

**MEETING OF THE RUSK COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
September 29, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

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

Roll Call. Present - 17. Excused – 2. Present: Boss, Nawrocki, Hauser, Knops, Stout, Lieffring, Fillion, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Mai, Willingham, Hraban, Platteter, Tatur. Corporation Counsel, Richard Summerfield. Excused: Biller, Schneider.

Invocation by Dave Willingham of Island Lake Church of Christ.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Arian Knops, District #5 Supervisor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fillion, second by Hraban to approve minutes of July 28, 2015. Motion carried by aye vote.

PRESENTATION

Bob Lorkowski, Fredrick Weyerhaeuser Specialized Technologies, explained to board the opportunities available in Rusk County and the large number of job openings. Lorkowski introduced Pam Guthman who described the Fresh Start program and challenges they face with the youth. Heather Fick gave powerpoint presentation on the Wisconsin Fresh Start, which is a training and educational program. Fick took questions from board members. Lorkowski distributed handout to board on the center.

RESOLUTION #15-22 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, after public meeting and due consideration, the Joint Management Committee has recommended that an application be submitted to DOH for the following: Beechworth Windows Expansion Project; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for Rusk County, as co-owner of the property, to approve the preparation and filing of an application for the City of Ladysmith to receive funds from this program; and

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Board of Supervisors has reviewed the need for the proposed project and the benefit to be gained there from;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve and authorize the preparation and filing of an application for the above-named project by the City of Ladysmith and hereby concurs that the City should take the necessary steps to prepare and file the application for funds under this program in accordance with this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors does hereby acknowledge that, while the Enterprise Center is jointly owned by the City of Ladysmith and Rusk County, the City will be the lead applicant for Community Development Block Grant assistance and the City alone will provide the necessary local government matching funds for the project and will also take on the role of leasing agent and collect and use all rent revenues from the property until such times as it recovers its investment of local matching funds into this specific project.

Submitted by Rusk County. S/.

Motion by Platteter, second by Stout to adopt. Explanation by Andy Albarado, Economic Development Coordinator. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #15-23 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – CHAPTER TRANS 75 BIKEWAYS AND SIDEWALKS IN HIGHWAY PROJECTS ABSENCE OF NEED BRIDGE PROJECT #8780-00-01 / CTH “J”

WHEREAS, Rusk County, through the Rusk County Highway Committee, is proposing reconstruction of the existing bridge carrying CTH “J” over Little Thornapple River, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Administrative Code Trans 75.06 requires the construction of bikeways and sidewalks for this project unless it is determined that there is an absence of need pursuant to Trans 75.06; and

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Highway Committee has determined that pursuant to the standards of Trans 75.06 there is an absence of need for sidewalks and bikeways over the reconstructed portion of the road at CTH “J”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Highway Committee has determined, as the highway authority under Trans 75.06, that there is an absence of need for bikeways and sidewalks for the CTH “J” bridge reconstruction project in Rusk County, Wisconsin.

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

Motion by Lieffring, second by Gierke to adopt. Boss explained state requirements and need for resolution. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #15-24 OBJECTING TO PLANS TO INSTALL RAISED MEDIANS AT THE U.S. HIGHWAY 8 RAIL CROSSING

WHEREAS, the WI Dept. of Transportation proposes to install raised medians at the U.S. Highway 8 *a/k/a Lake Ave rail crossing in conjunction with an upcoming resurfacing project, for the purposes of preventing motorists from driving around the railroad crossing gates.

WHEREAS, these raised medians will have the following unintended consequences:

*Prevent turns from the eastbound lane on U.S. 8 onto W. 51 St. N., including by emergency vehicles, which are housed at the Ladysmith Fire Dept. and Rusk County EMS co-located just west of the subject crossing along U.S. 8.

*Require unfamiliar motorists returning from funerals at Ladysmith's Riverside Cemetery, which is accessed off W. 5th St. N. and U.S. Highway 8, to turn west when exiting W. 5th onto U.S. 8 and, thereafter, to find their way back onto U.S. 8 eastbound if that is their intended direction of travel.

*Cause local vehicular traffic to double back through a quiet residential neighborhood unaccustomed to this volume of traffic.

*Cause truck traffic to the nearby Rusk County Farmers Union fertilizer plant to leave by heading north on W. 5th St. N. through a residential neighborhood.

WHEREAS, owing to its location between the CN railroad mainline and Flambeau River, W. 5th St. N., formerly County Highway J, provides primary access to a large rural area to the N-NE of Ladysmith, the optional routes to which require considerable additional travel distance and travel time, which is particularly crucial to large emergency response vehicles such as the Fire Department's tankers and aerial ladder truck

WHEREAS, there is no accident history at the subject rail crossing owing to crossing gate drive arounds and longer gate arms available in the market place can prevent drive arounds without compromising emergency vehicle response times.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors that it does hereby object to the WI Dept. of Transportation's plans to install raised medians and does hereby request that these plans be dropped and that the Dept. of Transportation instead approve use of longer gate arms at this crossing on a semi-permanent test basis.

Submitted by Rusk County Emergency Services Committee. S/Pedersen, Schmitt, Stout, Schneider & Biller. S/Wallace & Hall.

Motion by Hraban, second by Knops to adopt resolution. Hraban explained proposed median and request of support from City by the County Board passing resolution. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION #15-25 AMBULANCE RATE INCREASE 9-2015

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Board of Supervisors wishes to keep the cost of the Ambulance service off the County tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the current rate does not cover the cost of operations; and

WHEREAS, the increase is in line within the industry standard rate for the area; and

WHEREAS, this change does not negatively affect the County Levy

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisor's will raise the base rate per ambulance transport from \$625.00 to \$750.00 effective upon passage.

Submitted by Rusk County Emergency Services Committee. S/ Schmitt, Stout, Schneider Pedersen & Biller.

Motion by Schmitt second by Stout to adopt. Explanation by Schmitt of need to offset deficit. Discussion on increase. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

APPOINTMENTS

Humane Officer – Karen Welke

Mai explained Welke is at her second training since beginning and could not be in attendance. Motion by Mai, second by Willingham to approve appointment. Motion carried by aye vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Denise Wetzel, County Clerk, informed board Danielle Zimmer will be leaving and this will be her last meeting. Chair Tatur wished Zimmer well.

Chair Tatur announced Lieftring won a painting and has donated it to the county.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hauser, second by Lieftring to adjourn. Motion carried by aye vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Next meeting: October 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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