

County Board Proceedings – February 27, 2023, snow prohibited, Meeting was March 2, 2023

**LANGLADE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PUBLIC HEARING AND MONTHLY MEETING OF THE LANGLADE COUNTY BOARD – FEBRUARY 27, 2023
(snow prohibited the meeting on February 27, 2023 therefore the meeting was MARCH 2, 2023)
County Board Room, Lower Level of the Safety Building**

The Llanglade County Board of Supervisors met in the County Board Room, Lower Level of the Safety Building. Chairman Pierce called the March 2, 2023 Monthly Meeting of the County Board to order at 6:30 p.m. On call of the roll, 16 Supervisors present, 4 absent and 1 vacancy. Absent: Supervisors Krueger, Persen, Schulz and Novak. Motion by Supervisor J. Wagner, second by Supervisor Bardo to excuse Supervisors Krueger, Persen, Schulz and Novak. All ayes, motion carried. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence.

Citizens and Delegations, recognize other in Attendance: Chairman Pierce welcomed all that are in attendance for the March 2, 2023 meeting.

Chairman Pierce introduced Zach Zagar, County Board Supervisor, District 10, Towns of Antigo Ward 2 and Rolling Ward 1. County Clerk Nagel administered the Oath of Office to Zagar.

Approve or amend the Agenda: Motion by Supervisor Bina, second by Supervisor J. Wagner to approve the March 2, 2023 Agenda. Voice vote to approve the Agenda for March 2, 2023: All ayes. Agenda is approved.

Public Hearing to Modify the Original Wolf River Bridge Ordinance #1-2023:

At 6:35 p.m. Open the Public Hearing regarding Modifying the Original Wolf River Bridge Ordinance #1-2023 allowing the use of ATV/UTV Town Roads and approximately 1.26 miles of Highway 64, from the intersection of Buettner Road east to the intersection of Highway 55 and approximately 0.14 miles of Highway 55 from the intersection of Highway 64 and Highway 55 south to the intersection of Blue Goose Drive, including the bridge across the Wolf River on Highway 64 to allow ATV/UTV vehicle access to businesses in the Town of Wolf River and a designated ATV/UTV trailhead located at the Wolf River Town Hall.

At 6:37 p.m., Supervisor Benishek motioned to close the Public Hearing, second by Supervisor J. Wagner. All ayes, Public Hearing is closed.

Approve or amend the minutes of January 23, 2023 as printed: Motion by Supervisor Benishek, second by Supervisor J. Wagner to approve the minutes of January 23, 2023 as printed. Voice vote: all ayes, minutes are approved.

Recognition of County Employees: Clerk Nagel read the February 2023 List: Milestones: Dustin Woodward, Highway Department, 5 years; Rachael Tulickas, Social Services, 5 years; Rick Dedeyne, Forestry Department, 10 years; Lucas Williams, Forestry Department, 10 years; Amy Meeks, Land Records, 25 years. Retirements: No retirements. New Hires/Promotions/Transfers: Nancy Benish, Diversion Coordinator, District Attorney's Office. Kathryn Bender-Ream, Shoreland Specialist, Land Records.

Recognition of Non-Profit Organization: Creepy Hollow: John and Amy Sowinski, representing Creepy Hollow, accepted the County Board Acknowledgement Certificate. Sowinski gave a brief summary of the non-profit organization that donates their profits back into the Community.

Public Comment on Agenda Items and consideration of requests for Items to be added to future meeting agendas: Nancy Jones, regarding a letter to the Editor about banning books at the Antigo Public Library. Ron James, in support of the proposed Conservation Easement in parts of Llanglade, Oneida and Forest Counties.

Old Business:

Information Technology updates on the use of County Board Tablets: Joseph Marier, Network Administrator and Derek Dallmann, IT Support Technician, discussed the importance of Cybersecurity when using the County Board Tablets, highlighting the importance of protecting the County data. Marier reminded the Board to watch links, downloads and phishing emails before you click.

Review Chapter 1 of the Code of Ordinance: No action taken. Review will be at the March meeting.

New Business:

Niles Franc, Research Station: Franc, Manager for the Research Station and Field Inspector, discussed the history of the partnership with UW Madison Extension, use and plans for the Langlade County Research Station that is located by the Airport. Franc discussed education and networking at the Station along with funding and operating costs.

The Board took a break to recognize Supervisor Shinners. Supervisor Shinners submitted a letter of resignation to the Board, acknowledged and effective March 2, 2023. Supervisor Shinners spoke to the Board on the recent accomplishments, acknowledging that this Community has a nice cross-section of volunteers. Cupcakes and words of appreciation were shared.

Consent Agenda: No Consent Agenda to act on.

Ordinances:

**ORDINANCE MODIFICATION of ORDINANCE #1-2023
MODIFICATION OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV)/UTILITY TERRAIN (UTV) USE OF HIGHWAY 64 BRIDGE
CROSSING THE WOLF RIVER**

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2023 Langlade County approved an ordinance to authorize ATV/UTV use on a segment of Highway 64 from Buettner Road to Memorial Drive, crossing the Wolf River Bridge; and

WHEREAS, February 1, 2023 the Wisconsin Department of Transportation identified issues within the original ordinance which would not allow use of the original proposed route;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE LANGLADE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN SESSION THIS 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

TO MODIFY THE ORIGINAL WOLF RIVER BRIDGE ORDINANCE #1-2023 (SEC. 17.13) (4)(f) AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, this ordinance, following WisDOT review, will allow the use of ATV/UTV Town Roads and approximately 1.26 miles of Highway 64, from the intersection of Buettner Road east to the intersection of Highway 55 and approximately 0.14 miles of Highway 55 from the intersection of Highway 64 and Highway 55 south to the intersection of Blue Goose Drive, including the bridge across the Wolf River on Highway 64 to allow ATV/UTV vehicle access to business in the Town of Wolf river and a designated ATV/UTV trailhead located at the Wolf River Town Hall; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the revised ordinance in a clean draft shall be forwarded to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to allow opening of the new ATV/UTV route concurrent with ATV/UTV trails in the Spring of 2023.

LANGLADE COUNTY FORESTRY & RECREATION COMMITTEE:

- John Medo, Chairman
- Roger Buck
- Reinhardt Balcerzak
- Ben Pierce
- Todd Mayr

Motion by Supervisor W. Wagner, second by Supervisor Medo to adopt modifications to Ordinance #1-2023. Forest Administrator Murray discussed the Ordinance. Voice Vote: All ayes, motion carried. 16 ayes, 4 absent, 1 vacancy. Modifications to Ordinance #1-2023 are adopted.

RESOLUTION #1-2023

INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

INTENT: REVISE RULE 15.1 OF THE COUNTY BOARD RULES REGARDING DUTIES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RELATING TO THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

WHEREAS, Langlade County is required to establish a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) pursuant to the Federal Response Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) to protect the community from harmful and possible life-threatening effects from the accidental release of hazardous materials that are used or stored within the local community; and

WHEREAS, the current By-laws of the LEPC require that a County Board member serve as the Chairman and specifically refers to County Board Rules, such that this must be a member of the Public Safety Committee; and

WHEREAS, the LEPC and Administrative Committee recommend changing the County Board Rules to allow for the Public Safety Committee to nominate any County Board for appointment to serve as the LEPC Chairman by amending Rule 15.1 Public Safety Committee (item 7) as follows:

The Committee shall nominate a County Board member for appointment by the County Board Chair to serve on the LEPC Committee.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Langelo County Board of Supervisors to revise County Board Rule 15.1 Public Safety Committee duties (item 7) as follows: *The Committee shall nominate a County Board member for appointment by the County Board Chair to serve on the LEPC.*

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Ben Pierce, Chairman
Bruce McDougal
John Medo
George Shinnors
Robert Benishek
Reinhardt Balcerzak
Todd Mayr

FISCAL NOTE: No Fiscal Note.

Motion by Supervisor Mayr, second by Supervisor Buck to adopt RS#1-2023. Voice Vote: all ayes, motion carried. 16 ayes, 4 absent, 1 vacancy. Resolution #1-2023 is adopted.

RESOLUTION #3-2023

INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

INTENT: REVISE THE COUNTY BOARD RULES TO RECOGNIZE COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS WHO PASS AWAY DURING THEIR TERM OF OFFICE

WHEREAS, the County Board does not have a formal or consistent method for recognizing members who pass away during their term of office; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and for the public's benefit to recognize the services and accomplishments of County Board members who pass away during their term of office; and

WHEREAS, the Committee recommends changing the County Board Rules to add Rule 16.3 as follows:
16.3 Recognition of County Board members.

The County Board shall recognize County Board members who pass away during their term of office by placing a plaque in remembrance of the deceased County Board member displayed in the County Board Room. Additionally, the County Administrator shall coordinate with the deceased family to identify the placement of a fixture on public property commemorating the deceased Board member's service on the County Board (i.e., commemorative bench, tree planting, etc.). The contribution from the County is authorized up to a value of \$500.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Langelo County Board of Supervisors to revise the Rules of the Board to add Rule 16.3 to recognize County Board members who pass away during their term of office.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Ben Pierce, Chairman
John Medo
George Shinnors
Robert Benishek
Reinhardt Balcerzak
Carol Bardo
Todd Mayr

FISCAL NOTE: No fiscal note.

Motion by Supervisor W. Wagner, second by Supervisor Bina to adopt RS#3-2023. Voice Vote: all ayes, motion carried. 16 ayes, 4 absent, 1 vacancy. Resolution #3-2023 is adopted.

RESOLUTION #5-2023

INTRODUCED BY: FORESTRY & RECREATION COMMITTEE

INTENT: LANGLADE COUNTY FOREST LAND WITHDRAWAL- COMMUNICATION TOWER LEASE SITE- HIGHWAY K, TOWN OF ELCHO

WHEREAS, Vertical Bridge VBTS, LLCOF 750 Park of Commerce Drive, Suite 200, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 is requesting to lease approximately 0.25 acres of County Forest Lands for construction and installation of a communications tower; and

WHEREAS, the use of County Forest Lands for the purpose of a communications tower is inconsistent with the County Forest Law, pursuant to Wisconsin Stats. 28.11; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition and withdrawal policies for County Forest Lands are outlined and defined in Chapter 400 of the Langelo Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the years 2021-2035 as approved by the Langelo County Board of Supervisors on December 6, 2021 by Resolution #51-2021; and

WHEREAS, under Wisconsin Stats. 28.11 and the approved Langlade Comprehensive Land Use Plan withdrawal of the land from the County Forest system prior to use for a communications tower; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Administrator recommends withdrawal of approximately one acre of land to meet the needs of the communications tower; and

WHEREAS, the metes and bounds description required for the proposed tower lease is as follows:
Beginning at the North West Corner of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 11 East, thence southerly along the western boundary of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 11 East a distance of 208 feet to a point, thence easterly parallel to the northern boundary of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 11 East a distance of 208 feet to a point, thence northerly, parallel to the western boundary of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 11 East a distance of 208 feet more or less to a point on the northern boundary of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 11 East; thence westerly along the north boundary of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ Section 11, Township 34 North, Range 11 a distance of 208 more or less to the point of beginning; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. 28.11(11)(a)(1), a 2/3 majority vote of the approval of the entire membership of the County Board is required for approval of a withdrawal application for County Forest Lands.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire membership, the Langlade County Board of Supervisors approves an application for withdrawal of County Forest Lands as described above for the purposes of establishing a lease on the described property for a communications tower; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Langlade County Board of Supervisors designate the County Administrator and the County Forest Administrator as the negotiating authority for terms of any lease as assigned to property after withdrawal.

FORESTRY & RECREATION COMMITTEE:

John Medo, Chairman
Reinhardt Balcerzak
Ben Pierce
Roger Buck
Todd Mayr

Fiscal Note: A tower lease is expected to generate \$7,200- \$21,600 in income per year which is substantially higher than the timber revenue for 1 acre of land. A tower on the property would also provide for improved cellular and broadband service in the northeast portions of Langlade County which has limited service at this time.

Motion by Supervisor Balcerzak, second by Supervisor Buck to adopt RS#5-2023. Voice Vote: all ayes, motion carried. 16 ayes, 4 absent, 1 vacancy. Resolution #5-2023 is adopted.

Committee Referrals: Supervisor Buck stated there will be Public Property Committee meeting in March. Committee meeting dates that are set for March were discussed.

Update or Report on Grants and Activities from the County Administrator: County Administrator Hilger submitted a written report. Copy of the report is available from County Administrator Hilger.

County Board History Report from Supervisor Benishek: Supervisor Benishek continued with the history of the County Board starting back up in 1917, discussing the Seed Potato Growers, hiring of staff, roads, and purchases. In 1920, a larger room in the basement of the Courthouse was approved for a Jury Room, noting no women are allowed on the Jury. The current County Board per diem is \$5 per day. November, 1920 the Board approved to build a County Highway Shop. A Courthouse cleaning person was hired in 1921 for \$1 per day, as Judge Goodrich served notice that he will no longer do janitor work himself. In April, 1922, the Board voted to build the Langlade Memorial Hospital for a cost not to exceed \$120,000 and in November of 1922, the Board, by Resolution, closed the deer season for three years. More to come.

Any other business that may lawfully come before the Board: The next meeting is March 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room.

Adjournment: Motion by Supervisor J. Wagner, second by Supervisor W. Wagner to adjourn the March 2, 2023 meeting at 7:56 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 27, 2023, held March 2, 2023. Note: These minutes are not official until they are approved by the County Board at their next meeting.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2023.

Judy Nagel
Langlade County Clerk
