

**MEETING OF THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
JANUARY 26, 2021**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Pinardi at 6PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call taken, present: Sendra, Roberts, Thompson, Hiller, McComas by Zoom, Byrnes by phone, Pinardi, Francis, Youngs, Thomas, Saari, Snyder, Krall and Hanson. Absent: Erickson.

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

Motion by Hanson, seconded by Thompson to approve minutes of December 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Clerk to board that a question arose at the last Finance Meeting on the number of small mileage checks issued to the county board members. Finance Committee Chairperson Roberts felt it would be better if all board members mileage checks were paid quarterly to save money and time. This will happen starting this month.

**COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Thompson reported that stumpage revenues for this year are \$175,076.16 while they were \$93,536.18 at the same time last year. Total stumpage revenues for 2020 were \$1,984,786.01 while they were \$2,000,649.90 in 2019.

Eric Peterson, Forestry Administrator reported that the county had received \$1.3 million for payment on the campground on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The county has \$1.6 million coming for State of Wisconsin grants in the near future and has applied for almost \$150,000 in hardship grants for the project, hoping to get that awarded to the county also.

Peterson also talked about a new program regarding carbon credits that the county could use the county forest to collect monies in the future without changing how we handle our forest management. Companies would pay the county for their forest land to gain carbon credits to help with their image towards the environment. Peterson will let us know more in the future when he gets more information of the program.

Peterson told the board that more engineering costs will be incurred when Iron County is negotiating with FEMA on payable costs for the marina project.

Hanson reported that Zoning has 2 items on tonight's agenda and that a lot of building permits have been issued for large storage buildings in the south end of the county.

Hanson reported that one of our Ironwood to Chicago flights lost a tire 7 miles from the airport that ended up in someone's back yard. FAA is investigating the incident and airport board hired a new employee. Hanson is now the chairman of the Airport Committee since the former chairman is no longer on the airport board.

Roberts reported that Iron County received another roads to recovery grant for over \$10,000 and \$40,000 from roads to recovery grant for election security.

Roberts reported that Iron County is getting a proposal from AT&T on cell phone usage thru a new program called First Net. Iron County currently uses Verizon and is happy with the coverage county wide. This will be very important to the Sheriff Department deputies while on duty throughout the county. AT&T will give us a loaner phone to have our deputies try the phone to see what kind of coverage is out there.

Roberts reported that an IT meeting was held and clerk let the committee know that all 5 IT candidates from last spring are still interested in interviewing for the IT position in the county.

Roberts also reported that Northern Waters Library board kept the same officers as the previous board.

Snyder reported that the Health Department will beginning giving shots to people 65 and older tomorrow at the Memorial Building.

Thomas reported that the Memorial Building is getting more and more rentals as we move along.

Thomas also reported that the Extension Office will have at least 2 people in the office every day from now on.

Youngs told board that the Mercer garage is coming along nicely with many local contractors being used as subcontractors. Clerk asked about Angelo Luppino's trailers being on the property this past Saturday.

Saari reported that LCC and Forestry have switched offices in the Forestry building since LCC needed more room for Heather and Zach. Saari also reported that a Mercer 5<sup>th</sup> grader entered the poster contest for LCC and won in Iron County and will now be entered into the state competition.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Supervisor Sendra reported that the Town of Mercer will hold a referendum asking the people of Mercer to approve adding 0.5% to their sales tax collections to help pay for road infrastructure. The citizens of Mercer will help pay the bill along with tourists also helping to pay the bill.

#### **RESOLUTION 2999**

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Fund, implemented under the auspices of the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, provided grants for homeowners and small business owners to replace failing private onsite wastewater treatment systems with a new system;

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Fund will no longer be funded in the State of Wisconsin budget and shall sunset;

**WHEREAS**, the replacement of failing private onsite wastewater treatment systems can be a tremendous financial burden to low income Iron County property owners;

**WHEREAS**, the continued use of failing private onsite wastewater treatment systems due to lack of funding for replacement is not only a health hazard for all of the Citizens of Iron County; but also

negatively impacts the health and quality of Iron County's 495 lakes and impoundments, 222 named streams and the combined 1245 miles of shoreland surrounding them.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** Iron County requests that the Wisconsin Fund for the replacement of failed private onsite wastewater treatment systems be funded and continued in some form to ensure the health and wellbeing of the Citizens of Iron County, as well as the health and wellbeing of her natural resources.

Motion by Hiller, seconded by Thompson to adopt. All aye. 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 and R-3 (Rural Residential) District, Lot 4 of CSM #547, located in part Government Lot 5, Section 21, Township 43 North, Range 4 East, Town of Mercer, to bring the property into accordance with the future land use plan. (Site address is Cedar Lake Road and Margaret Lake Road). Richard Horn, owner.

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

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Saari to sell houses on 604 Magnetic Street and 603 Iron Street for \$6,100. All aye. Motion carried

Motion by Francis, seconded by Hanson to sell lot in the Town of Upson to \$500. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Saari to sell 2 lots in the Town of Mercer for \$500. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Thomas to adjourn at 6:46 PM. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari  
Iron County Clerk