

IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2025

Approved

1. Meeting called to order:

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge was recited

3. Roll Call:

Present were Boes, Lauer, Lutgen, Hiller, Wolff, Mullard, Loreti, Francis, Youngs, Thomas, Swartz, Krall, Hanson. Absent was Erickson and Haeger.

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

The clerk certified that the meeting was properly noticed.

5. Approve minutes of December 11, 2024 as presented:

Motion to approve the minutes as presented made by Lauer, seconded by Francis. Carried.

6. Communications:

The clerk noted that the recent board rules that were approved notes how public comment should be addressed and run. It states that anyone wishing to speak in public comment would need to sign up ahead of time and are allowed to speak on agenda items. Unless the board does not wish to do this then they will need to amend their rules, otherwise the rules and sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting.

7. Committee and Chairman's Report:

Francis noted that the memorial building had a cash balance of \$34,825 for 2024, they have bookings all the way into July, the bowling alley is in full swing, and they are waiting for Federal approval for the 501C3. Aging Advisory had donations for the holidays as well as a donation from the Taven League of WI to the Hurley Senior Center. They had 3 applicants for the cook in Mercer and are trying to get more programs together to get more engagement with the community.

Thomas thanked Kacey for letting the mobile food pantry use the County garage.

Mullard noted that the Fair Board met, and they will be keeping the ticket prices the same as last year, they have a wood carver coming and some other new plans for the fair. They are going to demo the old food booth and replace it. They also made \$32,000 this year in storage for the winter. Next Fair meeting is February 20th at 6:30pm.

Hanson noted that the Airport had their organizational meeting, and he was re-elected as chair and Loreti is now the secretary. The airport is also looking for part-time individuals to run a loader and plow.

Krall noted that Law enforcement met, and they are still looking to fill a road deputy position.

Boes noted that Economic Development meets tomorrow but we are getting our feet on the ground.

Lutgen noted that the Northern Waters Library has a new Director, Extension is busy with various programs. She also noted that there will be youth sitting with the board at the meetings as part of a program through Extension.

Wolff noted that finance met and recommended paying the principal on Saxon Harbor, the Deeds office revenue for recording fee that has not been done.

Youngs noted that Tim Dean is no longer Corp counsel as of the end of the year and that he did a great job for us. Doug Muskett is now Corp Counsel. Dan Soine retired on January 6th after 12 years of being with the Deeds office. He was also the tax lister with Clara Maki. We have asked Neil Martinko to take his place. The elections in 2026 will be different as the town clerks will be doing some of their own election items. He also noted that Heather Palmquist from Land and Conservation will be given the County Conservationist of the Year award in March. Also, we were contacted about permission to park in the

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parking lot once a week by a coffee truck, Finance discussed and did not have an issue, he wanted to know if anyone here had a problem with them being here, no one had an issue.

8. Administrative Coordinator Report:

Lutgen noted that she has been at this temporary position for 3 weeks now and has been putting in 40 hours a week. She has been meeting with Department Heads, closing out 2024 with a lot of time on journal entries to help eliminate the material weakness in the audit. She is hoping to have a new formal report for the finance and board to review every month as well.

9. Public comment pursuant to Resolution #2341:

None

10. Forestry Department Presentation on Carbon Credits:

Eric Peterson explained how carbon credits worked. The agreement was first signed in 2021. The agreement is a 10-year agreement with Anew and they have exclusive marketing rights for Iron County. Carbon Credits should be looked at as another product that we are selling from our forest. We own our land and no one else does or can. That is not how the carbon credit works, there is nothing physically owned.

11. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-3092 to Support Brightspeed Application for BEAD Funding in Iron County:

WHEREAS, the Federal Government set aside \$42.5 billion for the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program to expand high-speed internet in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and US Territories; and

WHEREAS, any broadband provider is eligible to apply for these funds, including more than one provider in any given area; and

WHEREAS, Brightspeed has advised Iron County that it is interested in applying for BEAD funding to provide high-speed fiber internet access to over 3,700 premises in Iron County; and

WHEREAS, Brightspeed's proposed project would provide access to high-speed fiber internet in areas of Iron County that currently do not have such access.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Iron County Board of Supervisors does hereby resolve that it supports and endorses Brightspeed's application for BEAD funding to expand high-speed internet access in Iron County.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-3092 made by Francis, seconded by Hiller. All yes, Carried.

12. Rezone from an F-1 (Forestry) to RR-1 (Recreation Residential) in accordance with the Asset Based Community Development Plan in the Town of Mercer at 2003W Martha Lake Rd, Theresa Dennis and Rose Grulkowski, Owners:

Motion to approve the Rezone for 2003W Martha Lake Rd made by Hiller, seconded by Wolff. All yes, carried.

13. Discuss/ Approve Emergency Fire Warden Organization List for the Department of Natural Resources per State Statute 26.12 (3) and 26.14 (3)

Fire warden list Bob Walesewicz, Stacy Ofstad, and Ashley Welch. Motion to approve made by Thomas, seconded by Mullard. All yes, carried.

14. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025- 3089 County Records Modernization Funding Reserves :

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WHEREAS, according to Wis. Stats. 59.72 (5), the Register of Deeds office collects \$30.00 for each document recorded, of which \$15.00 is county revenue, \$8.00 is required to be reserved for Land Records Modernization funding, and the remaining \$7.00 is submitted monthly to the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this state law is to help Wisconsin counties preserve paper land information records by scanning them into an online database;

WHEREAS, the Iron County Register of Deeds department has collected \$8.00 per document since 2017 as County Land Information and Public Access revenues contributing to prior years' surplus and general fund balance, totaling \$144,196.97; and

WHEREAS, these revenues were commingled with the County's general fund balance at the end of each fiscal year instead of being set aside in a fund balance reserve account for Iron County's Land Information Records scanning efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Iron County Register of Deeds office needs to utilize the Land Records Modernization Fund Balance Reserves for the purpose of hiring a contracted service to scan the County's paper records and for paying staff for time spent indexing scanned records; and

THEREFORE, Iron County will segregate the accumulated total of \$144,196.97 from general fund balance to a Land Records Modernization Fund Balance Reserve Account during the 2024 audit and continue to collect fees and record these annual entries thereafter to be spent for the purposes of ongoing Land Records Modernization.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-3089 made by Wolff, seconded by Lauer. All yes, carried.

15. Discuss/Action contract with Trimin US Imaging for Land Record Modernization for Register of Deed Office:

Motion to approve the contract made by Francis, seconded by Lauer. All yes, carried.

16. Discuss/Action on approving overtime for indexing in the Deeds office that is paid out of the recording fee collection per statute:

The overtime will be paid out with the fee collection for the records modernization fund. Motion to approve made by Krall, seconded by Hiller. All yes, carried.

17. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025- 3090 Partial Saxon Harbor Loan Principal Payment:

APPROVE PARTIAL SAXON HARBOR LOAN PRINCIPAL PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Iron County has an outstanding interest-only loan for Saxon Harbor reconstruction in the amount of \$2,225,774.49; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2025, Iron County received a deposit of \$567,895.44 in net proceeds from a 2024 sale of Carbon Credits;

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2025, the Finance Committee unanimously passed a motion to apply the \$567,895.44 from Carbon Credit revenue to pay down principal on the Saxon Harbor Loan; and

THEREFORE, the Finance Committee recommends that the Iron County Board approve this resolution to apply the \$567,895.44 from Carbon Credit revenue to pay down principal on the Saxon Harbor Loan.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-3090 made by Hanson, seconded by Thomas. All yes, carried.

18. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-3091 Temporary Hire of Deputy Clerk of Courts for Leave Coverage.

WHEREAS, the Iron County Deputy Clerk of Courts has a planned 2025 medical leave for approximately six weeks; and

WHEREAS, retired Iron County Deputy Clerk of Courts, Ilene Giacomino, is available to cover the aforementioned medical leave at the current Deputy Clerk of Courts pay rate;

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2025, the Finance Committee unanimously passed a motion to hire Ilene Giacomino for up to 240 hours and return to the Finance Committee if more hours are needed;

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THEREFORE, the Finance Committee recommends that the Iron County Board approve this resolution to hire Ilene Giacomino for up to 240 hours and return to the Finance Committee if more hours are needed. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-3091 made by Swartz, seconded by Thomas. All yes, carried.

19. Adjournment:

Youngs adjourned the meeting at 7:20pm.

Approved: February 25, 2025

Respectfully Submitted
Christan Brandt, Iron County Clerk