

**LANGLADE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING**

These Board proceedings are published as prescribed by Section 59.14(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes at County Government expense.

The Langlade County Board of Supervisors met in the Clover Room, at the Fairgrounds, location change due to a scheduling conflict. Chairman Pierce called the February 23, 2021 Meeting of the County Board to order at 5:30 p.m.

On call of the roll, 20 Supervisors present, 17 in person and 2 via Zoom: Supervisors Novak and Scupien. Supervisor Curran by phone.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence in observance of the Richard H. Hurlbert Family.

**Approve or amend the Agenda:** Motion by Supervisor Benishek, second by Supervisor Bonacci to approve the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

**Approve or amend the minutes of January 19, 2021 meeting as printed:** Motion by Supervisor Cahak, second by Supervisor Balcerzak to approve the January 19, 2021 meeting minutes as printed. On the call of the roll, all ayes, minutes are approved.

**Open the Public Hearing at 5:35 PM: Regarding the Northwoods' Housing Rehabilitation Citizen Participation:** Angie Close, Economic Development Director, gave a basic overview of the Community Development Grant Coronavirus Program, a federal formula allocated grant program, which is under the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, which program purpose is for the development of viable communities through the provision of affordable housing, suitable living environment and expansion of economic opportunities. Close explained that there are nine counties in the Northwoods Housing and Langlade County will be receiving a Microenterprise Business Assistant Grant for \$250,000, a two-year program. Close asked three times for input, comment from the citizens. No comment

**Close the Public Hearing:** Motion by Supervisor Benishek, second by Supervisor Wegner to close the public hearing at 5:39 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

**Recognition of County Employees:** County Clerk Judy Nagel read the list: Milestones: Jean Turunen, 25 years; Heidi Walrath, 25 years; Anita Burkhardt, 20 years; Nate Heuss, 10 years. Retirements/Resignations: Pam Resch, 2.5 years, Dave Tlusty, 30 years. New Hires/Promotions/Transfers: Suzanne Jimenez, Deputy Clerk of Court; Stephanie Loderbauer, UWEX Lead Program Assistant; Bailey Slater, Financial Specialist/Program Assistant in Child Support; Donna Wiegert, Public Health Nurse; Maria Filtz Lewandowski, Assistant Code Administrator/Land Conservation Tech; Dawn Szutkowski, Payroll Specialist/Back up to HR Generalist; Chris Dulmes, HR Generalist/Back up to Payroll Specialist; Michelle Kopmeyer, Dispatcher; Sydney Pomputis, Dispatcher.

**Zoning Administrator Haakenson recognition for Surveyor Dave Tlusty, who will be retiring March 2, 2021:** Haakenson addressed the Board, thanking Tlusty for 29 years of service to Langlade County and almost 50 years as a surveyor, acknowledging Tlusty's accomplishments during his employment with Langlade County. Tlusty thanked Haakenson and the Board, noting that Langlade County has only been without a surveyor for 22 years since 1888. The County Board gave a round of applause and a standing ovation.

**Correspondence/Grant Updates:** Clerk Nagel read a thank you card from Richard and Penny Hurlbert.

**Public comment on agenda items and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas:** Supervisor Bauknecht requested the Board review their rules and/or revise the rules regarding abstaining during voting. Corporation Counsel Stowe addressed the Board, stating the rules regarding abstaining are outlined in the WCA Handbook, noting that the Board member has the legal right to abstain during voting. Discussion held.

**Citizens and Delegations, recognize other in Attendance:** Chairman Pierce welcomed all in attendance for tonight's meeting.

**Old Business:**

**Review options for Supervisors to attend meetings remotely (via phone or Zoom) and ability of Supervisors to attend closed sessions remotely, establish a date by which remote attendance by Supervisors will no longer be allowed:** Discussion held on remote attendance, possibly waiting until COVID is resolved; referring this to Personnel Committee. Corporation Counsel Stowe stated that current Board rules do not allow for remote attendance, referring to the criteria from WCA. Discussion on use of Zoom, discussing the Board in closed sessions, calling Supervisors remotely. No action taken on this.

**Reconsider Resolution #25-2018: Support for a Second Circuit Court Judge for Langlade County:** Motion by Supervisor Cahak, second by Supervisor Wiegert to rescind Resolution #25-2018. Resolution #25-2018 was adopted by the County Board in August, 2018. Discussion held, as this was voted on in January, 2021, with a tie vote, and the State is looking for affirmation of a majority vote either in favor of a second judge or remove Langlade County from the list. Members of the audience requested to speak at this time. Chairman Pierce is requesting the Supervisors discuss this, without audience participation, as the public had time to comment during the public comment. Each Supervisor expressed their concerns, either in favor of a second judge or against a second judge. Voice vote was called: Supervisors Benishek, Cahak, Balcerzak, Shinnors, Bonacci, Novak, Curran, Wagner, Buck, Pierce, Medo and Wiegert voted aye, 12 ayes. Supervisors Fischer, Bauknecht, Feller Gottard, Breske, Nye, Scupien, Krochalk, Curler voted nay, 8 nays. Resolution #25-2018 will be rescinded. Those in the audience that wish to speak were allowed.

Motion by Supervisor Wiegert, second by Supervisor Balcerzak to excuse Supervisor Curran at 7:25 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

The Board took a recess at 7:25 p.m., and resumed at 7:43 p.m.

**Review the proposed Strategic Plan for the County Board, and consider adoption and implementation of the Plan:** The Final Draft of the Strategic Plan was mailed out to the Supervisors for a final view prior to the February County Board Meeting. Health and Social Services Director Barger, whom also served on the Strategic Planning Committee, addressed the Board regarding the plan, giving the Board the understanding of a Strategic Plan, background of the proposed plan, and what to expect in the next three years using the plan. Motion by Supervisor Bonacci, second by Supervisor Pierce to bring this plan back to the County Board in March, 2021. Discussion held. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Sheriff Westen to honor a Deputy within the Sheriff’s Office:** Sheriff Westen addressed the Board, thanking the Board for the opportunity to honor the Detective Bureau Officers Carter, Gronos, and Sorano. Westen spoke of a grant that allowed for the purchase of software enabling the deputies to work on cases with access to law enforcement data base. Westen stressed the work that the Detective Bureau is doing in and for Langlade County on a daily basis. The County Board gave a round of applause and a standing ovation to the officers recognized.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Appoint Supervisor Curler to the ADCR-CW Board, to complete Retired Supervisor Hurlbert’s appointment.  
Appoint Emergency Fire Wardens in Langlade County for 2021: Dave Visser, Elcho; Richard Trepanier, Elton; Kay Lotter, Pickerel.  
Proclamation from the Board of Health

Motion by Supervisor Benishek, second by Supervisor Bonacci to approve the Consent Agenda. Voice vote: 19 ayes, 1 absent, motion carried. The Consent Agenda is adopted.

**Committee Reports:** A summary of information contained in recent committee minutes on file in the County Clerk’s Office. Chairman Pierce requests that each Committee Chair be prepared to give the Board a monthly update from their Committee. Supervisor Benishek updated the Board that the Sanitarian position for Langlade County will not be established until 2022. Supervisor Curler discussed proposed policy changes coming from the Personnel Committee. Supervisor Nye discussed the recent presentation at the Social Services Committee from Silver Birch Ranch regarding foster parents and foster children, working on a program with Langlade County that includes horse therapy, with another presentation in March for other services.

**RESOLUTION #4-2021**

**INTRODUCED BY: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**INTENT: INCREASE FEES CHARGED BY CORONER ANNUALLY BY THE PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 59.365(2), Wisconsin Statutes, the County Board shall set the fees for all services rendered by the Coroner provided the set fees do not exceed the allowable amount of increase related to the actual and necessary cost of the services; and

**WHEREAS**, the increase may not exceed the annual percentage change in the US Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers, U.S. city average, as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, for the twelve (12) months ending on December 31 of the year before the increase. The CPI as of December 31, 2019, being 2.3%, increases the fee \$1.76

**WHEREAS**, the Coroner and the Committee have determined that it is reasonable to increase the current Cremation fee from \$76.42 to \$78.18.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Langlade County Board of Supervisors that effective immediately the Cremation fee shall be increased from \$76.42 to \$78.18

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the cremation fee shall be increased on an annual basis as authorized in State Statute (Section 59.365(2), Wis. Stats. and any revisions thereto).

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THIS RESOLUTION SHALL HAVE CONTINUING EFFECT** such that pursuant to this resolution, any of the fees charged by the Coroner for services rendered by a coroner, fees assessed for the signing of a death record by a coroner, and/or fees assessed related to coroner transportation services shall be increased each year not to exceed the annual percentage change in the U.S. consumer price index as set forth herein. The Finance Department shall notify the Coroner of the new rate prior to January 1 or each year and the Coroner shall have the authority to “round” fees to the nearest (lower) .05 or .10 cent for the efficient administration and collection of said fees.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:**

Bob Curran, Chairman  
Arlene Bonacci  
Reinhardt Balcerzak  
Dave Krochalk  
Doug Curler

**FISCAL NOTE:** By increasing these fees, the Coroner’s 2021 cremation revenue will be increased by approximately \$220.00.

Motion by Supervisor Bonacci, second by Supervisor Balcerzak to adopt. Voice vote: 19 ayes, Supervisor Curran absent. Resolution #4-2021 is adopted.

**RESOLUTION #5-2021**

**INTRODUCED BY: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**INTENT: TO AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE WISCONSIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT -COVID (CDBG-CV) FOR 2021-2022.**

**WHEREAS**, Federal monies are available under the Wisconsin Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, Division of Housing, for the purpose of small business grants; and

**WHEREAS**, after public meeting and due consideration, the Langlade County Board has recommended that an application be submitted to the State of Wisconsin for low income business opportunity grants for Langlade County

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Langlade County Board, to approve the preparation and filing of an application for the County to receive funds from this program; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board has reviewed the need for the proposed projects and the benefits to be gained there from;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Langlade County Board does APPROVE and authorize the preparation and filing of an application for the eligible business grant opportunities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Chairman is hereby authorized to sign all necessary documents on behalf of the County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that authority is hereby granted to the Finance Department to take the necessary steps to prepare and file the appropriate application for funds under this program in accordance with this resolution.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

John Medo, Chairman  
Ben Pierce  
George Shinnors  
Bob Benishek  
Don Scupien

**FISCAL NOTE:** Langlade County will be receiving an estimated \$250,000 in grant funds and \$34,377 of Administration Fees to be split between Langlade County Economic Development Corporation and Langlade County.

Motion by Supervisor Bauknecht, second by Supervisor Fischer to adopt. Voice vote: all ayes. 19 ayes, 1 absent. Resolution #5-2021 is adopted.

**RESOLUTION #6-2021**

**INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

**INTENT: APPOINT COUNTY MANAGER AND DESIGNATE OVERSIGHT**

**WHEREAS**, in January of 2021, the County Board approved the creation of a Department of Administration by placing the Finance and Human Resources Departments under the direct oversight and supervision of the County Manager; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administrative Committee consisting of the Chairman and the two Vice Chairmen conducted the recruitment process for the County Manager and recommends the appointment of Jason Hilger to serve as the County Manager; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Manager shall perform the responsibilities as set forth the in the attached position description; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended that Administrative Committee serve as the "oversight committee" for the County Manager and that this responsibility be reflected in the County Board rules; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administrative Committee consists of the Chairman of the Board and the two Vice-Chairmen, as voting members; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, to appoint Jason Hilger as the County Manager for Langlade County Government.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Langlade County Board of Supervisors that Administrative Committee (as set forth herein) same serve as the "oversight committee" for the County Manager.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to the extent that any provisions contained in this resolution contradicts any previous actions taken by the Board, then this resolution shall supersede and take precedence.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:**

Ben Pierce, Chairman  
John Medo  
Richard Wiegert

The Chairman moved this resolution ahead on the agenda. Motion by Supervisor Wiegert, second by Supervisor Balcerzak to adopt. Jason Hilger addressed the County Board and the public, giving a brief introduction, as he will begin his employment with Langlade County on March 8, 2021 as the Director of the Department of Administration (HR & Finance). Voice vote: 19 ayes, Supervisor Novak, nay. Supervisor Novak requests to change his vote to aye, Chairman Pierce acknowledges the request. 20 ayes. Resolution #6-2021 is adopted.

**RESOLUTION #7-2021, was #59-2020**

**INTRODUCED BY: PERSONNEL / HEALTH INSURANCE TRUSTEES COMMITTEE**

**INTENT: FUNDING LIMITS FOR THE COUNTY'S SELF-FUNDED GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, Langlade County maintains a self-funded Group Health Insurance Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, self-funded health insurance plans are recognized as "proprietary funds" under the rules promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), and impose certain fiduciary responsibilities to ensure the solvency of the fund to cover qualified expenses associated with the County's health insurance plan; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years the County has frozen its contribution to premiums expressed as a fixed sum for each coverage option (i.e., single or family plan); and

**WHEREAS**, effective 2021 premium contribution rates increased by 12.4% with the employees contributing 6.2% of premium for the enrolled plan option, and the County contributing an additional 6.2%; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended by the Committee and the County's health insurance consultant that County Board formally establish funding limits for the County's self-funded Group Health Insurance Plan expressed as a percentage rather than a fixed sum and establish a funding plan for runout claims, as follows:

Premium contribution limit expressed as a percentage: Langlade County will cover 93.8% of the premium rate for the lowest cost plan option.

Accrual of savings to health insurance fund for runout claim period: Excess health insurance premium revenues to accrue in the fund reserves to cover a minimum of 3 months runout of claims, including administrative fees, stop loss fees and prescription drug claims (25%) of annual expenses (based upon a rolling three-year average). Health insurance premium surpluses will be retained in the Fund 620 Health Insurance fund balance designated for payment of future

claims / liabilities.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Lantlade County Board of Supervisors to adopt the funding limits for the County's self-funded Group Health Insurance Plan as set forth herein effective January 1, 2021.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these funding limits are subject to change upon request by the Health Insurance Trustees Committee and subject to the approval of the County Board.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Don Scupien, Chairman
- Sandy Fischer
- Arlene Bonacci
- Carol Feller Gottard
- Doug Curler

**FISCAL NOTE:** The final three months of runout claims, including administrative fees, stop loss fees and prescription drug claims:

**3 months runout: Annual Expenditures:**

FY2019: \$766,834.92 FY2019: \$3,599,597.97  
 FY2018: \$523,085.37 FY2018: \$3,296,829.22  
 FY2017: \$499,479.03 FY2017: \$3,247,258.15

The recommended reserve for the Health Insurance Fund is estimated to be \$900,000 for FY2020:

Year	2017	2018	2019
Annual Claims	\$ 3,247,258	\$ 3,296,829	\$ 3,599,598
Percent Reserve	25%	25%	25%
Recomm Reserve	\$ 811,815	\$ 824,207	\$ 899,899

The preliminary, unaudited budgeted but unused health insurance premiums from 2020 is approximately \$228,206.

Motion by Supervisor Medo, second by Supervisor Wagner to adopt. Voice vote: all ayes, except Supervisor Novak abstains. 18 ayes, 1 abstain, 1 absent. Resolution #7-2021 is adopted.

**RESOLUTION #8-2021**

**INTRODUCED BY: PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

**INTENT: APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH LANGLADE COUNTY FAIR INC. (FAIR ASSOCIATION) TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR USE OF THE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, the County eliminated the full-time position that was primarily responsible to serve as the "point of contact" for those individuals and groups interested in hosting events and activities at the County Fairgrounds, and combined the responsibilities of this position into a new position of Office Manager for both the Forestry and Maintenance/Fairgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, as a short-term solution to the reduction in support services associated with the Fairgrounds, the Committee recommends entering into the attached MOU with the Lantlade County Fair Inc. (Fair Association), to serve as the "point of contact" and to administer the County's policies and procedures for use of the County Fairgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, in consideration for the services provided by the Fair Association, the Committee recommends waiving the fees otherwise billed to the Fair Association for hosting the annual Fair (approx. \$5,000 / yr.).

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Lantlade County Board of Supervisors to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Lantlade County Fair Inc. (Fair Association) to administer the County's policies and procedures for use of the County Fairgrounds as set forth herein.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- George Shinnors, Chairman
- Rich Wiegert
- Roger Buck
- Vern Cahak
- John Breske

**FISCAL NOTE:** No Fiscal Note.

Motion by Supervisor Wiegert, second by Supervisor Breske to adopt. Discussion on the Committee of jurisdiction. Supervisor Feller Gottard refers this to Ag & Extension Committee. Rhonda Klement, representing the Fair Association, addressed the Board regarding the separation from the UW Extension 4-H and the Fair Association. Discussion on the support services that the Fair Association will be providing, entering into a MOU. Voice vote: 19 ayes, 1 absent. Resolution #8-2021 is adopted.

**RESOLUTION #9-2021**

**INTRODUCED BY: PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

**INTENT: AUTHORIZE ASSIGNMENT OF CAMP SUSAN LEASE FROM 4-H LEADERS ASSOCIATION TO THE LANGLADE COUNTY FAIR INC. (FAIR ASSOCIATION)**

**WHEREAS**, in 1941 the County Board and the 4-H Leaders Association entered into a ninety-nine (99) year lease of County property for the purposes of maintaining a camp and recreational area for the 4-H program, the leased area more commonly referred to today as "Camp Susan"; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, the Camp Susan Lease was extended by the County Board until 2062 (see attached Lease); and

**WHEREAS**, the 4-H name and emblem is may only be used for educational purposes in accordance with laws and regulations established by Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the State of Wisconsin, the use of the 4-H name and emblem is chartered by the University of Wisconsin. The Committee has been advised that University Wisconsin System has requested that the Camp Susan not be leased to the "4-H" Leaders Association; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years the Fair Board and the 4-H Leaders Association operated as a singular entity; however, for the same reasons regarding the use of the "4-H" name and emblem, the entities needed to separate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee understands that the Fair Association and 4-H Leaders Association continue to have similar officers and members, such that the Fair Board is familiar with the terms, conditions and Lessee's obligations under the Camp Susan Lease; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee understands that the 4-H Leaders Association is willing to assign its obligations under the existing Lease to the Fair Board and the Fair Association is willing to assume the obligations under the existing Camp Susan Lease subject to the understanding that the 4-H Program will continue to be allowed the use of Camp Susan for its scheduled activities.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Langlade County Board of Supervisors to authorize the assignment of the Camp Susan Lease from the 4-H Leaders Association to the Fair Association.

**PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- George Shinnars, Chairman
- Richard Wiegert
- Roger Buck
- Vern Cahak
- John Breske

**FISCAL NOTE:** No Fiscal Note.

Motion by Supervisor Cahak, second by Supervisor Bauknecht to adopt. Motion by Supervisor Medo, second by Supervisor Balcerzak to change the lease from 2062 to 2023. Motion by Supervisor Benishek, second by Supervisor Wiegert to make this a one-year lease. Discussion held on getting the parties involved as to understand the future of Camp Susan. Rhonda Klement discussed the current lease with 4-H as the State will not allow this lease. On the amendment to the resolution for the one-year lease: 18 ayes, 1 nay and 1 absent. Resolution #9-2021 as Amended to a one-year lease: All ayes, motion carried. Amended Resolution #9-2021 is adopted.

**Committee Referrals:** No committee referrals at this time.

**At approximately 6:30 p.m., consider moving into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(c)(f) & (e) Wisconsin Statutes, considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, 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, to review Committee Structure.** Motion by Supervisor Bonacci, second by Supervisor Wiegert to move into closed session at 8:37 p.m. Roll Call vote: all ayes. Supervisors Novak and Scupien remained on Zoom Call and all others on the phone lines were disconnected. Those remaining in closed session: Stowe, Hilger, Nagel and Rank.

**At approximately 7:00 p.m., return to open session with possible action taken on any matters discussed in closed session. Note: The County Board may subsequently consider reconvening in closed session to continue discussions as needed in closed session, as described above; and then return to open session.**

Motion by Supervisor Bonacci, second by Supervisor Cahak to return to open session at 8:41 p.m. 19 ayes, 1 absent, motion carried. No action from Closed Session.

Motion by Supervisor Cahak, second by Supervisor Breske to adjourn the February 23, 2021 meeting at 8:42 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 February 23, 2021. 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 25th day of February, 2021.

Judy Nagel  
Langlade County Clerk

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