

**LANGLADE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY MEETING OF THE LANGLADE COUNTY BOARD – DECEMBER 16, 2024
COUNTY BOARD ROOM, SAFETY BUILDING, 840 CLERMONT STREET, ANTIGO, WI 54409**

Chairman Pierce called the December 16, 2024, Monthly Meeting of the County Board to order at 5:35 p.m. On call of the roll, 18 Supervisors were present, and 3 were absent. Absent: Supervisors Baumgartner, Zagar and Below. Motion by Supervisor Maier, second by Supervisor Balcerzak to excuse Supervisors Baumgartner, Zagar, and Below. All ayes, motion carried. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence in dedication to the school shooting in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Board and those in attendance were invited to partake in a Holiday meal.

Citizens and Delegations, Recognize others in Attendance: Chairman Pierce welcomed those in attendance for tonight's meeting.

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

Approve or Amend the Minutes of the November 18, 2024 meeting as printed: Motion by Supervisor W. Wagner, second by Supervisor J. Wagner to approve the November 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

Recognition of County Employees: Milestones: John Zenkovich, Director of Health and Social Services, 10 years. Jolene Hartman, Dispatch Supervisor, 10 years. Jason Thom, Patrol Superintendent, 25 years. Retirements/Resignations: Amber Resch, Economic Support, 3 years. New Hires/Promotions/Transfers: Alec Tennesen, Health and Social Services Community Health Specialist.

Correspondence: No correspondence for the Board this month.

Old Business:

Review the 2024 Draft County Board Rules, Revise, and Adopt: Chairman Pierce stated That this Board has reviewed the county Board rules up to 8.1.

Supervisor Curler requests discussion on Rule 4.2: Any written communication addressed to the County Board shall identify the source ~~of~~ and author, and a copy shall be provided to the County Clerk.

County Board Rules: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, and 8.4 no changes.

County Board Rule: 9.1 no changes.

County Board Rule: 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5 and 10.6 no changes.

County Board Rule: 11.1 Supervisor Haatvedt proposed changing the County Board Chairman's salary, currently at \$7500 plus COLA change to \$200 per month, \$2400 annually. Discussion held. Motion by Supervisor Balcerzak, second by Supervisor Dieck to leave the County Board Chairman's salary at \$7500 plus COLA. Discussion held. Supervisor Haatvedt did not receive a second to his suggestion, therefore no action is needed to change the annual salary of the County Board Chairman. Supervisors Balcerzak and Dieck rescind their motion.

County Board Rules: 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5 no changes.

County Board Rules: 12.1 and 12.2 no changes.

Committees and Appointments: Supervisor Dieck motions to restore the Finance Committee as a standing committee with such duties as setting the annual budget according to a structured system approved by the Administrative Committee. The Finance Committee would administer all approved changes in the Board Policy and prepare the documents for publication and distribution, second by Supervisor Balcerzak. Discussion held on budget preparation, Wis. Stats. 59.18 duties and responsibilities, and communication. Motion by Supervisor Persen to table restoring the Finance Committee. Discussion held. Supervisor Balcerzak rescinds his second. Supervisor Dieck rescinds his motion.

County Board Rule: 13.1 Supervisor Medo motions to remove “.....except the Highway Committee...”, second by Supervisor Bina. Supervisor Haatvedt motions to amend the motion to: 13.1 remove “except the Highway Committee...”, remove Rule 13.4, and remove Rule 13.7, Supervisor Maier seconds the amendment. Voice vote to the Amended Motion: All ayes. Changes to County Board Rules 13.1 remove “except the Highway Committee”, remove 13.4, and remove 13.7.

County Board Rule: 13.1 Supervisor Medo motions, Supervisor Mayr seconds to change the last sentence in Board Rule 13.1: The Board Chairman or the Committee Chairman shall have the authority to appoint another member of the County Board to the Committee on an as-needed basis to achieve a ~~quorum~~ full Committee to conduct business, with the change being remove quorum and replace with full Committee. Discussion held. Voice vote, Supervisors Dieck, Bardo, J. Wagner, Balcerzak, Poltrock, Bauknecht, Sorano, McDougal, Bina, W. Wagner, Buck, Pierce, Wickersheim, Medo, Curler and Maier voted aye. Supervisors Haatvedt and Mayr voted nay. 16 ayes, 2 nays, and 3 absent. Rule 13.1 replace quorum with full Committee.

County Board Rule: 13.2, 13.3 no changes.

County Board Rule: 13.4, remove.

County Board Rule: 13.5 Motion by Supervisor Maier, second by Supervisor Medo to remove the word three, and remove other than Highway Committee in the second sentence. Voice vote: All ayes. Changes to 13.5 will be made.

County Board Rule: 13.6 no changes.

County Board Rule: 13.7 remove.

County Board Rule: 13.8 no changes.

County Board Rule: 13.9 no changes.

County Board Rule: 14.1 Committee Membership: proposed changes below:

Administrative to Administrative and Finance Committee

Agriculture and University Extension Education with Land Conservation and Solid Waste change to remove Land Conservation and Solid Waste, putting that with Water and Land Use Planning Committee

Board of Health with Veterans’ Service, remove Veterans’ Service from Board of Health and put with Social Services.

Highway and Airport: Highway all 5 members elected by the full Board, changed to Highway and Airport, 5 members, with the majority from rural areas

Forestry and Recreation: no change

Public Property: no change

Public Safety: no change

Social Services: change to Social Services and Veterans’ Service Committee

Water and Land Use Planning: change to Water and Land Use and Land Conservation and Solid Waste

Add: Land Information Council to the list of Committees.

Motion by Supervisor Sorano, second by Supervisor Haatvedt to approve the changes above. Supervisor Sorano amends the motion to change the Personnel Committee: change to the Personnel and Health Insurance Trustees Committee, Supervisor Haatvedt agrees to the amendment. Voice Vote: all ayes, motion carried. Changes to County Board Rules 14.1 will be made as listed above.

Motion by Supervisor Maier, second by Supervisor J. Wagner to excuse Supervisor Haatvedt at 7:30 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Changes to the Duties of Committees: headings, as listed above, changes will be made in Rules 15.1.

County Board Rule 15.1.1: Add oversight of the Corporation Counsel Office.

County Board Rule 15.1.12 move this to the Personnel and Health Insurance Trustees Committee.

County Board Rule 15.1 Highway Airport: Airport 2: add “County”

Motion by Supervisor McDougal, second by Supervisor Bardo to approve the changes in County Board Rule 15.1 as listed above. All ayes, motion carried. Changes to 15.1 will be made.

County Board Rule 16.1 no changes

County Board Rule 16.2 no changes.

County Board Rule 16.3 Motion by Supervisor Medo, second by Supervisor Sorano to change ...value of \$500, change to value of \$1000. All ayes, motion carried.

County Board Rules 17.1 and 17.2 no change.

The Board agreed to take formal action on all County Board Rules, including locking in Rule 18.1, at the January County Board meeting.

New Business: (New Business was handled before Old Business)

Acknowledge the resignation of Chris Below, District 7 County Board Supervisor: Clerk Nagel read the letter from Supervisor Below, dated December 14, 2024, formally resigning as District 7 County Board Supervisor. Supervisor Haatvedt referenced County Board Rule 13.8: In the event of a vacancy on the County Board, the following process will be used to fill the vacant seat: 1) a notice of the vacancy will be published at least once in the Antigo Daily Journal or posted explaining the process for a qualified elector to apply for the vacancy; 2) a notice of the vacancy will be sent to the municipal clerk(s) of the electoral district(s) for posting at a public place within the township; 3) the applicants will be screened by the County Board Chairman; 4) the Board Chairman shall make an appointment of the candidates; 5) a majority vote of the County Board is required to confirm the appointment to the vacant seat for the remainder of the term. Supervisor Haatvedt discussed giving the electorate the opportunity to express an interest. Supervisor Curler refers to Corporation Counsel Stowe to make a ruling on following County Board Rule 13.8. Corporation Counsel Stowe reviewed Wis. State Statute makes it clear that the Chairman of the Board brings forth a name and the Board must confirm the appointment, County Board Rules have not been locked in yet, and 13.8 can formally be waived by the Board. Motion by Supervisor Balcerzak, second by Supervisor McDougal to waive the rules for this agenda item. Roll Call Vote: Supervisors Dieck, Mayr, Bardo, J. Wagner, Balcerzak, Poltrock, Bauknecht, Sorano, McDougal, Bina, W. Wagner, Buck, Pierce, Wickersheim, Medo and Maier voted aye. Supervisors Haatvedt and Curler voted nay. 16 ayes, 2 nays, and 3 absent. Motion carried, County Board Rule 13.8 is waived.

Confirm the appointment of Dan Persen as District 7 County Board Supervisor, to complete the 2024-2026 Term: Motion by Supervisor Balcerzak, second by Supervisor Medo to confirm the appointment of Dan Persen as District 7 County Board Supervisor to complete the 2024-2026 Term. Roll Call Vote: Supervisors Dieck, Mayr, Bardo, J. Wagner, Balcerzak, Poltrock, Bauknecht, Sorano, McDougal, Bina, W. Wagner, Buck, Pierce, Wickersheim, Medo and Maier voted aye. Supervisors Haatvedt and Curler voted nay. 16 ayes, 2 nays, and 3 absent. Dan Persen is appointed to the County Board. Clerk Nagel gave Supervisor Persen the Oath of Office.

Presentation of Plaque recognizing Fred W. Kawalski, Attorney, Judge, and Court Commissioner: Fred W. Kawalski's presentation will be at the January 2025 meeting.

Consent Agenda: No Consent Agenda items.

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE #2-2024

Purpose: Amendments to this Ordinance are required to comply with recent legislative changes to Chapter 75 of Wisconsin Statutes, including Wisconsin Acts 219 and 207.

THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LANGLADE, pursuant to Section 59.03 and Section 75.35(3) of Wisconsin Statutes, does hereby ordain to amend Section 3.02 of the Langlade County Code of Ordinances, as follows:

3.02 SALE OF TAX-DELINQUENT LAND

(1) PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY

The purpose of this Section is to establish procedures for the sale of tax-delinquent real estate acquired by the County pursuant to Chapter 75, Wisconsin Statutes. This Section applies exclusively to the sale of tax-delinquent real estate acquired by Langlade County. *The County may initiate procedures to acquire tax deeds for tax delinquent real estate by the "Notice of Application for Tax Deed" process as set forth by Section 75.12, Wisconsin Statutes, or by "Foreclosure of Tax Liens by Action In Rem" as set forth by 75.521, Wisconsin Statutes.*

(a) Definitions:

"Beneficiary" is defined in Wis. Stat. § 851.03, and shall mean any person nominated in a will to receive an interest in property other than in a fiduciary capacity and can demonstrate such to the County Treasurer upon request.

"Heir" is defined Wis. Stat. § 851.09 and shall mean any person, including the surviving spouse, who is entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to an interest in property of a decedent and can demonstrate such to the County Treasurer upon request.

"Single Family, Owner-Occupied Property" shall mean any non-multiple residential unit that is used by one family who owns the property as their domicile (permanent and primary residence) and can demonstrate such to the County Treasurer upon request (i.e., utility bills). This term does not include rental properties, multiple-unit buildings (e.g., duplexes and condominiums with two or more units) or multiple-family units, nor does this term include any mixed-use building (e.g., a business being operated out of residence), structure, or installation that contains a residential unit.

"Tax-deeded land or property" shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Wis. Stat. § 75.35(1).

(2) LAND SALES COMMITTEE

The Land Sales Committee (hereinafter Committee) shall consist of the members of the Administrative and Finance Committee of the County Board, the County Clerk, and the County Treasurer, which Committee shall have the power and authority to manage and sell tax delinquent real estate pursuant to the provisions of this section. The Committee is authorized to sell or convey tax-deeded lands by any manner and upon such terms as authorized by law under Sections 75.35 and 75.69, Wis. Stats., including but not limited to advertising for sealed bids, public auction, and redemption by the former owner(s). Consistent with this authority, the Committee shall enact policies to be followed in the acquisition, management, and sale of tax-deeded land. The Committee shall have the authority to engage licensed real estate brokers and salespersons to assist in selling tax-deeded properties and pay a commission for such services and advertise land sales in such manner as the Committee deems proper.

Upon the acquisition of a tax-deeded land, the Committee shall determine the appraised value of the tax-deeded land. The appraised value determination may be made by the Committee based upon the valuation of the property for tax purposes and reducing the appraised value based on the current condition of the property.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT

The County Clerk shall present the County Board with a list of all lands sold, their appraised value, and the sales price at the end of each year. Each year, the County Clerk shall provide a report to the Committee listing all properties the County has refused to foreclose upon with a reason for such refusal. If a property is not acquired for any reason, the County Clerk shall notify the appropriate assessor and request that the value of such property be reduced.

(4) RIGHT TO REPURCHASE BY FORMER OWNER

(a) Right to repurchase by the former owner, beneficiary, or heir.

Prior to the sale of tax-delinquent single-family, owner-occupied properties, the former owner who lost his or her title through delinquent tax collection enforcement procedure, or his or her beneficiaries, or heirs, shall have the right to purchase such lands by paying the county for all costs and expenses incurred as provided under s. 75.36(3)(a), plus the amount of property taxes that would have been owed on the property for the year during which the purchase occurs if the county had not acquired the property and plus amounts to satisfy any other liens at the time of the foreclosure as provided in a Title Report furnished by the County Treasurer, including the county's costs associated with the repurchase.

(b) Request to repurchase properties by former owner.

Prior to the sale of any other properties not subject to subsection (b), the former owner who lost title to the property through delinquent tax collection enforcement may submit a request to repurchase said property to the Administrative and Finance Committee within 90 days of the date the County acquired the tax-deeded land. At its option, the Administrative and Finance Committee may grant the former owner's request to repurchase the property on the condition that the former owner provides proof of satisfaction of all liens of record as established in the title report within 30 days and pays the county for all costs and expenses incurred as provided under s. 75.36 (3) (a), plus the amount of property taxes that would have been owed on the property for the year during which the purchase occurred if the county had not acquired the property.

(5) RIGHT TO NET PROCEEDS OF SALE OF TAX DEED PROPERTY

The Treasurer shall notify the former owner, by registered mail or certified mail sent to the former owner's mailing address on the tax bill, that the former owner may be entitled to a share of the proceeds of a future sale of the tax-deeded land.

The Treasurer shall send to the owner any proceeds to which the former owner is entitled under Wis. Stat. § 75.36(2m)(a) by certified mail to the former owner's last known address. If the payment to the former owner is returned to the County or otherwise not claimed by the former owner within one year following the mailing of the proceeds, the payment shall be considered unclaimed funds and disposed of pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.66(2). Neither the former owner nor any person making a claim for any funds under this Section is entitled to interest on sums owed by the County hereunder.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall take effect its passage and publication.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LAND SALES COMMITTEE:

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

Clerk Nagel read the Purpose of the Ordinance. Motion by Supervisor J. Wagner, second by Supervisor Mair to adopt Ordinance #2-2024 Sale of Tax Delinquent Land Amendments. Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried.

Resolutions: No Resolutions this month.

Committee Referrals: Reports/Referral of any matters to committees having proper jurisdiction with no discussion or action taken: The County Administrator reported on behalf of Assistant Director Arrowood that the Comprehensive Plan Amendment has been certified by DATCP and Land & Water Resource Management Plan has been approved by the Land & Water Conservation Board.

County Administrator’s Report: County Administrator Hilger provided a written report before the meeting and reviewed the report with the Board and the public. The report is available from the County Administrator.

Any other business that may lawfully come before the Board: Supervisor Curler gave a written request to the Clerk: “For the December 2024, County Board Meeting, “I move that the full County Board review Sheriff Westen’s proposal for increasing the standard pay rates that have been applied since approximately 2020 to \$23.00 starting, \$26.00 min and \$29 max. Additionally, Sheriff Westen is asking for a review of the accrual rates of PTO offered to these positions.” Discussion held. County Administrator Hilger stated proper action would be to refer to the Personnel Committee and Administrative Committee for the request.

Next County Board meeting is January 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

Motion by Supervisor Bardo, second by Supervisor J. Wagner to adjourn the December 16, 2024, County Board Meeting at 8:00 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 Monthly Meeting of December 16, 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.

Judy Nagel
Langlade County Clerk

Dated this 23rd day of December 2024.
