

**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 28, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order by Chair Randy Tatur at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call. Present - 18. Present: Boss, Biller, Nawrocki, Knops, Stout, Lieffring, Fillion, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Mai, Willingham, Hraban, Platteter, Tatur. Corporation Counsel, Rich Summerfield. Excused – Hauser.

Invocation by Dave Willingham, Island Lake Church of Christ.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Pete Boss, District #1 Supervisor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fillion, second by Gierke to approve minutes of March 31, 2015. Motion carried by aye vote.

RECOGNIZE SPECIAL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

Diane Zink, President of 4-H Leaders Council, asked board for update on MOA and 133 contract with UW Extension. Tatur advised they met Monday and the MOA is being revised and will be signed with new revisions.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, The Congress and President of the United States have designated May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police week; and

Whereas, the members of the law enforcement agency of Rusk County play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of Rusk County; and

Whereas, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their law enforcement agency, and that members of our law enforcement agency recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression; and

Whereas, during National Police week, and throughout the year, Rusk County recognizes and appreciates the critical contributions and sacrifices made by members of law enforcement at all levels, and honors their courage and dedication; and

Whereas, it is known that 117 officers were killed in the line of duty in 2014 and many others were seriously assaulted in the performance of their duties. Our community joins with other counties, cities, and towns to honor their memory and sacrifice, and pay homage to their legacy of excellence and devotion to duty.

Now, therefore, I, Randy Tatur, Chairperson of the Rusk County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim May 10 -16, 2015 as National Police week, and Thursday, May 21, 2015, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community, or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes. May we always remember what they do on a daily basis to defend and protect our rights and safety.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the County of Rusk this 28th day of April, two thousand and fifteen.

REPORT

UW Extension 2014 Annual Report:

Charmaine Johnson, UW Extension Secretary, reviewed programs offered by the department and gave brief summary of each program as well as the celebration held last year marking the 100th anniversary of 4-H. Eileen Van Dyke gave update on current happenings within the UW Extension office.

ELECTION – HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

Boss commended Nanci Mertes and Highway Department for their hard work during interim period. Boss introduced Scott Emch and provided brief background, education, and highlighted experience. Boss nominated Scott Emch as Highway Commissioner. Chair Tatur called for additional nominations. Motion by Nawrocki, second by Gierke to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Scott Emch. Motion carried by aye vote. Scott Emch elected Rusk County Highway Commissioner.

RESOLUTION # 15-9 To Modify Existing Rusk County Jail Huber Fee Rates

WHEREAS, the WI Fresh Start Program is administered through the Indianhead Community Action Agency, Inc. which is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to serving residents of northwest Wisconsin in Burnett, Clark, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn counties, and

WHEREAS, the WI Fresh Start Program hires its employees with or without a high school diploma for 32 hours per week which is then broke down into 20 hours paid labor (per week) at the prevailing minimum wage rate, and 12 hours NON-paid (per week) for education and community service, and

WHEREAS, at the prevailing minimum wage rate per pay period a WI Fresh Start employee's monthly payroll usually cannot cover the cost of their current daily Huber fees, and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with boarding inmates have increased, and the Rusk County Jail has been receiving more requests from NON Rusk County sentenced inmates, and

WHEREAS, the majority of other counties in the State of WI charge two separate daily Huber fee rates – one for their own county sentenced inmates and a second higher rate for inmates sentenced by a county other than their own, and

WHEREAS, Huber rates in the State of WI currently average over \$17.28/day for a county's own sentenced inmates and \$21.00/day for other county sentenced inmates, and the Rusk County Jail Huber fee rate has not been increased since June of 2008, and

WHEREAS, it is now proposed that Rusk County increase the current Huber Fee rate (for Rusk County sentenced inmates only) from \$15/day to \$18/day, and

WHEREAS, it is also proposed that Rusk County create a 2nd/separate Huber Fee rate of \$20/day for Huber transfer inmates sentenced by NON Rusk County Courts, and

WHEREAS, it is now proposed that Rusk County further establish a 3rd/separate Huber Fee rate of \$10/day ONLY for WI Fresh Start Program employed inmates so as to assist those qualified inmates in keeping their jobs and maintaining employment that could provide them with scholarship money for valid post-secondary education upon successful completion of their WI Fresh Start Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors to increase the current Rusk County Sentenced Inmate Huber Fee rate to \$18.00/day effective May 1, 2015, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors to create a 2nd Huber Transfer Fee rate of \$20.00/day for NON Rusk County sentenced inmates, effective May 1, 2015 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors to establish a 3rd Huber Fee rate of \$10.00/day only to be used for qualifying WI Fresh Start Program employed Huber inmates effective May 1, 2015 [and retroactive to February 1, 2015 for this rate only].

Submitted by Rusk County Emergency Services Committee: S/Schmitt, Schneider, Pedersen, Stout, Biller. Rusk County Finance Committee: S/Tatur, Hauser, Fisher, Hraban.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Schneider to adopt. Sheriff Wallace gave brief description and explained increase in cost of housing inmates. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #15-10 Resolution in Support of Aging and Disability Resource Centers

WHEREAS, Governor Walker's 2015-2017 budget proposal would dismantle Wisconsin's nationally admired long term care (LTC) system currently serving nearly 55,000 older adults and individuals with disabilities; and
WHEREAS, the governor's budget would give authority to the Department of Health Services (DHS) to privatize county-run Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) by contracting out many of their functions; and

WHEREAS, , these proposals were initiated with no input from people receiving LTC services or their families, aging or disability advocates, local officials, ADRCs, or provider agencies; and

WHEREAS, the hoped-for reforms have actually been produced by the current system: reducing nursing home utilization, "bending the curve" on Medicaid spending, reducing the portion of Medicaid spent on LTC, and creating locally-based ADRCs to provide prevention and one-stop information on LTC for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the current LTC system has created huge savings for taxpayers while maintaining quality: reducing the Medicaid portion of the budget from 53% in 2002 to 43% in 2011, reducing the nursing home population by 9,000 people, keeping administrative costs for Family Care down to 4.2% and limiting MCO surpluses to 2%; and

WHEREAS, ADRCs have become a nationally recognized model and one of the most important roles of county government to meet a variety of needs and reduce the cost of the growing LTC population; and

WHEREAS, ADRC's help older people and people with disabilities find and get what they need to live as independently as possible with dignity and security, using a one-stop, locally accessible model; and

WHEREAS, the governor's budget would allow for ADRC's to be operated by for-profit entities and eliminates the oversight of a governing board comprised of local taxpayers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors that Wisconsin should retain its existing procedure of allowing counties to retain their right of first refusal to provide Aging Disability Resource Centers and allow for the continuance of Aging Disability Resource Centers governing boards and advisory committees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the Legislative Representatives serving the ADRC of Barron, Rusk & Washburn Counties and the Wisconsin Counties Association, with the request that they assist in this endeavor.

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

Submitted by Rusk County Health and Human Services Board: S/Schneider, Tatur, Willingham, Boss, Gudis, Gierke, Schmitt, Mai.

Motion by Stout, second by Schneider to adopt. Ted East, Health and Human Services Director, gave explanation of state budget affecting ADRC's, the services currently available in Rusk County he would like to see stay, explained cost to county of running an ADRC program. East explained the oversight committees would be done away with at both local and regional levels. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #13-39B Amend 2014 Budget for Ambulance Operations

WHEREAS, revenue for ambulance charges to the public was budgeted at \$1,122,000 for 2014 and actual charges totaled \$826,090 which amounted to a shortfall of \$295,910 in revenues; and

WHEREAS, write off expense was budgeted at 35 percent but the actual percentage was 39 percent; and

WHEREAS, at its April 15, 2015, meeting the Rusk County Finance Committee approved the Ambulance Operations line item transfers for 2014 and passed a motion to send a resolution to County Board to address the budget shortfall of \$142,324.65; and

WHEREAS, there are no funds available in the 2014 contingency fund so general fund money is needed to cover the budget shortfall; and

WHEREAS, in order to partially pay back the general fund in 2015, the proposed ambulance purchase will be delayed until 2016 which will return \$125,000 to the general fund.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors approves amending the 2014 Ambulance Operations budget using \$142,324.65 from the general fund to cover the budget shortfall with partial payback to come from delaying the 2015 ambulance purchase.

Submitted by Finance Committee: S/Tatur, Hraban.

Motion by Knops, second by Lieffring to adopt. Tom Hall, Emergency Management Director, explained resolution and ambulance budget. Discussion on budget, write-offs, billing, need for EMTs in the county. Marty Huhn informed board of need to address revenue and the need to keep quality of service up. Roll call. Voting yes - 18. Voting no - 0. Voting yes: Schnieder, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Mai, Willingham, Hraban, Platteter, Boss, Biller, Nawrocki, Knops, Stout, Lieffring, Fillion, Pedersen, Tatur. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #15-11 Vacate CTH "D" Abandoned Highway Right-of-Way

WHEREAS, Rusk County relocated a portion of County Hwy D on or about near the intersection of County Hwy D and County Hwy E, located in Government Lot 11, Section 33, Township 33 North, Range 7 West;

WHEREAS as the relocation of County Hwy D was completed on or about the year 1996;

WHEREAS pursuant to the relocation Kenneth E. Schultz and Mary Schultz conveyed a portion of their land to the county for the Hwy D relocation, a copy of that conveyance is attached hereto.

WHEREAS after the relocation of County Hwy D, Rusk County was supposed to abandon that portion of Old Hwy D and convey the abandoned Old Hwy D to Kenneth E. Schultz and Mary Schultz;

WHEREAS abandonment of Old Hwy D has not occurred and the title of the Old Hwy D has not been transferred to the Kenneth E. Schultz and Mary Schultz

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that portion of Old Hwy D right-of-way contained in the Legal Description annexed hereto is hereby abandoned.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board Chair and the County Clerk are authorized and directed to sign a quit claim deed from Rusk County to Kenneth E. Schultz and Mary Schultz, trustees of the Schultz trust of 1999 transferring all of Rusk County's interest in the legal description annexed hereto.

Submitted by Highway Committee: S/Boss, Platteter, Nawrocki, Gierke, Lieffring.

Motion by Platteter, second by Lieffring to adopt. Explanation by Richard Summerfield, Corporation Counsel. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Sound Ordinance Exemption

Kari Frear gave explanation of Home Grown Music Fest and request for sound exemption to extend until 2:30 a.m. on dates of June 4th – 7th. Discussion on exemption. Motion by Fillion, second by Biller to approve exemption. Motion carried by aye vote.

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Proposed County Board Meeting Dates

Motion by Schmitt, second by Lieftring to approve proposed dates. Motion carried by aye vote.

Extension Office Staff Update/Memorandum of Understanding with UW Extension

Update and explanation by Tatur of Ag and WNEP agent positions being cut, 4-H agent renewed, contract should be signed at Extension meeting on Tuesday. Discussion on state cutting those agents and future of positions.

Rusk County Housing Authority Status

Tatur advised board of history of housing authority, problems with board having only three members, and financial situation. Tatur also informed board that program manager Erny Heiden resigning as of the end of May. Discussion on joint meetings, visiting apartments, getting two more members on the housing authority board, Tatur asked to be contacted with any suggestions or ideas for new board members. Discussion on the possibility of setting up office in the courthouse for the housing authority in the future.

APPOINTMENTS

Ethics Board: Bill Stoughton

Health and Human Services Board: Dan Gudis

Motion by Platteter, second by Willingham to approve appointments. Motion carried by aye vote.

Closed session announced by Chair for the purpose of deliberating possible litigation.

For conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. WI Stats 19.85(1)(g).

Motion by Fisher, second by Knops to enter closed session. Roll call. Voting yes - 18. Voting no - 0. Voting yes: Boss, Biller, Nawrocki, Knops, Stout, Lieftring, Fillion, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Mai, Willingham, Hraban, Platteter, Tatur. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Closed session at 8:23 p.m.

Motion by Lieftring, second by Fisher to return to open session. Motion carried by aye vote.

Open session at 8:34 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Denise Wetzel, County Clerk, announced on behalf of Charmaine Johnson that any who want to participate in the DOJ take back program can bring any unwanted pharmaceuticals to the Town of Grant on May 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and also any who no longer want/need 4-H Newsletter can pass on to someone who may be interested or to please return them to the Extension Office.

Wetzel asked board members to let her know before Thursday whether or not they will be attending the Wisconsin Counties Association Conference, rooms need to be booked by May 1st.

Wetzel announced there will be a Special Property Meeting on Thursday, April 30th at 1:00 p.m.

Nawrocki announced National Day of Prayer activities will be held May 7th 6:30 a.m. breakfast at O.L.S. and service at Sheldon Full Gospel at 6:30 p.m.

Tatur extended wishes of safe travel to Summerfield.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lieftring, second by Pedersen to adjourn. Motion carried by aye vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Next meeting: May 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Denise Wetzel, Rusk County Clerk
Danielle Zimmer, Chief Deputy Clerk