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


Introduction and brief biography of Lyle Lieffring by Chair Willingham.

Moment of silence for Closs family.

Invocation by David Willingham of Island Lake Church of Christ.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Lyle Lieffring.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Gierke, second by Hraban to approve minutes from September 18th, 2018. Motion carried by aye vote.

DISCUSSION

Preliminary 2019 Budget Overview: Kitzie Nelson, Finance Director, gave presentation with an overview of the 2019 budget.

RESOLUTION # 18-21 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING

WHEREAS, Rusk County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Rusk County residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

WHEREAS, Our children’s well-being, economic security and success in life are enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and

WHEREAS, Rusk County’s Child Support Agency ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children’s lives and provides services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and

WHEREAS, The Child Support Enforcement Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin’s future as child support increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children’s well-being; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is ranked 2nd in the nation for collecting current support; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of $5.56 in support for every dollar invested in the program; and

WHEREAS, County child support agencies collected $934 Million in child support during 2017, 95% of which went directly to families while 5% reimbursed public assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, Child support agencies help save taxpayer dollars by establishing health insurance orders for 97% of cases, which reduces state Medicaid costs by moving children from public assistance to private insurance; and

WHEREAS, State funding for county child support services has not increased above the 2007 funding level while county agency costs have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Diminished performance would result in reduced federal funding to Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Decreased federal funding would lead to less funding for Rusk County’s child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child support collections; and

WHEREAS, New state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every $1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates $2 in federal matching funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by $1.5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately $3 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin.

Submitted by Rusk County Health & Human Services Board: Schneider, Tatur, Mai, Gierke, Schmitt, Vacho, Brown.

Motion by Schneider, second by Gierke to adopt. Jeremy Jacobs, Health & Human Services Director, gave brief overview of resolution. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION # 18-22 A RESOLUTION REPEALING SECTION 9.50, TRUANCY AND CREATING NEW SECTION 9.50, TRUANCY

WHEREAS, State statutes concerning truancy have been amended, and WHEREAS, The Rusk County Criminal Justice Collaborating Council and Rusk County Health and Human Services Committee supports the need for these updates, and

WHEREAS, in order for local governments to have ordinances prohibiting truancy, they must be in conformity with State statutory law, and

WHEREAS, the current Rusk County ordinance dealing with truancy does not strictly conform to State statute, and

WHEREAS, the County Board of the County of Rusk desires to have an ordinance providing remedial measures for truant students,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section 9.50 of the Rusk County General Code, including Subsections 9.50.01 through 9.50.12 are hereby repealed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Rusk does hereby ordain as follows:

1. Section 9.50 of the Rusk County General Code is hereby adopted as follows:

9.50.01 Definitions

a. “Dropout” means a child who ceased to attend school, does not attend a public, private, or tribal school, technical college, or home-based private educational program on a full-time basis, has not graduated from high school, and does not have an acceptable excuse under §§118.15 (1) (b) to (d) or (3), Wis. Stats.

b. “Habitual Truant” means a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse under §§ 118.16 (4) and §§118.15, Wis. Stats., for part or all of 5 or more days on which school is held during a school semester.

1. “Truant” means a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of one or more days from school during which the school attendance officer, principal or teacher has not been notified of the legal cause of such absence by the parent or guardian of the absent pupil, and also means intermittent attendance carried on for the purpose of defeating the intent of §§118.15, Wis. Stats.
e. “School Attendance Officer” means an employee designated by the school board to deal with matters relating to school attendance and truancy. “school attendance officer” does not include an individual designated under §§ 118.16(2m)(a), Wis. Stats., to take into custody a child who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse under §§ 118.15 Wis. Stats., unless that individual has also been designated by the school board to deal with matters relating to school attendance and truancy.

f. “Operating privilege” means, in the case of a person who is licensed under Chapter 343, Wis. Stats., the license, including every endorsement and authorization to operate vehicles of specific vehicle classes or types, instruction permit, and temporary, restricted or occupational license granted to such person; in the case of a resident of this state who is not so licensed, it means the privilege to secure a license under Chapter 343, Wis. Stats.

9.50.02 Truancy Prohibited No person under the age of eighteen shall be truant.

9.50.03 Dispositions Available Any person deemed to be truant from school shall be subject to the following dispositions of the court:

a. Order the person to attend school.

b. Impose a forfeiture of not more than $50 plus costs for a first violation, or a forfeiture of not more than $100 plus costs for any 2nd or subsequent violation committed within 12 months of a previous violation, subject to §§ 938.37, Wis. Stats., and subject to a maximum cumulative forfeiture amount of not more than $500 for all violations committed during a school semester. All or part of the forfeiture plus costs may be assessed against the person, the parent or guardian of the person, or both.

c. Order the person to report to a youth report center after school, in the evening, on weekends, on other non-school days, or at any other time that the person is not under immediate adult supervision, for participation in the social, behavioral, academic, community service, and other programming of the center. §§ 938.34(5g), Wis. Stats., applies to any community service work performed by a person under this paragraph.

9.50.04 Habitual Truancy Prohibited No person under the age of eighteen shall be habitually truant.

9.50.05 Dispositions Available Any person deemed to be a habitual truant shall be subject to the following dispositions of the court:

a. Suspend the person's operating privilege, as defined in §§ 340.01(40), Wis. Stats., for not less than 30 days nor more than one year. The court may take possession of the suspended license. If the court takes possession of a license, it shall destroy the license. The court shall forward to the department of transportation a notice stating the reason for and duration of the suspension.

b. Order the person to participate in counseling or a supervised work program or other community service work as described in §§ 938.34(5g), Wis. Stats. The costs of any counseling, supervised work program, or other community service work may be assessed against the person, the parents or guardian of the person, or both.

Any county department, community agency, public agency, or nonprofit charitable organization administering a supervised work program or other community service work to which a person is assigned under an order under this paragraph acting in good faith has immunity from any civil liability in excess of $25,000 for any act or omission by or impacting on that person.

c. Order the person to remain at home except during hours in which the person is attending religious worship or a school program, including travel time required to get to and from the school program or place of worship. The order may permit a person to leave his or her home if the person is accompanied by a parent or guardian.

d. Order the person to attend an educational program under §§ 938.34(7d), Wis. Stats.

e. Order the Department of Workforce Development to revoke, withdraw, or restrict the person’s operating privilege, as defined in §§ 340.01(40), Wis. Stats., to operate vehicles of specific vehicle classes or types, instruction permit, and temporary, restricted or occupational license granted to such person.

f. Order the person to be placed in a sheltered environment for not less than 15 days nor more than one year. The court may order the person to remain at a sheltered environment for not less than 15 days nor more than one year. The court may order the person to remain at a sheltered environment for not less than 15 days nor more than one year.

9.50.06 Orders Applicable To Parents, Guardians, And Legal Custodians

a. If the court finds that the person violated a county ordinance enacted under §§ 118.16(2), Wis. Stats., the court may, in addition to or instead of the dispositions under sub. (1g), order the person's parent, guardian, or legal custodian to participate in counseling at the parent's, guardian's, or legal custodian's own expense or to attend school with the person, or both, if the disposition is authorized by the county ordinance.

b. If the court finds that the person violated a county ordinance enacted under §§ 118.16(2), Wis. Stats., the court may, in addition to or instead of the dispositions under sub. (1g), order the person's parent or guardian to pay all or part of a forfeiture plus costs assessed under sub. (1d), order the person's parent or guardian to pay all or part of a forfeiture plus costs assessed under sub. (1d).

c. If the court finds that the person violated a county ordinance enacted under §§ 118.16(2), Wis. Stats., the court may, as part of the disposition under sub. (1g), order the person's parent or guardian to pay all or part of the costs of any program ordered under sub. (1g). (b) to pay all or part of a forfeiture plus costs assessed under sub. (1g). (b).

c. No order to any parent, guardian, or legal custodian under par. (a) or (am) may be entered until the parent, guardian, or legal custodian is given an opportunity to be heard at a hearing on the contemptuous conduct of the person.

9.50.07 School Dropouts And Habitual Truants. If the court finds that a juvenile is in need of protection or services based on the fact that the juvenile is a school dropout, as defined in §§ 118.15(1)(b), Wis. Stats., or based on habitual truancy, and the court also finds that the juvenile has dropped out of school or is a habitual truant as a result of the juvenile’s intentional refusal to attend school rather than the failure of any other person to comply with §§ 118.15(1)(a) and (am), Wis. Stats., the court, instead of or in addition to any other disposition imposed under sub. (1), may enter an order permitted under §§ 938.342, Wis. Stats.
9.50.08 Disclosure Of Dropouts The Court may order any school district in Rusk County to provide to the Court a list of all persons who are known to the school district to be dropouts and who reside within Rusk County.

9.50.09 Persons Under Seventeen Any person who is under the age of seventeen years of age on the date of the disposition under this section is subject to §§ 938.342, Wis. Stats., as presently enacted or as may from time to time be amended.

9.50.10 Encouraging or Contributing To Truancy Prohibited
(1) Except as provided in sub. (2), no person 17 years of age or older may, by any act or omission, knowingly encourage or contribute to the truancy, as defined under §§ 118.16(1)(c), Wis. Stats., of a person 17 years of age or under. This shall include, without limitation by enumeration, harboring truants or knowingly allowing pupil(s) to enter into or remain upon premises in their possession or under their control while school is in session, and said pupil(s) is/are absent without an acceptable excuse.
(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person who has under his or her control a child who has been sanctioned under §§ 49.26(1)(b), Wis. Stats.
(3) An act or omission contributes to the truancy of a child, whether or not the child is adjudged to be in need of protection or services, if the natural and probable consequences of that act or omission would be to cause the child to be truant.

9.50.11 Dispositions Available Any person deemed to be encouraging or contributing to truancy in violation of 9.50.09 shall be subject to the following dispositions of the court:
(a) Impose of a forfeiture of not more than $500
(b) Order the person to perform community service work for a public agency or nonprofit charitable organization.

9.50.12 Enforcement
(a) Initial Determination It shall be the responsibility of the School Attendance Officer to make the initial administrative determination that an absence or absences are without acceptable excuse, and that a pupil in a school under his/her jurisdiction is a truant, a habitual truant or a dropout pursuant to §§ 118.16(1)(a) and (c), Wis. Stats., §§ 118.153(1)(b), Wis. Stats. The school attendance policies of the School District, and this Chapter, and to make referrals to the following authorities for necessary enforcement actions under this Chapter.
(b) Any sworn law enforcement officer of the Sheriff’s Department or otherwise credentialed by said Office, upon receipt of such referral and the completion of any necessary further investigation, or if such information comes to his/her attention from other sources in the performance of his/her duties, shall have the authority to issue a citation for violations of this Chapter.
(c) The Department of Health and Human Services shall receive all referrals for violations of this Chapter, and upon the completion of any necessary further investigation, refer to the District Attorney whom may proceed to prosecute the same, including issuing citations.
(d) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to limit the authority of the School Attendance Office or the Corporation Counsel to refer a habitually truant or dropout juvenile alleged to be in need of protection or services pursuant to §§ 938.13(6) or (6m), Wis. Stats., to the Intake Worker of the County Department of Health & Human Services, if the evidence is provided by the School Attendance Officer that the activities under §§ 118.16(5), Wis. Stats., have been completed or were not required to be completed as provided in §§ 118.16(5m), Wis. Stats.
(e) An ordinance enacted by a county under §§ 118.63 sub. (1m), (2), or (2m), Wis. Stats., is applicable and may be enforced in that any city or village located in the county and in any town located in the county regardless of whether the city, village, or town has enacted an ordinance under §§ 118.63 sub. (1m), (2), or (2m), Wis. Stats.

Submitted by Rusk County Health & Human Services Board: S/Schneider, Tatur, Gierke, Schmitt, Mai, Brown, Hakala
Motion by Schneider, second by Schmitt to adopt. Jacobs gave brief overview of resolution and desire to improve the system of truancy in Rusk County. Steven Anderson, Rusk County Circuit Court Judge, explained the Criminal Justice Collaborating Counsel’s role in the truancy court and the update to the ordinance as proposed by the resolution.

Discussed on truancy issues and differences within school districts in the county. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION # 18-23 AMEND RUSK COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES HEATH COOK & ASSISTANT HEAD COOK WAGE COMPENSATION
WHEREAS, Rusk County Senior Services administers Rusk County’s meals program providing congregate, home delivered and jail meals; and
WHEREAS, The program plans, cooks and delivers meals to county sites and citizens homes; and
WHEREAS, These meals are a coordinated effort of the Head Cook and Assistant Head Cook who administer this initiative at the Ladysmith Senior/Youth Center; and
WHEREAS, Rusk County Personnel Committee, at their October 4, 2018 meeting, reviewed the point factor/wage and recommended to approve the increased pay rate of the Head Cook from $11.49 to $13.49 and Assistant Head Cook from $10.17 to $11.17; and
WHEREAS, The Health and Human Services Board is supportive of this wage increase in finding that this wage is comparable to like employment in the area; and
WHEREAS, Rusk County Senior Services budget combines funding resources through the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, revenue from congregate sites and levy contained in the approved 2018 Rusk County Health & Human Services budget; and
WHEREAS, the 2018 fiscal impact will result in $1,061.63 which will not have a negative impact on the 2018 budget; and
WHEREAS, the yearly budget impact results in $6,321.38, along with any county wide salary increase, which will be supported in the budget without any increased levy requests; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does adopt the wage rates effective November 1, 2018.
Submitted by Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/Mai
Motion by Fisher, second by Gierke to adopt. Jacobs explained resolution and the retention problems for the positions at the current payrate. Fisher clarification on point factor. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION # 18-24 AMEND RUSK RESTORATIVE YOUTH PROGRAM/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR WAGE COMPENSATION
WHEREAS, Rusk Restorative Youth Program provides least-restrictive prevention programs to Rusk County at-risk youth; and
WHEREAS, The Rusk Restorative Youth Program was developed through an Otto Bremer Grant in 2011; and
WHEREAS, Rusk Restorative Youth Program received the Otto Bremer grant again in 2012 resulting in a non-profit 501-c-3 being created; and
WHEREAS, Rusk Restorative Youth Program is sustainable in part because of revenues obtained from youth involved in Teen Court, Victim Impact Panel, Underage Alcohol as well as collaboration with Health & Human Services through State grant funds; and
WHEREAS, in 2017 the Rusk Restorative Youth Program/Youth Development Coordinator was formed as a full-time Rusk County position funded through participant fees, State grant funds and county tax levy; and
WHEREAS, these programs are specifically designed to be evidence-based approaches to provide skill development diverting youth from more restrictive interventions; and
WHEREAS, Rusk County Health & Human Services continues funding assistance with the understanding contingent on available intervention grant funds; and
WHEREAS, The Rusk County Personnel Committee, at their October 4, 2018 meeting, reviewed the point factor/wage and recommends to approve the increased pay rate from $16.92 to $17.92, and;

WHEREAS, Rusk County Health & Human Services allocates State funding through Youth Aids grants contained in the approved 2018 Rusk County Health & Human Services budget; and

WHEREAS, ongoing funding will continue to be supported through the 2019 budget for this position with no increased tax levy requests; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does adopt the wage rate effective November 1, 2018.

Submitted by Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/Mai.

Motion by Liefinger, second by Schmitt to adopt. Jacobs explained the resolution and position funding. Fisher explained point factor initial assessment. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION # 18-25 REQUESTING INCREASED FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT REFORMS FOR WISCONSIN’S CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and

WHEREAS, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and

WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin’s child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system’s ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and

WHEREAS, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion’s share of financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; and

WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin’s child welfare system is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Services allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some counties and an overburden of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding, performance, cost sharing and long-term stability; and

WHEREAS, along with DMCPS, all eleven of Wisconsin’s peer states with county administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and

WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin’s CPS system are too important to allow the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps and, disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to property taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids Allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by $30 million annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) so Wisconsin’s CPS system can meet its obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the state of Wisconsin to close significant gaps in state biennial budget by $30 million annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) so Wisconsin’s CPS system can meet its obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.


Motion by Schneider, second by Gierke to adopt. Jacobs gave brief explanation of resolution of support being circulated throughout the state based on a caseload study that had been done. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

ATVS/UTVS – US HWY # BRIDGE CROSSING OVER THE CHIPPEWA RIVER

Rich Summerfield, Corporation Counsel, suggested that this resolution be postponed to the November meeting as the ordinance has not been adopted by the Highway Committee. Chair Willingham removed and will place on the November agenda.

RESOLUTION # 18-26 OUTSTANDING CHECKS

WHEREAS, Rusk County has issued checks that have not been cashed; and

WHEREAS, the checks have been dormant since 2017 or prior, and

WHEREAS, the payee has made no request for a replacement check,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors cancels the following checks:

GENERAL CHECKS – CITIZENS COMMUNITY FEDERAL BANK, LADYSMITH, WI
Check # Date Name Amount
1110 8/7/2016 Derby, Jeremy $25.00
11782 7/8/2016 Blue Hills Market 91.69
11839 4/27/2017 Jackie White 324.00
221706 5/8/2013 Kreider, Steven 19.18
221728 5/8/2013 Sutten, Doreen 10.39
222107 7/17/2013 Powlers, Christopher 25.00
222143 7/24/2013 Kensley, Russell 10.00
222264 8/14/2013 Rohrer, Clara 17.14
222574 9/18/2013 Frederick, Andrew 4.00
222627 9/18/2013 Ladvigen, John 1.00
17C 006337 12/22/2017  Michael Allen Kauffman  58.21
17C 006343 12/29/2017 Anthony M Pierce  150.00

(These checks can be replaced after canceling upon request by the payee.)


Motion by Hauser, second by Hraban to adopt. Nelson gave brief explanation of resolution and need for full board approval to cancel checks. Discussion on checks and attempted contacts to resolve. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION # 18-27 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE RUSK COUNTY ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY POSITION TO FULL TIME

WHEREAS, the Rusk County District Attorney’s Office prosecutes all criminal and certain noncriminal matters in Rusk County which have been averaging more than 2000 annually; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin consistently sees changes in criminal statutes designed to hold offenders accountable for criminal behavior ranging from drug offenses and criminal traffic matters, to other more serious crimes; and

WHEREAS, just seven months into 2018, the Rusk County District Attorney’s Office had already filed as many felony cases as the total number filed in 2017; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the increase in cases referred to and charged by the Rusk County District Attorney’s Office, there has been an increase in the severity of crimes including homicide, firearm cases, criminal recklessness, and armed robbery, which involve significantly more prosecutorial time; and

WHEREAS, the Rusk County District Attorney’s Office remains a county office specifically charged with prosecuting Rusk County matters and is entirely funded by county levy dollars except for partial funding for a victim witness coordinator and funding for 1.5 FTE prosecutors; and

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Finance Committee has been providing increased support staff since 2017 to address the current and ongoing backlog of cases in the District Attorney’s Office; and

WHEREAS, a 2015-2017 State Workload Analysis found the Rusk County District Attorney’s Office is 0.82 full-time equivalent prosecutor positions short of staffing recommendations to protect victims and the public, and effectively prosecute offenders; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Rusk County District Attorney’s Office utilizes evidence-based diversion programs and is involved in other criminal justice initiatives which consume a significant amount of prosecutorial time that is not factored into the State Workload Analysis; and

WHEREAS, the Rusk County District Attorney is requesting an increase in the current 0.5 full-time equivalent Assistant District Attorney position by 0.5 full-time equivalent, to increase that prosecutorial position to a 1.0 full-time equivalent.

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Board of Supervisors acknowledges that increased prosecutorial staff is necessary to manage the rise in crime and, thus, the increased workload of the Rusk County District Attorney’s Office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the District Attorney’s request to increase the half-time Assistant District Attorney position to full-time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the Wisconsin Department of Justice and State Prosecutor’s Office to join in their support and seek approval from the Wisconsin Legislature to fund an increase in the 0.5 half-time equivalent Rusk County Assistant District Attorney position to 1.0 full-time equivalent.


Motion by Stout, second by Hraban to adopt. Annette Barna, Rusk County District Attorney, gave brief explanation of resolution and explained the caseload in the county based on a state workload analysis. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION # 18-28 AMEND BAILIFF COMPENSATION RATE

WHEREAS, Rusk County utilizes bailiffs to maintain an orderly court room, and

WHEREAS, the current bailiff compensation is $55 for a full day and $45 for a half day, and

WHEREAS, most other area counties employ bailiffs at an hourly rate, and

WHEREAS, the current half/day-full/day compensation structure is limiting the ability to hire and retain bailiffs, and

WHEREAS, switching to an hourly rate will have a neutral impact on the budget for bailiffs based on current utilization and the savings on shorter court days will balance the increased expense on longer court days, and

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee has considered these factors and reviewed the bailiff compensation in other counties and is recommending a change in the bailiff compensation structure from the current half-day/full-day compensation to an hourly rate of $12.50/hr.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to compensate bailiffs at the rate of $12.50/hr.

Submitted by Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/Willingham.

Motion by Fisher, second by Hanson to adopt. Judge Anderson gave brief explanation of bailiff position and the resolution. Vacho present at 7:55 p.m. Fisher explained per diem to per hour change. Motion carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.

RESOLUTION # 18-29 APPROVING 2019 EMPLOYEE WAGE ADJUSTMENT

WHEREAS, the Rusk County Personnel Committee is assigned the responsibility to recommend annual adjustments to employee compensation, and

WHEREAS, after consulting with the Finance Committee concerning budgeting parameters and considering competitive wages within the marketplace the Personnel Committee is recommending a 1.5% across the board pay increase to be applied in the first pay period of January 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors do approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee for a 1.5% pay increase for all employees.

Submitted by Rusk County Personnel Committee: S/Willingham.

Motion by Fisher, second by Gierke to adopt. Nelson explained that the 1.5% should not be applied to a certain group of employees. Motion by DuSell, second by Fisher to amend resolution to exclude non-union employees. Motion by Fisher, second by Hraban to amend the amendment to exclude the following: ambulance, first responders, elected officials and those covered by collective bargaining agreements. Motion to amend the amendment carried. Motion to amend the resolution carried. Motion to adopt resolution as amended carried. Resolution adopted by aye vote.
RESOLUTION # 18-30 ACQUISITION OF BLACKTOP PLANT  
WHEREAS, the current Rusk County Blacktop plant is over 55 years old and is considered inefficient to operate compared to a modern plant, and  
WHEREAS, a replacement plant would reduce the cost of producing blacktop through the use of recycled materials, a more efficient mixing process, and being more energy efficient, which would be passed on to Rusk County residents through reduced material costs, and  
WHEREAS, as an “Internal Service Fund” the Rusk County Highway shop can and has been charging a sufficient price for blacktop in order to build up a “plant replacement fund”, and  
WHEREAS, the Finance Committee proposed using the current “plant replacement fund” as a substitute for capital improvement borrowing and in turn proposed bonding for a modern replacement blacktop plant, with the payments being made through the operation of the new plant, thereby paying for itself with no additional burden to the County’s debt service.  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does approve $500,000 being transferred from the Rusk County Highway shop’s Blacktop Fund for capital improvements and further approves proceeding to further explore the purchase and bond funding for a new blacktop plant.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Highway Committee and Finance Committee be directed to prepare a report for the County Board by January of 2019, outlining the purchase, payback, and bonding options for a new blacktop plant. 
Submitted by Rusk County Finance & Highway Committees: S/Willingham.  
Motion by Fisher, second by Hraban to adopt. Willingham explained that Andy Albarado, Administrative Coordinator, had passed out an alternate resolution. Motion by Fisher, second by Hauser to adopt alternate resolution. Willingham explained that the substitute resolution does not approve the purchase of a blacktop plant, but it allows for a recommendation to be brought forward by the Finance and Highway Committees to be done by January of 2019. Questions, discussion and explanation of study and cost by Scott Emch, Highway Commissioner. Resolution adopted by aye vote.
RESOLUTION # 18-31 AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A $772,147 STATE TRUST FUND LOAN  
WHEREAS, By the provisions of Sec.24.66 of the Wisconsin Statutes, all municipalities may borrow money for such purposes in the manner prescribed, and,  
WHEREAS, By the provisions of Chapter 24 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin is authorized to make loans from the State Trust Funds to municipalities for such purposes. (Municipality as defined by Sec. 24.60(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes means a town, village, city, county, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, town sanitary district created under Sec. 60.71 or 60.72, metropolitan sewerage district created under Sec. 200.05 or 200.23, joint sewerage system created under Sec. 281.43(4), school district or technical college district.)  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Rusk, Wisconsin, borrow from the Trust Funds of the State of Wisconsin the sum of Seven Hundred Seventy Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Seven and 00/100 Dollars ($772,147.00) for the purpose of financing software purchase, heating system upgrade and new building construction and for no other purpose.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The loan is to be payable within 10 years from the 15th day of March preceding the date the loan is made. The loan will be repaid in annual installments with interest at the rate of 4.25 percent per annum from the date of making the loan to the 15th day of March next and thereafter annually as provided by law.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there shall be raised and there is levied upon all taxable property, within the County of Rusk, Wisconsin, a direct annual tax for the purpose of paying interest and principal on the loan as they become due.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no money obtained by the County of Rusk by such loan from the state be applied or paid out for any purpose except financing software purchase, heating system upgrade and new building construction without the consent of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in case the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin agrees to make the loan, that the chairman and clerk of the County of Rusk, Wisconsin, are authorized and empowered, in the name of the county to execute and deliver to the Commission, certificates of indebtedness, in such form as required by the Commission, for any sum of money that may be loaned to the county pursuant to this resolution. The chairman and clerk of the county will perform all necessary actions to fully carry out the provisions of Chapter 24, Wisconsin Statutes, and these resolutions.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this preamble and these resolutions and the aye and no vote by which they were adopted, be recorded, and that the clerk of this county 
Submitted by Rusk County: S/Willingham.  
Motion by Hauser, second by Hraban to adopt. Nelson explained resolution and that some projects have already been completed. Albarado clarified that the projects were all already approved with this application for funding. Roll call vote: Voting yes – 17: Voting no – 0. Voting yes: Hauser, Vacho, Stout, Tatur, Lieftring, McBain, Pedersen, Schneider, Gierke, Schmitt, Fisher, Hanson, Hraban, Brown, Willingham. Resolution adopted by roll call vote.
DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION  
Approval of RFP for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) - Ambulance 911 Service: Motion by Schmitt, second by Stout to approve proposed RFP. Brief explanation by Schmitt and Albarado. Discussion on approval process and full board participation when a decision will be made. Motion carried.
CLOSED SESSION  
Announced by Chair for discussion regarding approval to receive land donation.  
For 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, WI Stats 19.85(1)(e).  
Closed Session at 8:30 p.m.
Open Session 8:38 p.m.
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
Albarado invited all to Indecque from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Albarado announced open house at the hospital on November 1st from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
ADJOURNMENT  
Motion by Lieftring to adjourn, second by McBain. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.  
Next meeting: November 13, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Loren Beebe, Rusk County Clerk  
Danielle Zimmer, Chief Deputy Clerk