

IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Meeting Minutes for March 25, 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 Haeger, Thomas, Youngs, Francis, Loreti, Mullard, Wolff, Hiller, Lutgen, Boes, Erickson, Hanson, Kral and Swartz. Absent was Lauer. UW Youth Council Sam, Lydia and Ashlyn.

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

The Clerk certified the meeting was properly noticed.

5. Approve minutes of February 25, 2025 as presented:

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Lutgen, seconded by Mullard. All yes, carried.

6. Communications:

None

7. Committee and Chairman's Report:

Mullard noted that the Fair Board met and that items such as Entertainment and vendors are set up and donations have been coming in. They have also been working on items that need to be fixed around the grounds.

Francis noted that the Aging Committee met and gave an update on the meal sites. Mercer is still looking for a cook and Hurley has been taking on that responsibility of cooking those meals and sending them down. Transportation is a big issue as it is used heavily for medical appointments. There is still talk about joining BART out of Ashland. The Board of Health met, and their Annual Report was approved as well as the new fees and these items are on the agenda.

Thomas noted that at the Highway meeting they opened bids for the new truck and they went with UP Truck Center at \$165,615.00 They went with Burke to outfit the truck. He also noted that the truck would not be ready until 2027. Approved the purchase of the Scissor Lift and should be here in 2 weeks. Opened paving bids for County G and awarded it to Pitlik for \$645,000.00

Haeger noted that the new employee down at LCC is working out well and they are very happy with her. He attended the LCC Conference where Heather received her award. IT reviewed the budget and reviewed Finance Systems and the website options.

Swartz noted that the Memorial Committee is now officially a 501C3. They continue to work on upgrades and the lights are being installed as we speak. They are still looking for someone to take the Piano.

Hanson noted that Zoning extended the job position out for 2 more weeks. The Airport is working on a handbook, and they are also trying to get Denver Air to come give them an update as to what is going on and where they are sitting since the Airline is expanding.

Erickson noted that we did get another \$198,400 in Carbon Credits and we have 300,000 units left to sell. Stumpage is \$368,769 and last year it was \$427,220.00. We have items on the agenda this evening such as the two 40 acre lots for sale. There are 3 slips left open at the Harbor; reservations are filling up in the campgrounds.

Wolff noted that Finance met and discussed and approved the window bids, we discussed a 5-year plan on Vehicle replacement be placed in the outlay. Discussions about Workhorse update and WCA reviewed the differences with Administration options. We also have items on the agenda that were discussed.

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Youngs noted that Economic Development met and are busy with many items. They are working on a Rev project that will start in Hurley where they go to the current businesses and see if they can help. Discussion about a food truck rally as well as housing issues.

8. Administrative Coordinator Report:

Lutgen noted that we are close to closing 2024-year end totals. She agreed that Workhorse was outdated and could be more effective and efficient. A new system would not have so many Journal entries to complete. She worked on a financial summary sheet for the Finance Committee and once it is finalized, she will bring it to the board.

9. Public comment pursuant to Resolution #2341:

None

10. Public Health to give Presentation of Department Overview:

Melissa Geach Health Officer gave a presentation of what the Public Health Department does.

11. Rezone From A-1 (Agriculture) to RR-1 (Recreation Residential) in accordance with the Community Development Plan in the Town of Mercer at 5798N Beaver Lodge Circle; Jay Baesman, Owner:

Motion to approve the Rezone made by Hiller, seconded by Thomas. All yes, carried.

12. Discuss/Approve Thomas Mowbray to a 3-year term on the Board of Adjustment:

Motion to approve made by Wolff, seconded by Francis. All yes, carried.

13. Discuss/Action Iron County Health Department 2024 Annual Report:

Motion to approve the Annual Report made by Wolff, seconded by Mullard. All yes, Carried.

14. Discuss/Action Iron County Comprehensive Planning & Zoning Annual Report:

Motion to approve the Annual Report made by Wolff, seconded by Thomas. All yes, carried.

15. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4002 Saxon Harbor Lake Superior Shoreline Restoration Project:

WHEREAS, Iron County, through its Forestry Department, manages the Saxon Harbor Marina and Campground facility; and

WHEREAS, data has shown up to 35,000 vehicles, 1,000 campground reservations, and 1,450 boaters access the Saxon Harbor facility annually; and

WHEREAS, Harbor Drive, a Town of Saxon roadway and only alternate access to the Saxon Harbor facility, is being threatened by the erosion of the Lake Superior shoreline due to increased wave activity and recent high-water levels; and

WHEREAS, the Saxon Harbor Lake Superior Shoreline Restoration Project will secure and restore the Lake Superior shoreline, protecting Harbor Drive, and also provide access to the beach areas west of the marina utilizing a removable stairway; and

WHEREAS, Iron County and the Town of Saxon are not financially able to complete a restoration project of this scale without significant funding assistance; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Harbor Drive would prove catastrophic to the residents and users of Saxon Harbor and financially impossible for the Town of Saxon to rebuild.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Iron County Board of Supervisors supports the submittal of a request for FY 2026 Direct Congressional Spending to Senator Tammy Baldwin for the Saxon Harbor Lake Superior Shoreline Restoration Project.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4002 made by Thomas, seconded by Erickson. All yes, carried.

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16. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4003 Approving Road Use Permit to Tanner & Rachel Dechert

WHEREAS, Iron County owns certain lands located in the SE ¼ NE ¼ of Section 20, T43N, R3E, Town of Mercer, Iron County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Tanner & Rachel Dechert own certain lands located in the SW ¼ NW ¼ of Section 21, T43N, R3E, Town of Mercer, Iron County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Tanner & Rachel Dechert are desirous of obtaining a road use permit from Iron County for road right of way, upon, across, and over the above described Iron County Lands, on an already established roadway, for purposes of obtaining access to the land owned by Tanner & Rachel Dechert; and

WHEREAS, the Iron County Forestry Committee has reviewed the request, and approved the issuance of a road use permit to Tanner & Rachel Dechert that is not in conflict with the Iron County Forestry Department's 15-year plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Iron County, through its Forest Administrator, shall issue a road use permit to Tanner & Rachel Dechert pursuant to which Iron County shall grant unto Tanner & Rachel Dechert a temporary license over and upon the existing road in the SE ¼ NE ¼ of Section 20, T43N, R3E, Town of Mercer, Iron County Wisconsin. The permit shall contain the standard provisions as approved by the Iron County Corporation Counsel. Said road shall be open to the public at all times. No gates or other means of restricting the public from access over and above said road will be allowed.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4003 made by Erickson, seconded by Hanson. All yes, carried.

17. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4004 DATCP Fee Change:

Whereas, the Iron County Health Department serves as an agent of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in regulating and licensing lodging, recreation establishments, food protection, and tattoo and body piercing facilities; and

Whereas, state law allows the County Health Department to set licensing fees in accordance with the corresponding state fees, ensuring adequate funding for the program's regulatory responsibilities; and

Whereas, the state requires that a reimbursement fee be paid annually by the county to DATCP, currently set at 12% of the state fee in 2024, with scheduled annual increases of 1% per year as follows:

- 13% in 2025
- 14% in 2026
- 15% in 2027

Whereas, the County Board of Health has approved a fee increase to 15% over the state fee (rounded to the nearest \$5) effective for the 2025 renewal season and continuing through 2027; and

Whereas, this adjustment ensures adequate funding for inspection and enforcement efforts while keeping fees aligned with regulatory requirements and operational costs;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Iron County Health Department shall set fees for lodging, recreation establishments, food protection, and tattoo and body piercing licenses at 15% over the state fee (rounded to the nearest \$5) beginning with the 2025 renewal season; and

Be it further resolved, that the Iron County Health Department shall continue to remit the required reimbursement fee to DATCP annually, as determined by the agent contract, and review fee structures periodically to ensure continued fiscal responsibility and regulatory compliance.

Respectfully submitted by the Iron County Board of Health for consideration by the Iron County Board of Supervisors on March 18, 2024, at their regular Board of Health Meeting.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4004 made by Mullard, seconded by Thomas. All yes, carried.

18. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4005 Establish Special Revenue Funds:

WHEREAS, Iron County seeks to establish Special Revenue Funds at year-end 2024 for:

203 CDBG

204 Land Records Modernization

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205 Carbon Credits

206 Gravel Pit Reclamation

208 County Roads and Bridges

210 Opioid Settlement

WHEREAS, establishing separate special revenue funds allows the County to organize and track revenues, expenses, cash, and fund balance separately for each line of business for Board and other financial reporting; and

WHEREAS, separate special revenue funds allow the County to segregate reporting where contractually or statutorily required; and

WHEREAS, separate special funds allow the County to more accurately analyze and report day-to-day operational revenues and expenses in the 100-General Fund and 201-Human Services fund, instead of having commingled funds; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Iron County will establish Special Revenue Funds at year-end 2024 for 203 CDBG, 204 Land Records Modernization, 205 Carbon Credits, 206 Gravel Pit Reclamation, 208 County Roads and Bridges, and 210 Opioid Settlement.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4005 made by Francis, seconded by Swartz. All yes, carried.

19. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4006 County Website Replacement Project:

WHEREAS, Iron County is requesting approval to spend \$48,816 in 2025 to replace Iron County's current website to enhance communication, improve services, and promote transparent county government operations; and

WHEREAS, Iron County's website lacks required modern features such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, calendaring, adequate security, and so on; and

WHEREAS, the Finance committee has evaluated three bids for website replacement and recommends purchasing Civic Plus Standard with one-time implementation/conversion costs of \$39,364 and year-one annual maintenance fee of \$9,452, for a total 2025 cost of \$48,816, as depicted in Appendix A-Website Replacement Bid Summary; and

WHEREAS, the implementation/conversion cost of \$39,364 can be a capital expense; and WHEREAS, annual maintenance expenses are general fund operational expenses; and

WHEREAS, these funds are not currently included in the 2025 Iron County budget; and

WHEREAS, efforts are underway to apply for grants to cover all or a portion of the website replacement expenses; and

WHEREAS, Iron County has surplus capital funds available due to good buying practices and has the option to delay other 2025 capital expenses until 2026, if grants are insufficient; and

WHEREAS, Iron County has one-time carbon credit funds available to spend on the one-time implementation/conversion costs of \$39,364, if grants are insufficient; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors approves purchasing the Civic Plus Standard website solution (OPTION B in Appendix A-Website Replacement Bid Summary).

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4006 made by Francis, seconded by Loreti. All yes, carried.

20. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4007 Amendment to Iron County Ordinance SEC. 3-1-12 Revision to Authorize ACH Payments:

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes Sec. 66.042 permits Iron County to use order checks, wire transfers, or Automated Clearinghouse (ACH)/Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT); and

WHEREAS, Iron County department heads would like to start using Chippewa Valley Bank's ACH through Business Online Banking as a way to:

- Ensure the County pays vendors in a timely fashion
- Reduce County check processing time and costs

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- Reduce postage costs
- Reduce lost mail or mail delay issues with payments; and

WHEREAS, the Iron County Sec. 3-1-12 ordinance on Public Depositories has not been reviewed or updated since 1994; and

WHEREAS, the County ordinance Sec. 3-1-12 only allows payments by order check:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors approves revision of Ordinance Sec. 3-1-12(b) Public Depositories to the following:

(b) Withdrawal or Disbursement. Withdrawal or disbursement from any public depository shall be by order check, wire transfers, or ACH/EFT, as provided in Sec. 66.042, Wis. Stats.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4007 made by Loreti, seconded by Mullard. All yes, carried.

21. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4008 Use of Iron County Development Zone Closeout Funds:

WHEREAS, at the February 26, 2025 meeting of the Iron County Development Zone Council (ICDZC), its members voted to dissolve the ICDZC and approved turning over the remaining ICDZC checking account balance of \$9,801.50 (closeout funds) to Iron County; and

WHEREAS, in February 2025, Iron County received a payment from ICDZC in the amount of \$9,801.50 (closeout funds); and

WHEREAS, Iron County intends to use the ICDZC closeout funds for Economic Development Committee initiatives; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iron County Board of Supervisors approves the use of \$9,801.50 of ICDZC closeout funds for the purposes of Iron County Economic Development committee expenses.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4008 made by Haeger, seconded by Hiller. All yes, carried.

22. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4009 Sale of County Owned Property:

WHEREAS, per Wisconsin State Statute §59.52(6)(c), the County Board may: “Direct the Clerk to lease, sell or convey or contract to sell or convey any county property...on terms that the board approves”; and WHEREAS, Iron County owns two landlocked 40-acre recreational parcels in the town of Pence acquired by tax deed in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the first parcel is described as the SE ¼ SW ¼, Section 7, T45N, R2E, parcel # 016-0102-0000 and the second parcel is described as the SE ¼ SW ¼, Section 7, T45N, R2E, parcel # 016-0106-0000; and

WHEREAS, Iron County advertised the two parcels for sale for three weeks in the Iron County Miner; and

WHEREAS, John Hilgemann has formally offered to purchase the two 40-acre parcels at a price of \$32,040 each, for a total of \$64,080; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the offer is a fair price against comparable real estate values and it is in the best interest of Iron County to sell the two landlocked 40-acre parcels of County-owned property; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the sale of the two 40-acre parcels of County-owned property to John Hilgemann, under the terms described above.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4009 made by Thomas, seconded by Boes. All yes, carried.

23. Closed Session per WI State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (Administrative)

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Motion to go into closed session at 6:57pm made by Loreti, seconded by Mullard. Roll Taken. All yes. Carried.

24. Return to Open Session to Report Action if Necessary:

Motion to return to open Session at 7:52pm made by Erickson, seconded by Thomas. Roll call. All yes, Carried. No action taken.

25. Adjournment:

Youngs adjourned the meeting at 7:52pm.

Approved: April 22,2025

Respectfully submitted
Christan Brandt, Iron County Clerk