

Lincoln County Board of Supervisors
Meeting: July 19, 2022

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 Friske called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance followed.
3. Clerk Marlowe called Roll - Members Present: Allen (Virtual), Ashbeck, Bialecki, Boyd, Brixius, Callahan, Cummings, DePasse, Detert, Friske, Hafeman (Virtual), Hartwig, Lemke, McCrank, Peterson, Rusch, Simon (Virtual), Thiel, and Wickham (19). Excused: Anderson-Malm, Loka, and Osness. (3)
4. Announcements/Recognitions/Awards/Appointments
 - a. None
 - b. Service Recognitions – July:
20 Years: Jodie Wilhelm, Sheriff's Department
 - c. Appointments & Re-Appointments
 - 1) Appoint John Olson as the Lincoln County Veteran Service Officer. Chair Friske clarified that the board is to elect the county CVO so this appointment would actually be an election. M/S Bialecki/McCrank to cast a unanimously ballot and elect John Olson as our Lincoln County Veteran Service Officer. Motion carried by a voice vote.
 - 2) Appoint Gene Simon as our Lake Associations Representative (Term expires 4/22/2024). M/S Bialecki/Peterson to appoint Gene Simon as our Lake Associations Representative (Term expires 4/22/2024). Motion carried by a voice vote.
 - 3) Appoint Josh Klug and Elizabeth McCrank to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) (Indefinite Term). M/S McCrank/Boyd to appoint Josh Klug to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) (Indefinite Term). Motion carried by a voice vote. M/S Rusch/Wickham to appoint Elizabeth McCrank to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) (Indefinite Term). Motion carried by a voice vote.
 - 4) Appoint Michael J. Feirer to the Aging & Disability Resource Center Board (ADRC) as a Citizen Member. M/S Ashbeck/Rusch to appoint Michael J. Feirer to the Aging & Disability Resource Center Board (ADRC) as a Citizen Member. Motion carried by a voice vote.
 - 5) Reappoint Dave Bablick to the Civil Service Commission (Term expires 12/31/2026). M/S Lemke/Callahan to reappoint Dave Bablick to the Civil Service Commission (Term expires 12/31/2026). Motion carried by a voice vote.
 - 6) Reappoint James Ferge (Term expires 4/1/2027), Rick Nelson (Term expires 4/1/2026), and Steve Silverman (Term expires 4/1/2025) to the Civil Service Grievance Commission. M/S Callahan/Boyd to reappoint James Ferge to Civil Service Grievance Commission (Term expires 4/1/2027). Motion carried by a voice vote. M/S Bialecki/Cummings to reappoint Rick Nelson to Civil Service Grievance Commission (Term expires 4/1/2026). Motion carried by a voice vote. M/S Peterson/Boyd to reappoint Steve Silverman to Civil Service Grievance Commission (Term expires 4/1/2025). Motion carried by a voice vote.
 - 7) Appoint James Beaumont as an Alternate to the Board of Adjustment (term expires 6/30/2024). M/S Brixius/Ashbeck to appoint James Beaumont as an Alternate to the Board of Adjustment (term expires 6/30/2024). Motion carried by a voice vote.
5. Approval of Journal – July 21, 2022: M/S Simon/Peterson to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by a voice vote.
6. Letters, Petitions and Memorials
 - a. Letters – None
 - b. Memorials – None
 - c. Under Petitions Chair Friske granted Chris Fabich a five minute public comment to petition the board about an issue that he is unable to resolve at the committee level. Mr. Fabich asked to be

placed on next month's agenda to further address his issue. No action was taken nor was Fabich's request granted at this time.

7. Reports of Standing & Special Committees:

- A. Finance Committee: 2022 Year-to-date Budget Report – Finance Director (Dan Leydet) Leydet reviewed the year-to-date report and answered questions.
- B. Finance Committee: 2023 Budget Update – Finance Director (Dan Leydet) Leydet mentioned that the current budget is \$5.1 million over budget at this point. Discussion followed.
- C. Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Judicial and Emergency Management Committee: Sheriff's Office – Chair Friske explained that Sheriff Schneider asked that their report be placed on next months agenda.

8. Resolutions and Ordinances

A. 1) Resolution 2022-07-21

Acceptance of the Department of Children and Families

Dream Up! Child Care Supply-Building Grant

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Department of Social Services under contract with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, administers the child care program under statute 49.144 according to Wisconsin State Statute 46.22(1)(b)2.fm. ; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County is experiencing significant lack of child care and seeing a greater use in private, unlicensed homes providing childcare and elderly relatives; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County has a total of 15 certified/licensed homes/facilities, 10 of which serve infants. There is a total capacity of 412 for the entire county. Lincoln County has approximately 1,300 children under the age of five. At this time, there are no facilities that provide evening or weekend care.

FURTHERMORE, Child Protective Services is seeing a younger age group being left unsupervised (ages 8-14), specifically after school hours and an increase pre-teens/ early teens caring for younger children; and

WHEREAS, the lack of certified/licensed childcare resources directly affects the ability for licensed foster homes to accept placements of children; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families Project Growth announced the *Dream Up! Child Care Supply-Building Grant*, administered by their partner, First Children's Finance, to focus on building child care supply through a collaborative community approach; and

WHEREAS, Applicants will receive strategic planning support and \$75,000 in grant funding to evaluate, plan, sustain and expand existing child care, and support new child care programs; and

WHEREAS, additional \$5,000 stipends will be allocated to participating child care providers who submit business improvement plans during the strategic planning process; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Department of Social Services has submitted an application and has been selected for the Fall 2022 Cohort.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recognizes and supports the need for additional childcare resources and accepts this grant.

Dated: 07/19/22

Authored by: Supervisor Laurie Thiel

Co-Sponsored by: Supervisor Lori Anderson-Malm

Committee: Social Services

Committee Vote: 5-0

Date Passed: 06/21/22

Fiscal Impact: \$0

M/S Bialecki/Cummings to adopt Resolution 2022-07-21. Discussion followed. Motion carried by a voice vote.

4) Resolution 2022-7-24

RESOLUTION FOR AN ADVISORY REFERENDUM REGARDING PRIVATE FUNDING OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, During Wisconsin's 2020 General Election a private, non-profit entity, the Center for Tech and Civic Life, funded in part by Facebook Founder Mark Zuckerberg, furnished approximately \$8.5 million to five Wisconsin cities and an additional \$1.6 million to over 200 other Wisconsin municipalities.

WHEREAS, By accepting these grants municipalities agreed to certain conditions related to election administration which directly impacted the procedures adopted by municipalities who were recipients of the grant funding while other municipalities that did not receive the grants did not implement the same measures.

WHEREAS, By accepting these grants municipalities granted special access to voter data to agents of the special interest group, including the ability manage municipal staff and special access to ballots.

WHEREAS, Voters need to be able to trust that their local election officials are acting in a non-partisan capacity and are not under the influence of private resources that might impact how an election is administered.

WHEREAS, The ability to accept private funds for election administration can be used by any political party or special interest group to improperly influence the outcome of elections.

WHEREAS, The ability of a privately-funded special interest to participate in an election in this manner allows for circumvention of campaign finance laws and creates the appearance of unfairness in election administration.

WHEREAS, In order to have a well-functioning election, voters need to have trust in the fairness of the process.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors insists upon the prohibition of the use of private donations from special interest groups, people, or other private entities by government for the purposes of election administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, does hereby approve that the following question be placed on the November 8, 2022, General Election ballot as an advisory referendum question:

Question: Should the State of Wisconsin prohibit election officials from soliciting or using private funds, technology, or services from special interest groups, people, or other private entities for the purpose of administering elections and referendums?

YES _____ NO _____

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, all members of the state legislature, and to each Wisconsin County Board.

Dated: 7/19/22

Authored by: Calvin Callahan

Co-Sponsored by: Jesse Boyd, Angela Cummings, Randy Detert, Greg Hartwig

Committee: Administrative & Legislative

Committee Vote: carried – unanimous Date Passed: 7/6/2022

Fiscal Impact:

Drafted by: Calvin Callahan

M/S Callahan/Bialecki to adopt Resolution 2022-07-24. Lengthy discussion followed. M/S McCrank/Allen to postpone to next month’s meeting, August 19, 2022. Roll was called; Aye’s: McCrank, Rusch, Hafeman, and Allen (4); Nay’s: Bialecki, Peterson, Ashbeck, Thiel, Friske, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Callahan, Lemke, Brixius, Wickham, Cummings, Simon, and Hartwig (15). Motion failed 15-4. Roll Call was asked for the original motion to adopt; Aye’s: Bialecki, Peterson, Ashbeck, Thiel, Friske, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Callahan, Lemke, Brixius, Wickham, Cummings, Simon, and Hartwig (15); Nay’s: McCrank, Rusch, Hafeman, and Allen (4) Motion carried 15-4.

2) Resolution 2022-07-22

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER CONTRACT WITH ASPIRUS WAUSAU HOSPITAL, INC.

WHEREAS, Lincoln County is under no statutory mandate to provide ambulance service to its residents; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes mandate that cities, towns and villages are required to provide this service directly or by contract; and

WHEREAS, since 1970, Lincoln County has provide ambulance service to its residents via contracts with service providers; and

WHEREAS, the Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services and Judicial Committee recommends that the attached Agreement be approved for continued ambulance service to the northern areas of Lincoln County; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors does hereby adopt the recommendation of the Committee..

Dated: June 21, 2022

Dated: July 19, 2022

Authored by: Mike Loka, Supervisor, District 16
 Co-Sponsored by: Calvin Callahan, Supervisor, District 13
 Committee: Law Enforcement, EMS & Judicial Committee
 Committee Vote: 4-0 Date Passed: 7/13/2022
 Fiscal Impact:

Drafted by: Karry A. Johnson, Corporation Counsel
 M/S Simon/McCrank to adopt Resolution 2022-07-22. Discussion followed. Motion carried by a voice vote.

3) Resolution 2022-07-23

Resolution to Allow the Lincoln County Vehicle Registration Fee, Otherwise Known as the Wheel Tax, to Sunset in December 2022

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors first passed an Ordinance in September 2017, creating the Annual Vehicle Registration Fee (Wheel Tax) in the amount of \$20.00 to be effective January 1, 2018, as codified in Lincoln County Code §3.31; and

WHEREAS, the initial vehicle registration fee was to sunset on December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the vehicle registration fee has been extended multiple times, thereby eroding public confidence in the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the most recent vehicle registration fee extension was passed in 2021, becoming effective on January 1, 2022 and having a sunset date of December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Lincoln County, much like citizens throughout the State of Wisconsin and the country, have seen all-time record high fuel prices, 40-year high inflation rates and food prices, creating difficulties and struggles for families and fixed-income individuals of Lincoln County to provide the most basic necessities for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, the financial impacts of these record high prices on Lincoln County citizens cannot go unrecognized, and it has become clear to the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors that we representing our constituents must act.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors hereby resolves that the annual vehicle registration fee will be allowed to sunset and come to an end on December 31, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Lincoln County Corporation Counsel shall notify the State of Wisconsin in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code TRANS §126.02 of the sunset of the Lincoln County Vehicle Registration fee, and take all steps required by the State, including drafting an ordinance repealing the registration fee if necessary, in order to effectuate the sunset of the registration fee.

Dated: July 19, 2022

Authored by: Calvin Callahan, Supervisor District 13

Co-Sponsored by: DePasse (Dist. 12), Wickham (Dist. 18), Boyd (Dist. 10), Friske (Dist. 9), Detert (Dist.11)

Committee: Finance & Insurance Committee

Committee Vote: 4-0

Date Passed: 7/1/2022

Fiscal Impact: Approximately \$560,000.00

Drafted by: Calvin Callahan, Dist. 13 and Karry A. Johnson, Corporation Counsel

M/S Simon/Peterson to adopt Resolution 2022-07-23. Discussion followed. Chair Friske asked for a roll call; Aye's: Bialecki, McCrank, Peterson, Ashbeck, Thiel, Friske, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Lemke, Brixius, Wickham, Cummings, Simon, and Hartwig (15); Nay's: Rusch, Hafeman, and Allen (3). Motion carried 15-3.

B. 1) Ordinance 2022-07-723

An Ordinance Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln (creating §2.14 – Election Administration: Donations, Grants and Integrity)

The County Board of Supervisors of Lincoln County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain:

Section 2.14 is created to read as follows:

2.14 – ELECTION ADMINISTRATION: DONATIONS, GRANTS & INTEGRITY.

- (1) Purpose. Voters need to be able to trust their elected officials are acting in a non-partisan capacity and not under the influence of private resources that may impact how an election is administered.

- (2) Donations. No donation shall be accepted from any person or nongovernmental entity for the purpose of elections administration, including but not limited to, collection of ballots or voter registration.
- (3) Grants. No grant shall be accepted from any person or nongovernmental entity for the purpose of elections administration, including but not limited to, collection of ballots or voter registration.
- (4) Integrity. Election officials are prohibited from soliciting or using private funds, technology or services from special interest groups, people or private entities for the purpose of administering elections and referendums.

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting.

Dated: July 19, 2022

Authored by: Angela Cummings, Supervisor, District 20

Co-Sponsored by: Boyd (Dist. 10), Callahan (Dist. 13), Detert (Dist. 11) & Hartwig (Dist. 22)

Committee: Administrative & Legislative

Committee Vote: carried – unanimous Date Passed: 7/6/2022

Fiscal Impact: None

Drafted by: Angela Cummings, Supervisor, District 20

M/S DePasse/Hartwig to adopt Ordinance 2022-07-723. Motion carried by a voice vote.

- 9. Report of Claims - None.
- 10. M/S Peterson/Ashbeck to approve the mileage and per diem for this meeting. Motion carried by a voice vote.
- 11. Next County Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N Sales Street, Room 257, Merrill, WI 54452
- 12. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 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, July 19, 2022

Christopher J Marlowe, County Clerk