

IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2025
Approved

1. Meeting called to order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Youngs.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge was recited.

3. Roll Call:

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

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

The clerk certified the meeting was properly noticed.

5. Approve Agenda:

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

6. Approve minutes of April 22, 2025 as presented:

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

7. Communications:

The clerk noted that she has been working on the county's auto insurance to update the list as it has not been updated in years and we have items that were never added and some that were never omitted. We have completed the new voucher process, and it will be discussed at the next department head meeting along with some other procedures such as resolutions.

8. Committee and Chairman's Report:

Mullard noted that the fair is coming along and will be open Friday to Sunday.

Haeger noted that LCC/Recycle has an electronics collection coming up on July 12th from 8am to 11am in Hurley and 12:30 to 3:30 in Mercer.

Swartz noted that the piano is finally out of the Memorial building, and they are working on getting an aluminum ramp and they need to take some trees out.

Hanson noted that zoning hired someone to take Jerry's place next month. The airport meeting the VP of Denver Air attended.

Erickson noted that in Forestry stumpage is at \$579,765 which is around \$28 thousand more than last year. They also have a timber sale on June 5th.

Lauer noted that Human Service met with BART to discuss working with them and got information on their programs. We are hoping to work with them and if everything comes together it would be around January of 2026. A cook was hired for the Mercer senior center.

Lutgen noted that UW Extension is in full swing with their camp season. Becky the office manager has been assisting us with our new website. Bill Thomas received an award for his 20 years of service with the extension.

Wolff noted that the deadline for the County Manager position is Friday and so far, we have 9 applicants. The Finance Committee will be meeting on June 2, 2025 to review them.

9. Administrative Coordinator Report:

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Lutgen noted that this is her 2nd to last report. The auditors were here and gone in 3 days and they also completed the State form A that is required to be submitted by a certain time. Lutgen also submitted the April County financial report for the board to review.

10. Public comment pursuant to Resolution #2341:

None

11. Hope Animal Shelter here to give overview:

Three members of Hope attended and spoke of the struggles of the shelter and an overview of what they do. They stated that in 2024 they had 488 animals, 161 were from Iron County and 371 were from Gogebic County.

12. Discuss/Accept Forestry 2024 Annual Report:

Motion to accept Forestry annual report made by Thomas, seconded by Loreti. All yes, carried.

13. Discuss/Accept Land and Water Conservation 2024 Accomplishments/Report:

Motion to accept Land and Water report made by Thomas, seconded by Hanson. All yes, carried.

14. Discuss/Accept Department of Human Services 2024 Annual Report:

Motion to accept the Department of Humans Service report made by Lauer, seconded by Thomas. All yes, carried.

15. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4013 Adopting the Updated Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Iron County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan meets the local plan required criteria outlined in 44CFR PART 201.

WHEREAS the Iron County Board of Supervisors recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within Iron County; and

WHEREAS the Iron County has prepared a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, hereby known as the 2025 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in Iron County from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS adoption by the Iron County Board of Supervisors demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, THAT:

Section 1. In accordance with local rules for adopting resolutions, the Iron County Board of Supervisors adopts the updated Iron County Multi- Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan. While content related to Iron County may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require Iron County to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan will require separate adoption resolutions.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4013 made by Hanson, seconded by Thomas. All yes, carried.

16. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4014 Sale of County Owned Property STH 77 Project with WisDOT

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

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WHEREAS, Iron County owns a parcel of land whose address is 7796W Jefferson St/STH 77 within the community of Iron Belt which was acquired by tax deed with parcel #010-1045-0100; and
WHEREAS, the parcel is described as Parcel 2 of the Transportation Project Plat 9250-14-21-4.01 recorded as Document No. 177008, recorded in Iron County, Wisconsin; and
WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is planning a Highway Safety Project within this area and is requiring the acquisition of an additional 213 square feet of permanent Right-of-Way and 793 square feet of temporary workspace for the project; and
WHEREAS, WisDOT has offered the standard appraisal rates for these types of transactions of \$1.20 per square foot for acquisition and \$0.21 per square foot for Temporary Workspace; and
WHEREAS, WisDOT has a minimum value for project payment and has rounded the offer up to the \$500.00 minimum.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the sale of 213 square feet of County-owned property and the use of 793 square feet of Temporary Workspace for the WisDOT project 9250-14-21 STH 77 Project under the terms described above.
Motion to approve Resolution 2025-4014 made by Erickson, seconded by Mullard. All yes, carried.

17. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4015 Support for Increasing Base Funding for County Conservation Staffing to \$20.2 Million:

WHEREAS, County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD) staff are relied upon to carry out a range of Wisconsin's state agricultural and resource management programs that reduce non-point pollution, preserve farmland, protect waterfront property, reclaim non-metallic mines, limit aquatic invasive species control, manage forests, and reduce floods; and,
WHEREAS, LWCDs assist Wisconsin's farmers in many ways, including supporting producer-led watershed groups, developing nutrient management plans, engineering manure storage and transfer systems, and applying conservation practices that promote soil health and build profitability; and,
WHEREAS, the shared conservation work of LWCD professionals and landowners has major water quality benefits, including preventing soil erosion, protecting drinking water supply, increasing rainwater infiltration into groundwater aquifers, and restoring native habitat; and,
WHEREAS, LWCD experts are trusted, technical advisors that consult with landowners to understand their land management goals and then propose customized solutions that includes project planning and contracting, engineering, quality control, and securing of cost-share funding to reduce project expenses to; and,
WHEREAS, building a partnership based on trust and understanding with farmer and landowner clients cannot happen instantly, but rather, requires a sustained commitment over time from LWCD professionals; and,
WHEREAS, LWCDs leverage cost-share funding from federal and private sources, providing a 2:1 return on the state investment, and spurring local economic growth in industries including agriculture, construction, tourism, forestry, and recreation; and,
WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin codifies LWCDs' role in carrying out state conservation standards via Wis. Stats Chap. 92, defining a goal that the State fund staff positions in every LWCD at 100% of the first, 70% of the second, and 50% of each additional staff position; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has not ensured baseline support of LWCDs by meeting this funding goal since its inception, and in the 18-year period from 2006 to 2024, base funding relative to LWCD staffing needs decreased by 24%.

WHEREAS, supporting county LWCDs is a widely supported priority supported by conservation, environmental and local government groups alike; and,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Iron County, does hereby urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to strengthen the viability of the State's County Land and Water Conservation Staffing program by increasing base funding for the program by \$11,035,900 on an annual basis to a total of \$20.2 million annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution be sent to WI Land & Water Conservation Association, all State Legislators, the Governor, DATCP Secretary, DNR Secretary, DOA Secretary, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Wisconsin Towns Association.

Motion made to approve Resolution 2025-4015 made by Thomas, seconded by Haeger. All yes, carried.

18. Discuss/Action Resolution 2025-4016 Memorandum Agreement Lateral Entry Program

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2024, the Iron County Board of Supervisors ratified the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Iron County and the Iron County Deputy Sheriff's Association, covering January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2025, the Iron County Law Enforcement Committee ratified Attachment A: Memorandum of Agreement (Lateral Entry Program) as an Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Iron County and the Iron County Deputy Sheriff's Association, covering January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2025, the Iron County Finance Committee ratified this Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

WHEREAS, this Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement has been ratified by the Deputies' Association; and

WHEREAS, this Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement takes into account recruitment challenges and recent changes in the labor market for law enforcement officers, such as other counties offering lateral transfer benefits, including additional sick and vacation leave benefits, to qualified, experienced Iron County deputy sheriff applicants; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds remain in the 2025 budget to cover the costs associated with this Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

WHEREAS, ratification of this Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement will position the County well with respect to the recruitment and retention of deputies in the Sheriff's Office, while providing fair compensation and benefits to those officers, and is in the best interests of Iron County; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Law Enforcement and Finance Committees now submit this resolution to the Iron County Board for ratification; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Iron County Board of Supervisors that it ratifies Attachment A: Memorandum of Agreement (Lateral Entry Program) as an Addendum to the Agreement between Iron County and the Iron County Deputy Sheriff's Association Covering January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027; and

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

Motion made to approve Resolution 2025-4016 made by Thomas, seconded by Francis. All yes, carried.

19. Closed Session per WI State Statute 19.85 (1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session: (Consideration of Land Purchase AND Land Sale):

Motion to go into closed session at 7:14pm made by Thomas, seconded by Mullard. Roll call taken. All yes, carried.

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20. Return to open session to report any possible action on closed session items:

Motion to return to open session at 7:48pm made by Lauer, seconded by Boes. Roll call taken. All yes, carried.

No action taken.

21. Future Agenda Items/Next Meeting Date: Next meeting June 24, 2025 at 6:00pm.

22. Adjournment:

Youngs adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm.

Approved: June 24,2025

Respectfully submitted:
Christan Brandt, Iron County Clerk