

**MEETING OF THE IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JANUARY 31, 2023**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Joe Pinardi at 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call taken, present: Hanson, Sendra, Roberts, Thompson, Pinardi, Francis, Youngs, Thomas and Snyder. Absent: Krall, Erickson, Hiller, Hewitt and Haeger. No student representatives present.

Clerk Michael Saari certified that the meeting was properly called and posted.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Roberts to approve minutes of December 20, 2022 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas, seconded by Snyder to move into closed session per 19.85(1) e, Wisconsin Statutes to discuss land issue in Pine Lake gravel pit on County Road G. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION HELD: Discussion held with Eric Peterson, Forestry Administrator and Tim Dean, Corporation Counsel on land dispute issue.

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Thomas to return to open session. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Snyder, seconded by Youngs to have Forestry Administrator submit application for land removal of 10 acres from county forest to the Wisconsin DNR and allow Joe Pinardi and Tim Dean to negotiate with the DeRosso family on access to the gravel pit and new property lines. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Pinardi told board the Becky from Extension would be willing to set up a face book page for Iron County and then screen and monitor our page.

COMMITTEE, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Thompson reported that the stumpage revenue for 2022 totaled \$2,062,048.73 which is about the normal average. January's stumpage is over \$200,000 for a great start to 2023.

Sendra reported that the Cranberry Inn will no longer be open for food and drinks but will keep the motel and other housing options open in the future.

Hanson reported the Recycling Committee was slightly over budget in 2022 because of the change over in recycling companies in mid-year.

Hanson reported that our Zoning Department had a very busy year and new applications are coming in for 2023.

Hanson also reported that a new job description for Airport manager's position is being worked on.

Roberts reported that the county took in \$665,000 in our share of the sales tax for 2022. The county had \$600,000 in the budget. Clerk told board members that this is just slightly higher than last year and the amount keeps increasing each year.

Roberts told board that Finance passed on a resolution asking state to give back 50% of real estate transfer fees up from 20% to each collecting county.

Roberts reported that Human Services interviewed 4 people for a new job and selected an inhouse person to fill the position. Sawyer County will also interview since the job will be shared between the 2 counties.

Thomas reported that the Memorial Building had a good month but had to order a battery for the floor scrubber that was 6 years old at a cost of \$360.00.

Thomas also reported that Neil Klemme, Extension was chosen as the educator of the year by the Ironwood Chamber.

Youngs told board members that the Highway Committee chose a John Deere Loader over several other brands. Youngs also told the board that County Road D extension is being looked at by Highway Department with grant dollars being sought to finish the project. Youngs reported that the new plow truck is still 4 to 6 weeks out and an evaluation of the Highway employees will be forthcoming.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Supervisor Sendra asked the board if they have heard of Zucker Bucks. Price County contacted him asking if he had heard of "zucker bucks" to pay for ballot drop boxes for upcoming elections.

Discussion held on purchasing a Track Chair and Accessories for mobile access for handicapped individuals in Iron County. Neil Klemme, Extension has been raising funds to purchase the track chair, trailer and accessories for use by county residents. The Finance Committee suggested furnishing the last \$4,000 to finish the project.

Motion by Thomas, seconded by Snyder to authorize \$4,000 to finish the purchase of the track chair, trailer and accessories. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Hanson, seconded by Thomas to sell Lot 10, Flowage View Road for \$11,500 to Clay and Kyle Mudge in the Town of Mercer. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 3047

WHEREAS, Clara J. Maki, Iron County Treasurer, has been instructed to cancel all outstanding General Fund checks that are over on (1) year old, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Iron County Board of Supervisors cancel all outstanding checks for 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount of outstanding checks to be cancelled for 2021 is \$220.47. The total of \$220.47 be cancelled and transferred to the General Fund. After six months, said funds remaining unclaimed will be transferred to the Unclaimed Funds account.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Sendra to adopt. All aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 3048

REQUEST STATE TO REVISE THE CURRENT REAL ESTATE TRANSFER FEES REVENUE SHARING FORMULA

WHEREAS, the collection of a real estate transfer fee by counties was mandated by the State of Wisconsin in 1969 and included a requirement that counties remit 50% of all transfer fees collected to the State; and

WHEREAS, in 1981 the State changed the transfer fee formula to require counties to remit 80% of all transfer fees collected to the State; and

WHEREAS, the County, through the Register of Deeds Office, assumes the annual operating costs of recording all real estate transfers occurring in each County, including the collection of real estate transfer fees; and

WHEREAS, Iron County real estate transfer fee collections over the past five years totaled \$790,783.96 of which the County retained \$158,156.79.19 and \$632,627.17 was remitted to the State; and

WHEREAS, using a 50/50 split, the County's share of fees collected on local real estate transfers during that same period would have provided an additional \$237,235.19 in support of local government; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the State of Wisconsin has built up a budget surplus of approximately \$2.5 billion dollars, while many Wisconsin counties continue to struggle financially due to the ever-increasing costs of providing county government services in an inflationary economy and providing services for increasing unfunded State mandated programs along with the financial restrictions imposed by State imposed levy limits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Iron County Board of Supervisors that in an effort to assist all Wisconsin Counties, the State of Wisconsin revise the real estate transfer fee share formula to again allow Wisconsin Counties to retain 50% of all real estate transfer fees collected, with 50% to be remitted to the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers, all members of the State Legislature representing Iron County and Wisconsin Counties Association.

Motion by Roberts, seconded by Thomas to adopt. All aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM by Chairman Pinardi.

Michael Saari
Iron County Clerk