

**MEETING OF THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MAY 29, 2018**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Roll call, Present: Pinardi, Francis, Youngs, Thomas, Saari, Snyder, Hanson, Erickson, Sendra, Roberts, Thompson, Matson and Aijala. Absent: Krall and Kichak, both excused. Student Representatives present: Dayne Stuhr, Tabitha Morello, Haley Allen-Rodriquez, Molloy Horner and Billie Botes. Absent: Aiyana Nickel.

Motion by Hanson, seconded by Aijala to approve minutes of April 17, 2018 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Pinardi informed board that John Carli, former maintenance supervisor will work some hours this summer so Bill Nasi can finish jobs he has started already.

Pinardi shared a letter from a Mercer resident asking for sections of County road FF that passing could be done legally on County Road FF in Iron County. Pinardi also told board the Highway Committee has already looked at this issue with very little room for passing on FF.

COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CHAIRMEN'S REPORT:

Matson reported Land Conservation Department have begun their summer projects with 2 summer interns have been hired for summer work.

Matson reported that the Transportation Committee is working on volunteer driver program expanding in Iron County. A seven passenger van will be purchased along with 2 new buses to be purchased with transportation grant funds. County still trying to utilize BART from Ashland County for transportation options since BART travels to southern Price County already.

Matson reported that the Health Department is funding summer programs with Tick Awareness starting up.

Thompson reported that Law Enforcement Committee has interviewed 2 qualified candidates for jailers and both could be hired tonight, #18 on agenda.

Thompson reported that there were a few complaints since the recycling center in Mercer was closed on Memorial Day.

Eric Peterson, Forestry Administrator reported that stumpage as of May 8th was \$1.14 million which is 22% higher than same time last year. Peterson also told board that the markets are not good right now for wood products.

Peterson reported that the dredging of the creek beds is completed with Oronto Creek running back in the original channel under the old bridge. Dredging on the harbor has begun with Roen Dredging and Salvage getting the contract from the Army Corp of Engineers. County has been having problems getting answers from FEMA. Senator Baldwin's Office has sent a letter of inquiry to FEMA and has prompted a response from them. Peterson hopes FEMA will sign off on harbor project sometime next week. FEMA is requesting an environmental assessment on new campground proposal for Saxon Harbor which will push campground project back somewhat. Peterson hopes to bid the campground project by Labor Day with new proposal at 30 camp sites up from 26 at old campground. County would have to pay for additional 4 sites.

Peterson also reported that the County A Bridge will be constructed by Merrill Bridge and Gravel with completion date of end of August.

Hanson reported that airport board is looking at putting up an additional hanger at airport and new fire truck is on order.

Roberts reported that Finance Committee discussed cut trees at Sherman Fire Tower. Eric Peterson has been in contact with owners and trying to work out a compromise on the downed trees on owners property. Solar power was used at tower and cleanup of downed trees will probably be the week of June 18th. Roberts also reported that a change must be done to employee handbook to include what is required of salaried employees. Roberts reported that Sheriff Department Tahoe will be put out for bids with the minimum bid of \$10,000.00. Roberts also reported that Teresa Way was hired as Human Services Child Services Supervisor.

Roberts reported that 2 people applied for bookkeeping job at the Aging Unit and both were qualified. Roberts also reported that a social worker in Human Services will be taking a 6 week maternity leave this year.

Thomas reported that Extension has 3 summer interns working in the office.

Youngs reported that Bug Tussell Wireless, LLC will be putting up towers in Iron County for AT&T to provide better cell phone coverage.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jason Rowe, Quality Collision of Ironwood made a statement to the board over the policy of only getting bids on body work from body shops located in Iron County. He pointed out that he donates a lot of money to Iron County businesses and causes, Iron County 4-H, Iron County Fair, Hurley Little League, etc. Jason also told board that he lives in Iron County and is a taxpayer.

Calley Kilger, Human Services Director gave her side of the overtime issue in Human Services. She told the board that the work is getting done but it is taking more time to get expanded services completed. She pointed out that compensation has been granted when an emergency situation has happened in the past.

Youngs told board that maybe students could help in the future putting out flags on the veteran's graves. Youngs mentioned that the veterans are all getting older and maybe a younger helping hand would help.

Discussion held on a 20% salary increase for Forestry Administrator Eric Peterson during the Saxon Harbor reconstruction project. Increase would be for 2018 and 2019 and reviewed at the end of 2019. Motion by Matson, seconded by Thompson to approve 20% increase to Eric Peterson's salary for 2018 and 2019 and to be reviewed at the end of 2019. Roll call. County Board, all aye except Snyder who voted no. Student Representatives: All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion held on allowing Tara Krall, Forestry Office Manager to use county cell phone. Motion by Thomas, seconded by Sendra to approve a county cell phone for Tara Krall, Forestry Office Manager. Roll call. County Board, all aye. Student Representative: All aye except Dayne Stuhr who abstained. Motion carried.

Diane Schmidtke, Human Services read letter on the issue of overtime in Human Services.

Motion by Sendra, seconded by Snyder to approve straight time rate for all 3 employees in Human Services and research hiring more people in Human Services to eliminate overtime issues in the future. Roll call. County Board, Voting yes: Saari, Snyder, Hanson, Erickson, Sendra and Aijala. Voting no: Pinardi, Francis, Youngs, Thomas, Roberts and Matson. Thompson abstained from voting. Motion fails on a 6 to 6 tie. Student Representatives, Voting Yes: Stuhr and Botes. Voting No: Morello, Allen-Rodriquez and Hohner.

Motion by Sendra, seconded by Matson to approve overtime rate for Cally Bucknell, \$24,377.54, Diane Schmidtke, \$33,753.00 and Becky Rein, \$17,519.75 and research hiring more people in Human Services to eliminate overtime issues in the future. Roll call. County Board, Voting yes: Pinardi, Francis, Youngs, Thomas, Snyder, Hanson, Sendra, Roberts and Matson. Voting no: Saari, Erickson, and Aijala. Thompson abstained from voting. Motion approved. Student Representatives, Voting yes: Morello, Allen-Rodriquez and Hohner. Voting no: Stuhr and Botes.

Discussion held on replacement of Visual Wisis in Human Services. Motion by Youngs, seconded by Roberts to purchase new Visual Wisis for Human Services. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas, seconded by Aijala to approve 2017 UW Extension Annual Report. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Erickson to award Saxon Harbor Dredge and Basin Edge Reconstruction, Contract 2 to Roen Dredging in the amount of \$2,779,533.00. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion held on update on computer upgrades in the Sheriff's Department. Upgrade includes needed safety features after Criminal Justice Information Services audited our system and was not compliant with their standards. Amount of upgrades is \$83,493.54 and does not include labor costs for any of Spillman's requirements. Computer Doctors has never installed a Spillman system so Eric Ritter has no idea of what the labor costs will be.

Motion by Thomas, seconded Aijala to sell a lot in the City of Hurley with an old house for \$750.00 to Roger L. Ransanici. Ransanici will have house demolished at his expense. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Aijala, seconded by Saari to hire 2 new dispatchers in Sheriff's Department. Brian Thomas and Jerry Hitter both will be hired full-time with Brian Thomas hired first for seniority purposes. All aye.

Thomas abstained from voting. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2950

APPROVING FORMULATION OF A COUNTY FOREST LAW WITHDRAWAL APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Iron County owns certain lands in the SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 11, T43N R3E, Town of Mercer, Iron County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Iron County would like to place a broadband tower on the above described lands; and

WHEREAS, the broadband tower would be used to provide broadband services to the rural areas north and east of Mercer; and

WHEREAS, acreage to be withdrawn from county forest will be approximately 300' x 300' to accommodate the tower site only, in order to erect the broadband tower; and

WHEREAS, the Iron County Forestry Committee has reviewed the proposed withdrawal, and the Iron County Forestry Committee deems it to be in the best interest of Iron County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iron County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Iron County Forest Administrator to formulate the Forest Law Withdrawal Application for the above described lands.

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

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Matson to adjourn at 7:59 PM. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari
Iron County Clerk