

IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Special Meeting Minutes for July 9, 2025.
Approved

- 1. Meeting called to order:**
Youngs called the meeting to order at 6:00pm in the County Board Room.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:**
The Pledge was recited.
- 3. Roll Call:**
Roll taken: Lauer, Lutgen, Hiller, Wolff, Mullard, Loreti, Francis, Youngs, Thomas, Haeger, Swartz, Krall, Erickson. Absent Hanson and Boes.
- 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 Lutgen, seconded by Mullard.
- 6. Communications:**
Youngs noted the Iron County Miner has an event on the 27th for anyone who would like to attend.
- 7. Chairman's Report:**
Youngs stated that he met with the Department Heads, and they felt that they could do the budget on their own and that they do not feel we need two people. The department heads felt that they had gained knowledge in the last 6 months.
- 8. Administrative Coordinator's Report:**
Youngs noted that he has been doing this for about 10 days, but he has not done this alone, the whole board has been helping him through.
- 9. Public comment pursuant to Resolution #2341:**
Mullard stated that he is against hiring two people and that we should wait 6 months to see if we can do this ourselves or at least wait on the Finance Director position. Carrie from the Sheriff's Department asked about the wage and benefit study as she felt that this should be packaged together when reviewing. She also noted that if they mess with the benefits too much, they will not get anyone to apply for jobs that they already struggle to fill.
- 10. Discussion/Action on County Benefits Study:**
Sandy and Jordan with Cottingham and Butler reviewed the findings of the study they did for Iron County. They concluded with the recommendations to Introduce plan choice, adjust premium contributions and plan design, enhance non-medical offerings, evaluate PTO structure, promote financial wellness and engage a benefit consultant.
- 11. Discussion/Action on Additional Iron County Corporation Counsel:**
Youngs noted that Muskett is doing a great job, but he is not a Governmental Attorney and that sometimes he will have conflicts, and we would need someone else to represent us. Motion to approve hiring Clark & Clark Law Office made by Lauer, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.

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12. Discussion/Action on Resolution 2025-4021 Authorizing Iron County to enter into Settlement Agreement with Sandoz Inc. and Agree to Terms Allocating Settlement Agreement Proceeds.

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, June 24, 2025 Interim Administrative Coordinator Roxanne Lutgen was notified, by email, from the Directing Administrator National Opioid Settlements, BrownGreer PLC, that Sandoz, Inc., had entered into an agreement-in-principle with Litigating Subdivisions and Litigating Tribes to establish a \$99,500,000.00 settlement fund to resolve pending opioid-related litigation, and

WHEREAS, To Participate in the Sandoz Settlement Program, your Subdivision (Iron County) must complete a participation form by September 30, 2025, and

WHEREAS, Iron County has participated in previous National Opioid Settlement Cases, and the funds are to be used solely for opioid remediation and abatement, and

WHEREAS, Information on expected payment amounts will be available through the Beneficiary Portal of the National Opioids Settlement website, with payments expected to begin in 2026, and

WHEREAS, The Subdivision Participation Form is attached to this Resolution as Addendum A, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That with passage of this resolution, the Iron County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize the County Administrator to complete and submit the Sandoz, Inc., Subdivision Participation Form, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that publication of this resolution may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and

BE IT FURTHER 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 2025-4021 made by Lauer, seconded by Francis. All yes, carried.

13. Discussion/Action on Resolution 2025-4022 Approving and Advertising the Position of Finance Director.

The County Board of Supervisors of Iron County, Iron County, Wisconsin, duly assembled at a special meeting on this 9th day of July 2025, does resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, Iron County tasks the County Manager as Chief Administrative Officer pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 59.19, which includes responsibility for oversight of all financial aspects of the County; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2024, and again on June 26, 2025, the Finance Committee discussed growing complexities of County government and reliance for the past 1.5 years on full-time work of two County Board members with Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designations and Finance, Human Resources, and Administrative expertise to manage or assist in managing County affairs; and

WHEREAS, in its current state, Iron County has a complex financial status that requires the professional skills of an experienced individual with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or a CPA (preferred) to assist the County Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Director will perform the following duties for the County, which include but are not limited to: budgeting, financial reporting, reconciliations, forecasting, tax levy preparation, financial analysis, audit coordination, year-end journal entries, establishing internal controls, state report preparation, insurance evaluation, and payroll and benefit administration; and

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WHEREAS, Iron County requires a Finance Director with knowledge of generally accepted auditing standards and applicable state regulations to coordinate the year-end audit, prepare required reports, record year-end journal entries, and establish internal controls that safeguard county assets; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Director will work in conjunction with the County Manager to improve the County's financial policies and practices through centralized financial management, streamlined workflow, oversight of daily, monthly, and annual financial activities, long- and short-term planning, budgeting, and forecasting, strategic capital asset and fund management; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has the responsibility to ensure that the County follows generally accepted accounting practices, state regulations, and good fiduciary stewardship principles for the residents of Iron County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors approve the addition of a full-time Finance Director position reporting directly to the County Manager and the Finance Committee; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors approve the Finance Director job description (Addendum A), and advertise for a Finance Director, conduct interviews of applicants, and recommend an applicant for appointment, with appointment to be made by the County Board; and

FURTHER, 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 2025-4022 made by Hiller, seconded by Loreti. Roll call Vote yes Loreti, Francis, Krall, Lauer, Lutgen, Hiller, Wolff; no Mullard, Youngs, Thomas, Haeger, Swartz, Erickson.

Motion Carried. 7yes-6 no.

14. 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 (County Manager).

Motion to go into closed session at 7:24pm made by Mullard, seconded by Swartz. Roll call. All yes, carried.

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

Motion to return to open session at 7:49 made by Erickson, seconded by Loreti. Roll call taken. All yes, carried.

Motion to hire Jay Sween made by Lauer, seconded by Loreti. Roll call 12 yes, and 1 no (Mullard). Motion carried.

16. Adjournment:

Youngs adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm.

Approved: July 29, 2025

Christan Brandt
Iron County Clerk