

IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Meeting Minutes January 30, 2024
approved

1. Meeting called to order:

Chairman Pinardi called the meeting to order at 6:00pm in the Iron County Courthouse.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Present was Pinardi, Wolff, Thompson, Krall, Hanson, Lauer, Snyder, Thomas, Haeger, Youngs, Francis and Hewitt. Absent Hiller and Erickson.

4. Acknowledge that the meeting was properly noticed and posted:

Clerk Brandt certified the meeting was properly posted.

5. Approve minutes of December 19, 2023 as presented:

Motion to approve the minutes as presented made by Hanson, seconded by Thomas. All Aye, Carried.

6. Communications:

7. Committee, Department Heads and Chairman's Report:

Thompson noted that stumpage was at \$1,711,966.33 and last year was at \$2,062,048.72. Road limits are going on Friday. Hanson noted that zoning met in Mercer and there are items on the agenda. The Airport is now affiliated with Delta. Lauer noted that IT met in Mercer and that we need to look for another person for IT in the future as he has to rely on contracted people for assistance. The current website only allows two administrators, so they did talk about giving Becky in extension access to help assist. Danny will be working on the new website later this year. The clerk noted that in Finance they discussed IT, they also reviewed what needed to be brought to finance from other committees and that the department heads and committee chairs would be responsible for getting that information to the clerk. The process for tax deed sales was clarified as well as the items on the agenda for the sheriff's office department. Thomas noted that Extension met, and the new horticulturist Bruce is working well, they are also working on a plan for the mobile food pantry for when there is inclement weather. Haeger stated that land and conservation are working on a workshop for towns for culvers and the conservationist is working with Hurley and Mercer on the Martin project. Youngs noted that the floor drains in the Hurley shop need to be replaced and will be doing them in house. They are looking at a new floor sweeper and looking to purchase that with COVID funds. Bill Curtain estate left them \$8000.00 to be spent on equipment.

8. Public comment pursuant to Resolution #2341:

None

9. Discussion/Action to accept the offer to purchase of tax deed parcel at 6043N County H Mercer WI:

Motion to approve the sale of the parcel for \$50,000.00 made by Thompson, seconded by Lauer. All Aye, Carried.

10. Resolution 2024-3062 Approving a utility easement with Bayfield Electric in the Town of Pence:

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WHEREAS, Iron County owns certain lands located in the East Half of the East Half of Section 19, T45N, R2E, Town of Pence, Iron County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, BAYFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is desirous of obtaining, from the County of Iron, an easement upon, across, along, and through the lands referenced above, and more particularly described as:

Said right-of-way is a strip of land twenty (20) feet in width, lying within the Property, specifically described as lying ten (10) feet on each side of the line(s) as installed, following an existing logging road, for the purpose of installing and maintaining certain equipment and items upon said parcel; and

WHEREAS, said equipment and items shall provide utility service to citizens of Iron County, specifically to persons living in the Town of Pence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the County of Iron and / or Iron County Forestry Department Committee, as the case may be, shall grant unto BAYFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE for a fee of \$1,690.00, which sum has already been received, an easement upon, over, in, under, along, and through the above-described parcel.

Motion to approve the resolution for the utility easement with Bayfield Electric made by Francis, seconded by Thomas. All Aye, Carried.

11. Rezone from F-1(Forestry) to C-1 (Commercial) on Leducs Road in the Town of Gurney, John F. Olson, owner:

Motion to approve the rezone with the address corrected to Lovers Lane made by Krall seconded by Thompson. All Aye, Carried.

12. Rezone from RR-1 (Recreation- Residential) to C-1 (Commercial) on N Park Rd in the Town of Kimball, Joshua Alexander, owner:

Motion to approve the rezone made by Snyder, seconded by Thomas. All Aye, Carried.

13. Discussion of 2024 Budget Reconciliation of County Finance update and findings (Kurt Wolff):

Wolff stated that he was given the approval to dig into the finances, he has since met with some of the department heads and dug into some of the finances. There is a huge decline in the cash balance due to relying on carbon credits the last two years to balance the budget. The declining trajectory of the general funds cash account and the degree of which the County should be relying on carbon credits to balance the budget. After discussions the board will be placing budgetary items on the agenda.

14. Discussion of update on Human Resources Committee progress (Karen Lauer):

Lauer gave an update on the status of the group that they are working on meeting with department heads to finalize the job descriptions and that everyone has been doing very well at getting these done and worded. She also asked to get this on the agenda for board as the finance committee approved this work group, but the board never did.

15. Closed session per WI State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) (e) (f):

Motion made by Snyder seconded by Wolff to go into closed session at 7:00pm. Roll call Taken, All Aye. Carried.

16. Return to open Session to report any action necessary:

Motion by Thomas, seconded by Lauer to return to open session at 7:38pm. Roll Call taken, All Aye. Carried.

17. Discussion/Action to hire new position for road deputy with the sheriff department:

Motion to hire the new road deputy for the sheriff department made by Thomas, seconded by Snyder.

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Roll Call Taken. All Aye. Carried

18. Discussion/Action to approve the promotion of two road officers to sergeants and to retroactive back pay to the prior county board meeting that was held on December 19, 2023:

Motion to promote the two road officers to sergeants made by Wolff seconded by Snyder. Roll Call taken. All Aye, Carried.

19. Adjournment:

Chairman Pinardi adjourned the meeting at 7:42pm.

Approved: February 27, 2024

Respectfully submitted by:
Christan Brandt, County Clerk