in its programs and services related to the Opioid Epidemic; and

WHEREAS, County is responsible for a multitude of programs and services, all of which require County to expend resources generated through state and federal aid, property tax levy, fees and other permissible revenue sources; and

WHEREAS, County's provision of programs and services becomes more and more difficult every year because the costs associated with providing the Opioid Epidemic programs and services continue to rise,

yet County's ability to generate revenue is limited by strict levy limit caps and stagnant or declining state and federal aid to County; and

WHEREAS, all sums that County expends in addressing, combatting and otherwise dealing with the Opioid Epidemic are sums that cannot be used for other critical programs and services that County provides to County citizens, residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, County has been informed that numerous counties and states across the country have filed or intend to file lawsuits against certain of the opioid manufactures in an effort to force the persons and entities responsible for the Opioid Epidemic to assume financial responsibility for the persons and entities responsible for the Opioid Epidemic to assume financial responsibility for the costs associated with addressing, combatting and otherwise dealing with the Opioid Epidemic; and

WHEREAS, County has engaged in discussions with representatives of the law firms of von Briesen & Roper, s.c., Crueger Dickinson LLC and Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC (the "Law Firms") related to the potential for County to pursue certain legal claims against certain opioid manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, County has been informed that the Law Firms have the requisite skill, experience and wherewithal to prosecute legal claims against certain of the opioid manufacturers on behalf of public entities seeking to hold them responsible for the Opioid Epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Law Firms have proposed that County engage the Law Firms to prosecute the aforementioned claims on a contingent fee basis whereby the Law Firm would not be compensated unless County receives a financial benefit as a result of the proposed claims and the Law Firms would advance all claim-related costs and expenses associated with the claims; and

WHEREAS, all of the costs and expenses associated with the claims against certain of the opioid manufacturers would be borne by the Law Firms; and

WHEREAS, the Law Firms have prepared an engagement letter, which is submitted as part of this Resolution ("Engagement Letter") specifying the terms and conditions under which the Law Firms would provide legal services to County and otherwise consistent with the terms of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, County is informed that the Wisconsin Counties Association has engaged in extensive discussions with the Law Firms and has expressed a desire to assist the Law Firms, County and other counties in the prosecution of claims against certain of the opioid manufacturers; and

WHEREAS, County would participate in the prosecution of the claim(s) contemplated in this Resolution and the Engagement Letter by providing information and materials to the Law Firms and, as appropriate, the Wisconsin Counties Association as needed; and

WHEREAS, County believes it to be in the best interest of County, its citizens, residents, visitors and taxpayers to join with other counties in and outside Wisconsin in pursuit of claims against certain of the opioid manufacturers, all upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Engagement Letter; and

WHEREAS, by pursuing the claims against certain of the opioid manufacturers, County is attempting to hold those persons and entities that had a significant role in the creation of the Opioid Epidemic responsible for the financial costs assumed by County and other public agencies across the country in

dealing with the Opioid Epidemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: County authorizes, and agrees to be bound by, the Engagement Letter and hereby directs the appropriate officer of the County to execute the Engagement Letter on behalf of the County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: County shall endeavor to faithfully perform all actions required of County in relation to the claims contemplated herein and in the engagement Letter and hereby directs all County personnel to cooperate with and assist the Law Firms in relation thereto.

The County Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution, together with the signed Engagement Letter, to the Wisconsin Counties Association, 22 E. Mifflin Street, Suite 900, Madison, Wisconsin, 53703.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Matson to adopt. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2938

APPROVING ADJUSTMENT AND AMENDMENT OF YEAR 2017 BUDGET TO REFLECT CORRECT AND NECESSARY EXPENDITURES

WHEREAS, several county budgets need to be adjusted after expenses were higher than anticipated in 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize amendment of the Iron County 2017 budget, to provide a true financial picture of expenses that occurred in several county budgets as follows:

#51110-217	\$ 3,699.00 programming costs for elections
#52101-111	\$ 29,966.00 overtime, Sheriff's Department
52101-217	11,060.00 contracted services " "
52101-218	49,058.00 equipment maintenance " "
#51128-510	\$ 8,055.00 liability & property insurance
51203-510	9766.00 workman's comp. insurance
51203-154	13,153.00 HRA payments, health insurance
#201-00-53601-217	\$ 668,406.00 contracted services, Human Services
TOTAL	\$ 793,163.00

Motion by Mullard, seconded by Thomas to adopt. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari
Iron County Clerk

