

**LANGLADE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC HEARING AND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LANGLADE COUNTY BOARD – OCTOBER 28, 2024
COUNTY BOARD ROOM, SAFETY BUILDING, 840 CLERMONT STREET, ANTIGO, WI 54409**

Chairman Pierce called the October 28, 2024, Monthly Meeting of the County Board to order at 5:35 p.m. On call of the roll, 19 Supervisors were present, and 2 were absent. Absent: Supervisors Bauknecht and W. Wagner. Motion by Supervisor J. Wagner, second by Supervisor Wickersheim to excuse Supervisors Bauknecht and W. Wagner. All ayes, motion carried. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence.

Citizens and Delegations, Recognize others in Attendance: Chairman Pierce welcomed all attending tonight's meeting, recognizing the large turnout.

Approve or Amend the Agenda: Motion by Supervisor Balcerzak, second by Supervisor Haatvedt to approve the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

Approve or Amend the Minutes of the September 30, 2024 meeting as printed: Motion by Supervisor Haatvedt, second by Supervisor Baumgartner to approve the September 30, 2024 Meeting Minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

Recognition of County Employees: Milestones: Mary Lex, Veterans Services, 20 years; Stephanie Waldvogel, Health and Social Services, 25 years. Retirements/Resignations: Kristin Hetto, Health Admin Assistant, 1 year; Kendall Kuenzli, Community Health Specialist, 2 years. New Hires/Promotions/Transfers: Jennifer Neuman, Economic Support Specialist; Nick Novy, Deputy Highway Commissioner; Rhonda Sterman, Child Support Financial Program Assistant; Patrick Baker, Highway Department Worker.

Old Business: There is no Old Business for the Board to address at this meeting.

New Business: There is no New Business for the Board to address at this meeting.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Supervisor Haatvedt, second by Supervisor Balcerzak to approve the Consent Agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION #13-2024

INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE/LAND SALES COMMITTEE

INTENT: TAKE TAX TITLE TO DELINQUENT TAX LANDS FOR 2021 TAX YEAR

WHEREAS, Tax Deed notices are being sent out to property owners with 2021 delinquent taxes, allowing them three months to pay in full, including interest;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors approve that the County Clerk take Tax Title to delinquent tax properties that remain unpaid from the year 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LAND SALES COMMITTEE:

Ben Pierce, Chairman
Steve Maier
John Medo
Bruce McDougal
Andrew Bauknecht
Todd Mayr
Justin Sorano

FISCAL NOTE: When the County takes tax deed to the properties, there will be costs associated due to the delinquent taxes. The County will bear these costs until such time as the properties are sold.

Ordinances:

ORD #9-2024Z Request for Zone Change Town of Polar

The Langlade County Board of Supervisors do hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: That the lands described as PT NE NE Sec 9 T31N R12E being a 3-acre building site (Parcel # 022-0129), Town of Polar.

Now comprising a part of the A-2 w/ Farmland Preservation District is hereby rezoned into the AFR District.

SECTION 2: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its date of adoption.

ADOPTED: October 28, 2024

APPROVED: Ben Pierce
County Board Chairman

ATTEST: Judy Nagel
Langlade County Clerk

ORD #10-2024Z Request for Zone Change Town of Norwood

The Langlade County Board of Supervisors do hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: That the lands described as PT SW NW Sec 20 T30N R12E being a 2-acre building site (Parcel # 016-0308), Town of Norwood.

Now comprising a part of the A-2 w/ Farmland Preservation District is hereby rezoned into the AFR District.

SECTION 2: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its date of adoption.

ADOPTED: October 28, 2024

APPROVED: Ben Pierce
County Board Chairman

ATTEST: Judy Nagel
Langlade County Clerk

ORD #11-2024Z Request for Zone Change Town of Norwood

The Langlade County Board of Supervisors do hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: That the lands described as PT of the W1/2 of Sec 33 T30N R12E (Parcel # 016-0512.004), Town of Norwood, will be used for employee housing.

Now comprising a part of the R-1 w/farmland Preservation District is hereby rezoned into the A-1 w/ Farmland Preservation District.

SECTION 2: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its date of adoption.

ADOPTED: October 28, 2024

APPROVED: Ben Pierce
County Board Chairman

ATTEST: Judy Nagel
Langlade County Clerk

At 5:45 P.M. OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET

Review and discuss the Proposed Budget for the Year 2025: Motion by Supervisor Haatvedt, second by Supervisor J. Wagner to open the Public Hearing at 5:48 p.m. regarding the proposed 2025 Budget. The Notice of Public Hearing regarding the 2025 Budget was posted in three public places along with the notice on the County Website. Sheriff Westen requested to speak on the proposed 2025 Budget. Sheriff Westen requested County Board hear the budget proposal he presented in July 2024 to the County Administrator. County Administrator Hilger addressed the Public and Board regarding the 2025 Budget, explaining the 2025 Budget Highlights. County Administrator Hilger noted the mill rate decreased from 4.941 to 4.586, as a result, taxpayers will pay \$35.56 less taxes on a \$100,000 property valuation. County Administrator Hilger also discussed working with the Wisconsin Counties Association and the State of Wisconsin to provide additional funding for specific items such as out-of-home placements, conservation department staffing, additional Judges, District Attorneys and Public Defenders, and other unfunded State mandates.

Public Comment: Jolene Hartman questioned the effects of a \$2 an hour for some employees.

Motion by Supervisor Curler, second by Supervisor J. Wagner to hear what the Sheriff's proposal was that he presented back in July to the County Administrator. County Administrator Hilger stated the request was a \$3 per hour raise, 40 hours of PTO upon hire, and create a pay grade specifically for the Dispatchers and Corrections. Sheriff Westen responded. Discussions were held by several Supervisors regarding the Sheriff's proposal and the proposed budget. Supervisor Dieck discusses percent increases (COLA) versus a set amount for the employees. Sheriff Westen thanked the Board. Corporation Counsel Stowe stated the borrowing resolution adoption requires a three-quarters vote and the budget resolution requires a simple majority, and future changes to the budget requires a two-thirds vote.

On the Call of the Roll regarding the motion: The motion was made by Supervisor Curler, seconded by Supervisor J. Wagner, to hear what the Sheriff's proposal was that he presented back in July to the County Administrator. By the Body, the purpose of the motion is fulfilled, no vote.

Close the Public Hearing: Motion by Supervisor Dieck, second by Supervisor McDougal to close the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION #14-2024

INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

INTENT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GENERAL OBLIGATION PROMISSORY NOTE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,400,000

WHEREAS, in order to fund priority capital improvement projects while maintaining the tax rate (“mill rate”), the Committee and County Administrator recommend short-term borrowing not to exceed \$2,400,000 with an anticipated receipt and repayment schedule as follows:

Monday, 12/2/2024 close (funds wired to County),

Wednesday, 1/15/2025 first eligible call date (the loan could be paid off on or after this date),

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of the General Obligation Promissory Note will be attached to this resolution and incorporated by reference herein.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by a three-fourths (3/4) of the County Board of Supervisors of Langlade County, Wisconsin, that there shall be issued, pursuant to Section 67.12(12), Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation promissory notes in an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000 at an interest rate per annum of 4.50% (four and one-half%) for the public purpose of financing Fiscal Year 2025 capital improvement projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the purpose(s) hereinabove, pursuant to Section 67.12(12), Wisconsin Statutes, that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors in session on October 28, 2024 approves to borrow from Peshtigo National Bank, (“Lender”), from time to time, in one or more advances, a maximum aggregate amount of up to \$2,400,000 or, if less, the aggregate principal amount of all advances as may be required to meet the above – stated purpose(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the County Board, the County Clerk, and the County Administrator are authorized to execute any documents necessary to enter into the General Obligation Promissory Note as stated herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there be, and there hereby is, levied on all the taxable property of the County, a direct annual irrevocable tax sufficient in amount to pay the principal and interest on said note as the same becomes due and payable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there be and there hereby is established in the treasury of the County, if one has not already been established, a debt service fund, separate and distinct from every other fund, which shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Ben Pierce, Chairman

Steve Maier

John Medo

Bruce McDougal

Andrew Bauknecht

Todd Mayr

Justin Sorano

FISCAL NOTE: Borrowing \$2.4 Million at 4.5%. Cost of borrowing estimated: \$13,500. Note due: January 15, 2025.

Motion by Supervisor Balcerzak, second by Supervisor Bardo to adopt RS #14-2024. Roll Call Vote: All ayes. Absent: Supervisors W. Wagner, and Bauknecht. 19 ayes, and 2 absent. RS #14-2024 is adopted.

RESOLUTION #15-2024

INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

INTENT: APPROVE THE 2025 BUDGET AND 2024 TAX LEVY FOR LANGLADE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Administrative Committee has reviewed the Budget presented by the County Administrator in accordance with the Statutes of the State of Wisconsin, including but not limited to: Section 65.90 (municipal budgets) and Section 66.0602 (local levy limits); and

WHEREAS, the Langlade County Board has completed its review, revision, and adoption of the 2025 Budget for Langlade County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by a majority vote of the membership, that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors approves the 2025 budget, for Langlade County, Wisconsin, and the 2024 tax levy against all of the taxable property in Langlade County as equalized for the year 2024 in the following amounts:

1. There is levied upon the taxable property of Langlade County the sum of for debt service, all bonds, and notes legally required:	\$ 2,400,000
2. There is levied upon the taxable property of Langlade County the sum of:	<u>9,584,042</u>
Total County Tax:	11,984,042
3. Library Aid (WI Stat 43.12):	12,000
4. County Bridge Aid (WI Stat 82.08):	<u>15,000</u>
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL TAXES:	\$ 12,011,042
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2024 Langlade County Budget is incorporated by reference herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the amounts of the various appropriations and the purposes for such appropriations stated in the 2025 Budget may not be changed unless authorized by reference in the Budget or unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the County Board membership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this budget shall comply with all state rules and regulations, and should the final calculations create a noncompliant budget, it is therefore authorized that the County Board Chairman make the adjustments to correct the unanticipated error.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

- Ben Pierce, Chairman
- Steve Maier
- John Medo
- Bruce McDougal
- Andrew Bauknecht
- Todd Mayr
- Justin Sorano

FISCAL NOTE: The mill rate decreased by 7.2% (0.36) from 4.941 to 4.586. Tax levy increase 1.07% (\$127,391).

Motion by Supervisor Medo, second by Supervisor McDougal to adopt RS #15-2024. Roll Call Vote: Supervisors Baumgartner, Dieck, Mayr, Bardo, J. Wagner, Below, Balcerzak, Poltrock, Zagar, Sorano, McDougal, Bina, Buck, Pierce, Wickersheim, Medo, and Maier vote aye. Supervisors Haatvedt and Curler voted nay. Absent: Supervisors W. Wagner and Bauknecht. 17 ayes, 2 nays, and 2 absent. RS #15-2024 is adopted.

RESOLUTION #16-2024

INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

INTENT: ENDORSEMENT OF BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROJECT FOR BERTRAM COMMUNICATIONS TO INCLUDE BROADBAND EXPANSION TO ALL ELIGIBLE BROADBAND SERVICE LOCATIONS WITHIN LANGLADE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Improved internet access is necessary to Langlade County businesses and citizens in the areas of economic development, medical care, education, communication, entertainment, and other future uses; and

WHEREAS, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program will provide funding to deploy or upgrade broadband networks to ensure that everyone has access to reliable, affordable, high-speed Internet service. Once deployment goals are met, any remaining funding can be used to pursue eligible access, adoption, and equity-related uses; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin will receive \$1,055,823,573.71 in BEAD funding to distribute to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) within the State; and

WHEREAS, under BEAD developed research, significant portions of Langlade County are below average in speed, adoption, and capacity compared to the rest of Wisconsin, the Nation, and our worldwide competitors placing the County with a high potential of project funding; and

WHEREAS, Langlade County in 2022 established the Broadband Commission with a mission to “Expand broadband infrastructure including fiber optic cable and tower broadcasting to maximize coverage and provide affordable service opportunities throughout Langlade County”; and

WHEREAS, the BEAD program defines affordability and service speed requirements at a minimum speed of 100/20 for grant requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Broadband Commission has completed and developed a plan as required for Internet Service Providers to apply for BEAD funding; and

WHEREAS, the Langlade County Broadband Commission has established a system that scores and prioritizes project proposals for local Community Support; and

WHEREAS, the Langlade County Broadband Commission has a scoring system provides higher scoring for Town Halls, Fire and Rescue Depts. as Critical Emergency locations that require Broadband Fiber in Langlade County; and

WHEREAS, although Langlade County will not be a broadband provider through the Broadband Commission, it will work to facilitate broadband build-out and improvements by reputable Internet Service Providers; and

WHEREAS, Bertram Communications has existing internet service infrastructure located within Langlade County; and

WHEREAS, under Langlade County standard practice, Internet Service Providers (ISP) must submit an Assistance Request Form through the Langlade County Broadband Commission to be eligible for County support of projects; and

WHEREAS, Bertram Communications is seeking County Board endorsement for a BEAD project, meeting grant requirements, to all 3,438 eligible BEAD eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL) within Langlade County, as depicted in the attached map; and

WHEREAS, the Langlade County Broadband Commission, in an open public meeting on October 14, 2024, reviewed the Bertram Communications proposal and by a majority vote of the Commission approved the submission of this resolution of endorsement to the County Administrative Committee for consideration; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors endorses Bertram Communication’s application for BEAD funding to provide improved fiber optic and mixed technology internet service meeting BEAD performance requirements to all 3,438 eligible BEAD eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL) within Langlade County, as depicted in the attached map.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors directs its clerk to draft and provide a copy of this approved resolution and minutes of this meeting to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and Bertram Communications verifying the applicant and geographic location affected.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

- Ben Pierce, Chairman
- John Medo
- Bruce McDougal
- Steve Maier
- Todd Mayr
- Andrew Bauknecht
- Justin Sorano

Fiscal Note: Langlade County Internet Service Providers have the potential of acquiring grant funding in excess of \$10,000,000 to establish Broadband equity to unserved and underserved residents and businesses in Langlade County and provide access and deployment of Broadband Services to those residents. Broadband Services are critical infrastructure required for the growth and maintenance of the populations and businesses in Langlade County.

Motion by Supervisor Haatvedt, second by Supervisor Maier to adopt RS #16-2024. Economic Development Director Close discussed the endorsement process, which is not exclusive to Bertram. Voice vote: All ayes. Absent: Supervisors W. Wagner and Bauknecht. 19 ayes, and 2 absent. RS #16-2024 is adopted.

Committee Referrals: Reports/Referral of any matters to committees having proper jurisdiction with no discussion or action taken: Supervisor Curler provided information to the Board on the Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council. Supervisor Curler also read a list of the applicants who applied for funding from the Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council. Supervisor Medo discussed the WCA Learning session regarding the Wisconsin Workforce, discussing the aging population and the continued decrease in population for 15-year-olds and younger in Wisconsin.

County Administrator’s Report: County Administrator Hilger stated the County is on task with the 2024 Budget, with a few vacant positions. Hilger thanked the Board for the support of the 2025 Budget.

Any other business that may lawfully come before the Board: Next County Board meeting is November 18, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. Supervisors that attended the WCA 2024 Conference should be prepared to present one of the sessions that they attended.

Adjournment:

Motion by Supervisor Haatvedt, second by Supervisor Mayr to adjourn the October 28, 2024, County Board Meeting at 7:10 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

I, Judy Nagel, Langlade County Clerk, Antigo, Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the Langlade County Board of Supervisors Public Hearing and Monthly Meeting of October 28, 2024. Note: These minutes are not official until they are approved by the County Board at their next meeting. A complete copy of the minutes is available in the County Clerk’s Office.

Dated this 31st day of October 2024. Judy Nagel
Langlade County Clerk
