

**MEETING OF THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MAY 25, 2021**

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call, present: McComas, Byrns, Pinardi, Francis, Youngs, Thomas, Saari, Snyder, Krall, Hanson, Erickson, Sendra, Roberts, Thompson and Hiller. Absent: None.

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

Motion by Hanson, seconded by McComas to approve the minutes of April 27, 2021 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Clerk reported that the county has received \$552,316.50 in rescue funds with the exact amount to be transferred to Iron County one year from now. County has set up a money market fund with Chippewa Valley Bank with the Clerk Michael Saari, Treasurer Clara Maki and Board Chairman Joe Pinardi signing the paperwork. Just one of the above people will have to sign to transfer funds from account.

Chairman reported that Linda Kuduk, Child Support Specialist has received another award for her fine work.

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

Thompson reported that stumpage revenues as of today are \$807,130.76 while they were \$603,643.40 at the same time last year.

Thompson reported that two ATV/UTV routes are being requested on county highways on tonight's agenda. Over 2 miles of seal coating will be completed this summer on County Road H for \$35,000.

Hanson reported that our Zoning Office is very busy issuing building and septic permits.

Hanson reported that a new air carrier is being sought to replace existing airline. Hanson also reported that the contamination issue from fire fighting foam used for training has not been resolved.

Roberts reported that home sales in the north have been very active with Iron Counties numbers doubling during the pandemic. Roberts also reported that Iron County has a lake lot for sale with an offer of \$49,000 but 3 liens for over \$20,000 are attached to property. County has asked corporation counsel to take steps to eliminate the liens before a sale is possible. Blacktopping issue at Saxon Harbor is being looked at with quotes from both Luppino and Northwoods Paving on tonight's agenda.

Roberts reported that Human Services is losing another social worker and advertising for 2 social workers has been in the Miner the past couple of weeks. Finding qualified candidates for social worker has been a problem for quite some time. Roberts stressed that child protection is the primary concern for Human Services.

Thomas reported that Extension has hired summer help getting ready for summer youth camp.

Saari reported that LCC has been looking at a wetland mitigation process similar to carbon credit process using county forests. Companies could purchase wetland credits if construction used up any wetlands. Saari also reported that the LCC county group is using the federal government for wolf management and may use the feds for their wildlife damage program currently run by the county group once our wildlife management person retires in August.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Discussion held on noise issue problems at Willie's Pub in Island Lake. Owners of Willie's Pub in attendance and Brian and Kelly Loeffelholz, on Zoom, owners of cabin next to Willie's. Bob Walesewicz, Chairman for Town of Carey, Diane Schmidtke, Carey supervisor and Sheriff Samardich. Discussion held on a number of issues the Loeffelholz's brought to the county's attention. Supervisor Snyder told the Loeffelholz's that this was not handled right because instead of contacting county officials they should have reported the problems to the Sheriff's Department so it would be on the record. Chairman Pinardi asked the owners of Willie's Pub to monitor the music outside if no one is present to listen to it. Bob Walesewicz told the board that the ATV/UTV traffic will probably just continue to grow in Iron County and we need to be able to work together thru our problems.

Discussion held on the sale of 2 lots in the City of Hurley that the county took on a tax deed. County will not cancel the tax deed and just sell the property back to the original owner for \$2,000. If county does not cancel the tax deed it will save the owner \$500.

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Byrns to sell to lots to original owner for \$2,000. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Thomas to award blacktopping bid at Saxon Harbor to Luppino for \$16,149 while Northwoods Paving's bid was \$17,640. Roll call. All aye except Krall who voted present. Motion carried.

Discussion held on renovation to Nurse's building. Board given amounts that have been spent already for remodel job and items not yet paid for. Building should be open for business in July. Two bids received on blacktopping the parking lot while adding on 23 more feet of parking lot and cement for the ramp project. Luppino bid \$16,000 for blacktopping and \$3,000 for cement work. Northwoods blacktop bid was \$16,560 and no bid offered for cement work.

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Thomas to award blacktopping and cement work to Luppino. Roll call. All aye except Krall voting present and Thompson and Hiller voting no. Motion carried.

Discussion held on road access to tower on Germania Hill. Clerk explained that Finance tried to negotiate with Charlie Ouimette. Charlie asked for \$4,600 per year maintenance fee from county and would not come down on the price so Finance voted to ask county board to build their own road thru the property we just purchased from Ken Tilton.

Motion by Saari, seconded by Tanner to authorize Forestry Department to build road to tower property and sell the west lot to Scott Brown for \$500 with the stipulation that Brown will tear house down at his own expense. Roll call. All aye except Francis and Krall voting no and Youngs voting present. 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 A-1 (Agriculture) District to a C-1 (Commercial) District, part of the NE ¼ of the NE ¼, Section 14, Township 46 North, Range 1 West, Town of Saxon, in accordance to future Land Use Plan. Site address is 13591N Clement Road. James Clement, owner.

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

Rezone the following:

Rezone from an RR-1 (Residential Recreation) District to a C-1 (Commercial) District, part of the NE ¼ of the SE ¼, Section 8, Township 42 North, Range 4 East, Town of Mercer, to bring the property into accordance with the future land use plan. (Site address is 1781W Highway 51 South). Kurt & Heidi Meyers, owners.

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

Rezone the following:

Rezone from a F-1 (Forestry) District to a R-3 (Rural Residential) District, part of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼, Section 5, Township 45 North, Range 2 East, Town of Pence, to bring the property into accordance with the future land use plan. (Site address is 12096N Maple Street). Donald & Lorraine Dickman, owners.

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

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Thomas to approve creating an ordinance allowing ATV/UTV traffic on Highway 169 from US 2 to Vogues Road and on County Trunk B to Highway 122 to the State of Michigan line. All aye. Motion carried. County will now create ordinance and publish in Iron County Miner.

**RESOLUTION 3008  
ADDITION OF KICHAK MECCA PURCHASE TO COUNTY FOREST**

**WHEREAS**, Iron County has over 175,305 acres enrolled in the Wisconsin County Forest Program, and;

**WHEREAS**, Iron County purchased 40 acres of forest land from James Kichak utilizing Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds, and;

**WHEREAS**, land purchased is described as Tax ID # 012-0560-0000 and the SW ¼ SE ¼, in Section 1, T42N, R3E, Town of Mercer, Iron County, Wisconsin, and;

**WHEREAS**, conditions of the Knowles-Nelson Grant require purchased lands to be enrolled into the County Forest Program after closing.

Motion by Hanson, seconded by Roberts to adopt. All aye.

## **RESOLUTION 3009**

### **IN SUPPORT OF ADDING A SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN WISCONSIN STATUTES 70.11(2) TO PROPERTY OWNED BY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS AS EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES**

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of Counties and other Municipalities located within their defined geographical area, and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the “physical, social and economic development of the region”, which may include holding title to real property for such purposes, and

**WHEREAS**, member counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. 66.0309(14), and

**WHEREAS**, dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that “all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them” pursuant to Wis. Stat. 66.0309(15), and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them, and

**WHEREAS**, all Real Property, including Real Property owned by the Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status, and

**WHEREAS**, because Wis. Stat. 70.11(2) specifically references other joint “districts” of communities, such as joint water authorities created under 66.0823, but not specifically planning commission created under 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under 70.11(2), and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. 70.11(2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: **regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309**, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Iron County strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis Stat. 70.11(2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation, and

**BE ALSO RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Senator Bewley, Representative Meyers and other members the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

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

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Byrns to adjourn at 7:16 PM. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari  
Iron County Clerk