

IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JULY 30, 2019

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call taken, present: Pinardi, Youngs, Thomas, Saari, Krall, Hanson, Sendra, Roberts, Thompson, Kichak, Matson and Aijala. Absent: Francis, Snyder and Erickson. Student representatives, present: Stuhr, Morello and Binz. Absent: Allen-Rodriquez, Hohner and Botes.

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

Motion by Aijala, seconded by Hanson to approve minutes of June 25, 2019 as presented. All aye.
Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Clerk told board that he has a letter from an inmate addressed to the county board. Clerk told board members that if they would like to read the letter come to my office.

COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Matson reported that all departments he's associated with have had a very busy summer. A resolution is coming for CWD issues to present to the state.

Kichak reported that Zoning Department has been very busy with office hours in Mercer on Monday and Friday and that has been working out very well. Septic pumping has been going good and building permits are about equal to last year.

Kichak reported that mowing of highways is being done and bridge work on County Road G is continuing. The Highway Department finished culvert work for the Town of Saxon. Kichak also reported that both Zoning and Highway Committees will meet in Mercer in August. Supervisor Sendra handed out a revised version of county ordinance of ATV use on County Highways. The ordinance will be updated at the August Highway Committee meeting in Mercer with a public hearing held for public input.

Thompson reported that stumpage revenue as of today is \$961,908.97.

Electronic and tire collection will be held on August 24th from 9am till 1pm in both Hurley and Mercer.

Hanson reported that Airport construction is coming to an end and new lighting is being installed on main runway. Hanson told board that the new fire truck is in and airport is very busy with 3 flights in and out everyday.

Roberts reported that a dedication to Mitch Koski will be done when Saxon Harbor is completed and that deputies will switch from 8 to 12 hour shifts on a trial basis. Contract change is on tonight's agenda. Roberts also reported that Finance Committee has agreed to tearing down a house on 2nd Avenue in Hurley if the City of Hurley agrees to help pay part of the demolition costs.

An IT ad for advertising for an IT person was produced but the salary and qualifications were too high for what the Finance Committee was willing to offer so a new ad will be constructed and then the position will be advertised. Roberts also reported that a new social worker was hired for Human Services. Roberts reported that E cigarettes are a big problem with our youth population.

Thomas reported that the mobile food pantry was held yesterday and the all class reunion was held at the Memorial Building on Saturday night. Thomas also reported that 73 kids attended the annual summer camp held in Bruce, Wisconsin. Site is new this year and a very nice venue at ½ of the cost of our old camp site in Manitowish Waters.

Neil Klemme, Extension Department announced that he has 3 new high school students to replace 3 that have graduated and will be introduced at the August County Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Schurttter, Montreal questioned whether changing deputy shifts from 8 to 12 hours is a good idea.

Discussion held on a loan from Chippewa Valley Bank in September to cover the actual placement costs of the Iron County Human Services Department. These are actual audited costs from 2018 in the amount of \$947,583.57 at a rate of 3.25% and a length of 366 days. Michael Saari, Clerk, Clara Maki, Treasurer and Joe Pinardi, Chairman will sign for said loan. Iron County will also pay off current loan of \$1.27 million at the same time.

Motion by Thomas, seconded by Roberts to approve client placement loan in the amount of \$947,583.57 at a rate of 3.25% for a length of 366 days in early September from Chippewa Valley Bank. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas, seconded by Aijala to approve vehicle pool use policy as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2970
BOAT LIFTING CONTRACT - SAXON HARBOR MARINA**

WHEREAS, Iron County owns and operates a marina at Saxon Harbor in the Town of Saxon; and

WHEREAS, during marina operations the use of a mobile boat lift is used to hoist boats from the water onto trailers or placed for storage; and

WHEREAS, the Saxon Harbor Boating Club owns a 25 Ton Travelift hoist that has historically been used at the Saxon Harbor Marina; and

WHEREAS, Iron County would prefer to contract for the boat lift services versus purchasing a new boat lift;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Iron County, through its Forest Administrator, will enter into a contract with the Saxon Harbor Boating Club of Saxon, WI to provide boat lifting services at the Saxon Harbor Marina.

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

Motion by Hanson, seconded by Aijala to amend Sheriff Deputy contract by changing the shifts from eight (8) hours to twelve (12) hours. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2971

REQUEST ELIMINATION OF THE 0% LEVY CAP IMPOSED ON WISCONSIN COUNTIES

WHEREAS, in 2012, the State of Wisconsin imposed limits on town, village, city and county property tax levies under Wis. Stat. 66.0602; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. 66.0602 limits that increase to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of (a) 0% of last years actual levy or (b) a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of net new construction in Iron County used to calculate the increase in the operation levy allowance has significantly lagged the CPI-U over this period; and

WHEREAS, as a result, Iron County has been forced to absorb inflationary increases in normal operating expenditures with no offsetting increase in revenues; and

WHEREAS, unexpected increases in the expenditures for certain items, particularly unfunded mandates such as the cost of Child Protective Services, has compounded this issue with Iron County borrowing over \$1,271,000.00 in 2018 to cover actual 2017 placement costs for both adults and children. Borrowing the funds allows Iron County to add this amount over the levy cap amount but interest was paid back to our local bank in the amount of over \$41,000.00. In early September Iron County will pay back the 2018 amount borrowed and then borrow the 2018 actual placement costs on the same day to be included in the 2020 budget levy.

WHEREAS, Iron County has taken measures to curb spending by cutting costs, limiting employee wage increases and reducing program offerings; and

WHEREAS, to continue to provide essential services to county citizens, Iron County has resorted to using debt to fund qualified expenditures previously funded in its operating levy resulting in a higher cost to Iron County taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Iron County does not wish to keep borrowing for placement costs and paying interest to our local bank.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Iron County Board of Supervisors requests complete elimination of the current 0% tax levy cap or replacing it with a levy allowance that adequately reflects the increases in everyday costs incurred by Wisconsin Counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Evers, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, Senator Bewley, Representative Meyers and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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

Motion by Aijala, seconded by Thomas to adopt Chairman's Proclamation that designates the week of September 8th as Suicide Prevention Week in Iron County. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas, seconded by Kichak to adjourn at 6:35 PM. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari
Iron County Clerk