

Lincoln County Board of Supervisors
Meeting: January 19, 2021

The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors met at the Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N Sales Street, Room 257, Merrill, WI in session assembled pursuant to law.

1. Chair Koth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance followed.
3. Roll was called with the following present (in person): Allen, Ashbeck, Bialecki, Friske, Gilk, Gorski, Heller, Koth, Lee, Loka, McCrank, Panfil, Peterson, Rusch, Simon, Voermans, and Weaver. Attending via teleconference were: Breitenmoser, Callahan, Hafeman, Ratliff, and Wendt. (22)
4. Announcements/Recognitions/Awards/Appointments
 - A. Announcements: None
 - B. Service Recognitions for January 2021:
 - 25 Years: Colleen Chartier, Social Services
 - D. Appointments & Re-Appointments:
 1. Reappointment of Michael Everson to the Civil Service Commission (Term expires 12/31/2025) M/S Heller/Friske to reappointment of Michael Everson to the Civil Service Commission (Term expires 12/31/2025). Motion carried by a voice vote.
5. Approval of the Journal: M/S Heller/Lee to approve the December 15, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion carried by a voice vote.
6. A. Letters: None
 - B. Memorials: Patricia Woller (2000-2017)
7. Reports of Standing & Special Committees:
 - A. Finance Committee: 2020 Year-to-date Report – Finance Director (Dan Leydet)
 - B. Administrative & Legislative Committee: Administrative Coordinator’s Written Report – Administrative Coordinator (Cate Wylie)
8. Resolutions and Ordinances

A. 1) Resolution 2021-01-01

Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

WHEREAS: The Lincoln County Child Support Agency administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to Lincoln 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: County child support agencies collected \$935 Million in child support during 2019 and established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and

WHEREAS: Lincoln County’s Child Support Agency provides services to children as well as custodial and non-custodial parents that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children; and

WHEREAS: The economic security and social service programs provided by Lincoln County Child Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now more than ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin’s Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2nd in the nation for collecting current support to 5th; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin’s decreased performance has led to the state losing out on an estimated \$70,000 in potential federal incentive payments between Calendar Year 2019 and 2020; and

WHEREAS: An abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin’s strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions to federal funding for Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS: Decreased federal funding results in less funding for Lincoln 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 roughly \$2 in federal matching funds; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$4 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Lincoln County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration and all other counties.

Fiscal Impact: none

Dated this 19th day of January, 2021

Introduced by Social Services Committee

Date Passed: December 9, 2020

Committee Vote: 5-0

M/S Heller/Bialecki to adopt Resolution 2021-01-01. Discussion followed. Motion carried by a voice vote.

2) Resolution 2021-01-02

Resolution Expressing Lincoln County's Support for Action on Climate Change

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, is an important driver of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business, military and academic leaders as a worldwide threat to public safety, public health, local and global economies and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, local governments have an impact on greenhouse gas emissions through land use planning, transportation systems, buildings, energy, and water use and the many daily operations carried out to provide vital services to residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, one hundred and ninety-five countries, including the United States, vowed to address climate change in agreements reached in December 2015; and

WHEREAS, clean energy technologies was one of the few sectors of the economy that kept growing through the global recession, and it continues to be the fastest growing sector in the nation and there were more people employed in the solar industry in the U.S. last year than in energy production from coal, natural gas, and oil combined; and

WHEREAS, clean energy technologies have become a key area of manufacturing industry growth and Wisconsin already has more than 500 businesses that manufacture components for clean energy technologies such as wind, solar and bio-gas systems; and

WHEREAS, some of Wisconsin's and Lincoln County's most iconic industries, including agriculture, forestry, and tourism, are threatened by climate change; and

WHEREAS, improving energy efficiency and resilience in the face of potential disruption in energy production can attract jobs and economic development opportunities to Lincoln County, and increase the county's long-term competitiveness and wealth; and

WHEREAS, actions that reduce the combustion of fossil fuels and the release of greenhouse gases, including prioritizing efficiency and transitioning to low-carbon energy sources, will improve air quality, public health, energy security, local natural environments, and quality of life for all; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County is joined in taking action on climate change by cities, counties, states, and national governments and community and private sector leaders who recognize the importance and potential of these actions to protect and enhance the well-being of current and future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors reaffirm their commitment to taking action to reduce its contribution to climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors also government alone and will require leadership and commitment from businesses, community institutions, and utilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Lincoln County urges other counties in Wisconsin and the United States to join with it in its commitment to address climate change; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Mary Felzkowski, Congressman Tom Tiffany, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and all the Wisconsin Counties.

Dated: January 19, 2021

Introduced by: Land Services Committee Date Passed: 12-10-20 Committee Vote: 3-2

Fiscal Impact: None

M/S Heller/Allen to adopt Resolution 2021-01-02. Resolution author provided an updated draft of the resolution which include wording that had be excluded from the original. Discussion followed where it was questioned whether the new resolution could be used and if it should be sent back to committee. Chair Koth explained the missing language could be added as an amendment to the original resolution. M/S Friske/Loka to table res. 2021-01-02 since there was not yet a motion to amend. Roll call was requested. Ayes: Ashbeck, Bialecki, Friske, Heller, Loka, Panfil, Peterson, Ratliff, and Simon (9). Nays: Allen, Breitenmoser, Gilk, Gorski, Hafeman, Koth, Lee, McCrank, Rusch, Voermans, Weaver, and Wendt (12) with Callahan now absent. Motion to table failed 9-12. M/S Weaver/Koth to amend the original resolution to include the following wording after the word also and before the word government, in paragraph 12, first BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, and first line: "recognizes that achieving a community wide goal cannot be done by county". Motion to amend carried by a voice vote. Roll call was requested on the original motion to adopt. Ayes: Allen, Ashbeck, Breitenmoser, Gilk, Gorski, Hafeman, Koth, McCrank, Panfil, Rausch, Voermans, Weaver, and Wendt (13). Nays: Bialecki, Friske, Heller, Lee, Loka, Peterson, Ratliff, and Simon (8). Motion Carried 13-8.

3) Resolution 2021-01-03

AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF AN EASEMENT IN THE TOWN OF HARRISON FOR ELECTRICAL SERVICE TO WPS CORPORATION

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation requires an easement agreement from property owners before an underground electrical distribution system can be installed; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation is converting the current lines to an underground system along Highway B in the Township of Harrison; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County owns land in NE ¼ NW ¼ Section 10 T.34N.–R.8 E., where a 12 foot by 12 foot square area is required to locate infrastructure necessary to provide electrical service to its customers; therefore, has need for this easement; and

Whereas, in accordance with Department of Natural Resources policy, when an access is granted to a public utility, the lands do not have to be withdrawn from the County Forest Law; and

WHEREAS, this easement will enhance electrical service to Lincoln County taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize the grant of an easement under the terms and conditions set forth therein and as attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board is authorized to sign this agreement on behalf of Lincoln County.

Dated: January 19, 2021

Introduced by: Forestry, Land and Parks Committee Date Passed: January, 11, 2021

Committee Vote: All ayes Fiscal Impact: \$1.00

M/S Heller/Bialecki to adopt Resolution 2021-01-03. Discussion followed. Motion carried by a voice vote.

9. Reports of Claims: None.

10. M/S Heller/Lee to approve the mileage and per diem for this meeting. Motion carried by a voice vote.

11. Next County Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., at Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N Sales Street, Room 257, Merrill, WI 54452

12. M/S Heller/McCrank to adjourn. Motion carried by a voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

) SS

COUNTY OF LINCOLN)

I, Christopher J Marlowe, County Clerk in and for said Lincoln County, Wisconsin do hereby

certify the within and foregoing is a true and accurate recital of all proceedings by and before the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting, January 19, 2021

Christopher J Marlowe, County Clerk