

**IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Meeting Minutes for April 22, 2025**

**Approved**

**1. Meeting called to order:**

Youngs called the meeting to order at 6:00pm in the Mercer Community Center.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call:**

Present were Loreti, Francis, Youngs, Swartz, Krall, Hanson, Lauer, Lutgen, Hiller, Mullard. Absent were Thomas, Haeger, Erickson, Boes and Wolff. Also present were youth Council members Sam Risik and Lydia Risik.

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

The clerk certified that the meeting was properly noticed.

**5. Approve Agenda:**

Motion to approve the agenda made by Mullard, seconded by Francis. All yes, carried.

**6. Approve minutes of March 25, 2025 as presented:**

Motion to approve the minutes as presented with one correction to the dollar amount in stumpage made by Mullard, seconded by Loreti. All yes, carried.

**7. Communications:**

None.

**8. Committee and Chairman's Report:**

Lutgen noted that Finance met and has several items on the agenda including hiring a County Manager. Extension has an upcoming meeting but are currently in full swing with summer help and preparing for summer camps.

Lauer noted that they had two Human Service board members retire/resign. She reviewed placement numbers as well as noted that they are meeting with BART from Ashland/Bayfield County to discuss assisting Iron County with transportation. The Mercer Cook Position is still open for the Mercer Senior Center.

Hanson noted that they still have not found the right individual to fill Gerry's position in Zoning. The Airport is making a change with flights times leaving for Chicago. The manager has completed all his training, and they are also working on a handbook. He also noted that at the Recycle Committee meeting it was determined that they would combine with Land and Water.

Francis noted that IT met, and the new website should be up and running before December. Danny is working on saving money in his budget by purchasing refurbished computers. There was also discussion about purchasing I Pads for the Board Members to use for meeting packets. The clerk will be working on cost comparisons.

Swartz noted that the Memorial Committee is working on prices for landscaping and cutting a few trees. There have been updates to wiring on the stage, new lights and fans.

Youngs noted that he received a save the date of May 30 for the groundbreaking at Copper Peak. He also noted that he combined Recycle Committee with LCC because he was looking to save money on Per Diems as well as that the Recycle committee only meets occasionally for 15 minutes and some of the members drive longer than the meeting lasts. Not all members were added to the LCC committee. He also

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noted that we are honoring two individuals who have served the County. Vic Ouimette was a County Board Member for 6 years and then was an appointed citizen on the Human Service Board for 10 years. The other is Carol Matson, who served on the County Board for 4 years and was on the Human Service Board for 22 years.

Eric Peterson Forestry Administer noted that stumpage was at \$473,293 and last year it was \$496,271. The crew are getting the parks ready. Lake of the Falls will be ready next weekend, and the remainder will be open May 15<sup>th</sup>. They will be putting the dock in at the Harbor on May 6<sup>th</sup>. ATV trails will not open until things dry up.

#### **9. Administrative Coordinator Report:**

Lutgen reported that she volunteered for this roll back in December 2024 and will be in this position until June 30<sup>th</sup>. Prior the position was the clerk and then the Deputy clerk. It was determined that there were many gaps in HR, management, material weaknesses and budget issues. We have worked on those issues and made many accomplishments. She would like to see us not lose the momentum of moving forward and the progress made.

#### **10. Public comment pursuant to Resolution #2341:**

None

#### **11. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4001 Approve Iron County Non-Metallic Site Maintenance Reclamation Fund Reserve:**

WHEREAS, the Iron County owns multiple non-metallic mining sites throughout the County on County properties and County Forest lands; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires that these sites have an approved reclamation plan; and

WHEREAS, County Forest Law, Wis. Stats. 28.11, allows materials from these sites to be utilized for public projects including use by local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, in September 2019 the Iron County Highway Committee and in October 2019 the Iron County Forestry Committee authorized the creation of accounts to support recording expenses and revenues for the establishment and reclamation of existing sites and to potentially purchase other lands; and

WHEREAS, the Iron County Highway Committee and the Iron County Forestry Committee established a fee of \$1.00 per yard for material removed and \$0.50 per yard for reclamation, to be reviewed as necessary; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Iron County will segregate the accumulated total of \$116,287.60 from the general fund balance to a Non-Metallic Mining Site Maintenance / Reclamation Fund during the 2024 audit and continue to collect fees and record these entries thereafter to be spent for the purpose of ongoing gravel pit establishment, reclamation, and land purchases.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Iron County Forestry Department will maintain a detailed record of all transactions within the account.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4001 made by Krall, seconded by Hanson. All yes, carried.

#### **12. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4010 Support of Ashland County's Request for Congressionally Directed Spending to Replace Its Emergency Services Windsled:**

WHEREAS, Ashland County's Windmark Ice Angel IV has been in service for 22 years and needs to be replaced; and

WHEREAS, Ashland County's windsled answers an average of ten 911 calls throughout Chequamegon Bay per year; and

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WHEREAS, the use of Ashland County's windsled has also saved lives in Iron County, Bayfield County, and Douglas County in the recent past; and

WHEREAS, Ashland County's windsled participates in mutual aid for ice and water rescue with windsleds housed in the Town of La Pointe and Odanah; and

WHEREAS, Ashland County's windsled assists in several missing persons searches across three states and several counties per year; and

WHEREAS, community safety on Lake Superior across the wider region is increased by a reliable and functional windsled in Ashland County; and

WHEREAS, a new windsled for Ashland County can be purchased from a Wisconsin manufacturer, keeping all appropriated funds in Wisconsin; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors supports Ashland County's request for \$618,750 in Congressionally Directed Spending which would pay for the purchase of a new windsled.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4010 made by Francis, seconded by Hiller. All yes, carried.

**13. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4011 Designate April as Iron County Child Abuse Prevention Month.**

**WHEREAS**, April has been designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States, a time dedicated to raising awareness of child abuse and neglect, encouraging communities to work together toward prevention and to support and strengthen families; and

**WHEREAS**, Children are the foundation and the future of our communities. Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, stable and nurturing environment. Research has shown the most effective way to prevent child abuse & neglect is to strengthen families and communities, so they can provide nurturing environments where children can thrive. Children raised in loving and supportive environments have healthier relationships, a greater tendency to prosper academically and financially, and are more likely to become successful members of our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Iron County acts as a leader and champion for all of our children by supporting communities and promoting programs and policies that enhance the lives of children and families; and

**WHEREAS**, All community members play a role in ensuring that children have positive experiences and families have the resources they need when they need them; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors designates April as Iron County Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4011 made by Mullard, seconded by Lauer. All yes, carried.

**14. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4012 Approving and Advertising County Manager Position:**

WHEREAS, under Wis. Stat. § 59.19, Iron County appoints the Administrative Coordinator position to coordinate administrative and management functions of County government not otherwise vested by law in Boards or Commissions or other elected officers; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2016, the County Board passed Resolution 2894 paying a separate \$5,000 Administrative Coordinator salary to the County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2020, the County Board passed a motion to increase the salary for the Administrative Coordinator position by the same annual amount as other County employees, and the 2024 annual salary of the Administrative Coordinator position is \$5,520; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2023, the County Board appointed the Deputy Clerk as Administrative Coordinator, replacing the retiring Clerk effective October 6, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, on October 15, 2024, the Finance Committee discussed growing complexities of County government and increasing reliance on Board members with Finance, Human Resources, and Administrative expertise to manage or assist in managing County affairs; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2024, the Finance Committee reviewed the current appointment for the Administrative Coordinator position, reviewed the general responsibilities authorized by Wis. Stat. § 59.19, and asked any interested County employees to notify the Board Chair by November 8, 2024:

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2024, the Board Chair reported no interest in the Administrator Coordinator position by County employees. The County Board appointed County Supervisor Roxanne Lutgen to temporarily fill the part-time Administrative Coordinator Position at a pay rate of \$40 stipend per day in office, plus mileage, effective January 1, 2025 until the earlier of July 1, 2025 or Board appointment of a permanent replacement; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2025, the Finance Committee established and approved a County Manager job description (Addendum A) with Administrative Coordinator responsibilities authorized by Wis. Stat. § 59.19, and recommended that the County Board approve the County Manager job description, advertise for a County Manager, conduct interviews of applicants, and recommend an applicant for appointment, with appointment to be made by the County Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors approve the County Manager job description (Addendum A) with Administrative Coordinator responsibilities authorized by Wis. Stat. § 59.19, and advertise for a County Manager, conduct interviews of applicants, and recommend an applicant for appointment, with appointment to be made by the County Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors, County Board Chair, County Board Vice Chair, and County Clerk are hereby authorized to take necessary actions consistent with the terms of this Resolution.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4012 made by Lauer, seconded by Hanson. All yes, carried.

**15. Future Agenda Items/Next Meeting Date:**

No agenda items noted and next meeting will be last Tuesday in May.

**16. Adjournment:**

Youngs adjourned the meeting at 6:49pm.

Approved: May 27, 2025

Respectfully submitted,  
Christan Brandt, Iron County Clerk