

## Lincoln County Board of Supervisors

Meeting: April 18, 2023

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 9:00 a.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance followed.
3. Clerk Marlowe called Roll - Members Present: Allen, Anderson-Malm, Ashbeck, Bialecki, Boyd, Cummings, Friske, Hartwig, Lemke, Loka, Meunier, Rusch, Simon (9:35), Thiel, Wendorf, and Wickham. (16). Virtual: Callahan, Hafeman, Osness (3). Total in attendance (19). Excused: McCrank, DePasse, Detert (3).
4. Announcements/Recognitions/Awards/Appointments
  - A. Announcements - None
  - B. Service Recognitions – April-None
  - C. Appointments & Re-Appointments:
    - a) 2023 Emergency Fire Warden - Town of Bradley – James Charles, Kracker Barrel, PO Box 121, Heafford Jct, WI 54532, Town of Russell – Robert Kressell, Northern States Tool and Cutter, N5333 Hwy 17, Gleason WI, 54435, Town of Scott – Mike Gruenenwald, Beacon Bar, N1297 Fairview Road, Merrill WI 54452. M/S Lemke/Rusch
5. Approval of Journal – March 21, 2023: M/S Hartwig/Cummings to approve the March 21st<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented. Motion carried by a voice vote.
6. Letters, Petitions and Memorials
  - A. Letters – None
  - B. Memorials – None
7. Reports of Standing & Special Committees:
  - A. Finance & Insurance Committee: 2023 Year-to-Date Budget Report – Finance Director (Samantha Fenske) Director Fenske gave her report. No concerns at this time.
  - B. AD HOC Committee on Pine Crest: Report of Nursing Home Review and Possible Alternatives – Committee Board (Don Friske) gave an overview of alternatives, options and measures for addressing Pine Crest Facility and Nursing Home and opened the floor for discussion and questions. Below is a list of options as found in the Ad Hoc committee’s report. This report is available on the county website, in the clerk’s office, and at the T.B. Scott Library. Each option was discussed in detail. No formal action took place.
    1. Lincoln County continues to operate Pine Crest as a county-owned nursing home.
      - a. Generate additional revenues to support Pine Crest operations.
      - b. Decrease expenses for operating and/or maintaining Pine Crest
      - c. Pursue a new management arrangement for operating Pine Crest.
      - d. Demolish existing Pine Crest facility and build new facility of appropriate size.
    2. Lincoln County ceases operating Pine Crest as a county-owned nursing home.
      - a. Find alternative uses for Pine Crest facility
      - b. Sell the Pine Crest facility.
    3. Hold referenda to allow the voters of Lincoln County to decide whether Lincoln County should continue to operate, fund and/or maintain Pine Crest Nursing Home.
      - a. To continue or not to continue Pine Crest as county-owned nursing home.
      - b. Funding for Pine Crest Nursing Home.
      - c. Funding for Pine Crest facility maintenance.
      - d. Replace existing Pine Crest facility.
8. Public Comment –
  - A. John Greenwood, 305 E. Riverside Avenue commented on item number 7(B).
  - B. Mike Ravn, W4397 Eagle Ridge Lane, Merrill. Kevin commented on item 7(B).
  - C. Kevin Stevenson, 600 Hollywood Drive commented on item number 7(B).
9. Resolutions and Ordinances

## A. 1) Resolution 2023-04-19

## Resolution Accepting Donation from Aspirus Health

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Health Department, promotes partnerships within the community to improve health through advocacy, prevention and implementation of best practices; and

WHEREAS, the Live Well Lincoln is spearheaded by Lincoln County Health Department with leadership from the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin, Aspirus Health, and Lincoln County Social Services.

WHEREAS, the current health priorities identified in the Lincoln County Community Health Improvement Plan, are Oral Health, Nutrition and Mental Health.

WHEREAS, the following donations have been received to offset the costs to implement the following projects:

- \$1,381.54 for supplies for the Seal a Smile Program (school-based dental sealants)
- \$2,000 to support the Community Health Improvement Process (hosting listening sessions, forums, focus groups, and plan development)
- \$5,000 to support the printing and promotion of the Mental Health and Substance Use Resource Guide
- \$5,000 to support a mental health billboard campaign targeting Lincoln County Residents

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors accept the \$13,382 from Aspirus Health, Inc. on behalf of the Lincoln County Health Department who is responsible to implement these projects.

Dated: April 18, 2023

Authored by: Michael Loka

Co-Sponsored by: Brenda Mueller

Committee: Board of Health

Committee Vote: 7-0

Date Passed: 3/15/2023

Fiscal Impact: \$13,382 funds to implement Live Well Lincoln Community Health Improvement Plan

M/S: Loka/Simon to approve Resolution 2023-04-19. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

## 2) Resolution 2023-04-20

## APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the Administrative & Legislative Committee and Law Enforcement Committee recommends the appointment of Tyler Verhasselt as the Director of Emergency Management.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approves the appointment of Tyler Varhasselt as the Lincoln County Director of Emergency Management.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appointee will be a part-time exempt employee placed at Step 5 (\$29.33 per hour) of the 2023 pay scale, Grade I, on the salary plan.

Dated: April 18, 2023

Authored by: Supervisor Friske, District 9

Co-Sponsored by: Supervisor DePasse, District 12; Supervisor Cummings, District 20

Committee: Administrative & Legislative

Committee Vote: 6-0

Date Passed: April 5, 2023

Committee: Law Enforcement

Committee

Date Passed: April 12, 2023

Committee Vote: 5-0

Fiscal Impact: None (No additional tax levy)

M/S: Friske/Simon to approve Resolution 2023-01-20. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

## 3) Resolution 2023-04-21

Acceptance and designation of Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF) funding

WHEREAS, The American Rescue Plan appropriated \$2 billion to the U.S Department of Treasury across fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to provide payments to eligible revenue sharing counties and eligible Tribal governments for use on any governmental purpose except for a lobbying activity; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lincoln, WI qualifies for \$100,000 (\$50,000 in 2022 and \$50,000 in 2023); and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Finance Director to report on the use of funds to U.S Department of the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the funds should be used to offset current expenditures within the general fund.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors accepts \$100,000 from the LATCF to be used to offset current expenditures within the general fund and authorizes the Finance Director to report use funds to the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Dated: April 6, 2023

Sponsored by: Julie DePasse

Committee: Finance & Insurance

Committee Vote: 5-0

Date Passed: 4/6/2023

Fiscal Impact: \$100,000 of revenue to offset \$100,000 of current expenditures

M/S: Cummings/Hartwig to approve Resolution 2023-04-21. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

4) Resolution 2023-04-22

#### Sheriff's Office Corrections Division Wage Adjustment

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office is in a staffing crisis and is currently experiencing difficulty in recruitment and retention of personnel within the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division, having lost 25% of their experienced personnel within the last year, citing low wage and fringe compared to other municipalities and private sector employers as their primary reason for leaving; and

WHEREAS, in contrast to the other positions grouped with the Correctional Officers and Correctional Sergeants on the Lincoln County Wage Scale, these personnel are frequently subjected to being intentionally exposed to bodily fluids by inmates, physical assaults, and other job related hazards; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Budget approved by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors has directed the Sheriff's Office to earn \$775,000 in outside housing dollars in order to balance Lincoln County's overall budget; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 59.54(14)(a) and § 59.54(14)(f), Lincoln County is required to provide the Sheriff a jail and the funding for the Sheriff to adequately staff the jail, to ensure the safety of the general public and the inmates under the care of the Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, in order to help fund a wage adjustment in an effort to ensure that the Lincoln County Sheriff has the requisite staffing to ensure the safety of the general public and inmates, and to achieve the revenue requirement required of the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office has identified an opportunity to provide a modest wage raise for Corrections Division personnel, allowing for a reduction in the overall number of authorized personnel, in an effort to recruit and retain Corrections personnel, without a reduction in services to the citizens of Lincoln County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, at the recommendation of the Sheriff of Lincoln County and the Law Enforcement, EMS / Judicial, Emergency Management Committee, it is requested that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors adopt the following pay incentive request of the Sheriff's Office to address recruitment and retention within the Corrections Division.

1. Reduce the total number of Correctional Officers and Corrections Sergeants from the current authorized and budgeted 21 to 20.
2. Use the dollars saved from the elimination of one correctional officer position to Move Correctional Officers and Corrections Sergeants two steps on the current pay scale effective the first pay period after County Board approval. Increases will not exceed the maximum step on the grade. All fiscal impacts will be covered internally.

Dated: 4/3/23

Authored by: Jesse Boyd

Co-Sponsored by: Laurie Thiel, Steve Osness Jr.

Committee: Law Enforcement / EMS / EM Date Passed 4/3/23 Committee Vote: 3-0

Administrative & Legislative Date Passed: 4/5/23 Committee Vote: 4-2

Finance and Insurance Date Passed 4/6/23 Committee Vote: 5-0

Fiscal Impact: The \$79,247.88 fiscal impact is expected to be covered by the elimination of one correctional officer position.

M/S: Bialecki/Simon to approve Resolution 2023-04-22. Discussion took place with the Sheriff sharing some concerns. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

5) Resolution 2023-04-23

RESOLUTION TO FULLY FUND UW-EXTENSION

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Finance Committee voted to eliminate all County funding for UW-EXTENSION in the 2023 County Budget;

AND WHEREAS, the community had the opportunity to speak about these budget cuts;

AND WHEREAS, the community has overwhelmingly disagreed with the proposed budget cuts when they were allowed to speak at County committee meetings, at a Town Hall listening session, and at the County Board meeting as well as through e-mails to their Supervisors;

AND WHEREAS, the Lincoln County constituents talked about the positive impact of these programs and services for the community and further described the negative impact the elimination of these programs and services would have on the community;

AND WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors funded the 4H program in the 2023 budget;

AND WHEREAS, the community is overwhelmingly in support of keeping all of the programs and services offered by the UW-Extension.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors orders the Director of Finance to provide funding in the amount of \$113,334 to fully restore the UW-Extension for the year remaining of 2023, and \$170,000 for the year of 2024 using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Dated: April 18, 2023

Authored by: Julie L. Allen, Supervisor, District 19

Co-Sponsored by: Mike Loka, District 16; Greta Rusch, District 7, Brian Hafeman, District 14

Committee:

Committee Vote:

Date Passed:

Chair Friske ruled the resolution to be improperly brought before the board citing that it is substantially similar to resolutions already discussed, debated and deliberated. M/S Allen/Hafeman to appeal the ruling of the chair. Roll was called on whether the ruling of the Chair should stand? Ayes: Wendorf, Ashbeck, Friske, Boyd, Lemke, Meunier, Wickham, Cummings, Simon, Hartwig, Bialecki, and Osness (12). Nays: Rusch, Hafeman, Loka, and Allen (4). Anderson-Malm was excused at 10:45 and Callahan had briefly left the meeting. Ruling of the chair stands (12-4) and the motion failed. Resolution 2023-04-23 was not discussed.

6) Resolution 2023-04-24

Resolution for an Advisory Referendum to Determine a Course of Action for the County Board to Pursue Concerning the Future of the Pine Crest Nursing Home

Whereas, the population of Lincoln County is increasingly older and living longer which may justify prioritizing the needs of that population, and

Whereas, the health care needs of older populations are more complicated, technical and labor and cost intensive than other groups, and

Whereas, the bulk of the senior age population in Lincoln County does not possess the financial resources that allow for them to access private long-term health care, and

Whereas, the bulk of the senior age population has lived in Lincoln County long enough to have contributed a significant amount of tax money to the public operations of the county, to wit: snow removal, road maintenance, child protective services, schools, waste disposal etc. etc. etc.,

And Whereas, the Pine Crest facility requires more proactive maintenance as well as a regular infusion of County financial resources than it has thus far received,

And Whereas, increasing the levy limit alone may be inequitable and insufficient for funding ongoing operations,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors does resolve to hold a special referendum no later than August 31st, 2023 for the purpose of determining whether the people of Lincoln County desire to continue operating Pine Crest Nursing Home as a county nursing home or not and directs that the following advisory referendum question will be placed on the ballot:

Shall Lincoln County continue to seek solutions that may include ordinance fees, annual levy limit increases by individual referenda and budget re-alignments in order to continue operating Pine Crest as a county nursing home or not?

Dated: April 18, 2023

Authored by: Elizabeth McCrank, District 3

Co-Sponsored by: Julie Allen, District 19

Committee:

M/S: Loka/Simon to lay over Resolution 2023-04-24 to the next month. All Ayes.

7) Resolution 2023-04-25

Resolution accepting \$300.00 from American Legion Riders Association of Wisconsin, District 11 WHEREAS, Lincoln County Veterans Service Office has a critical role in advocating for the individual veterans and are often the initial point of contact in the Community for veteran's services;, and, WHEREAS, Lincoln County Veterans Office has a Veterans Relief fund to support and assist Needy veterans with basic essentials like fuel cards and grocery cards; and, WHEREAS, a donation of \$300 from American Legion Riders of Wisconsin, Post 11 to assist and support Lincoln County veterans who demonstrate financial need.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors accepts and expresses gratitude for the 300 donation from American Legion Riders of Wisconsin, Post 11 for purchase of fuel and grocery cards for local veterans with need.

Dated: April 18, 2023

Authored by: Greg Hartwig, District 22 Supervisor

Co-Sponsored by: Julie DePasse, District 12 Supervisor; Don Friske, District 9 Supervisor

Committee: Administrative and Legislative

Committee Vote: 6-0

Date Passed: 04.05.2023

M/S: Bialecki/Hartwig to approve Resolution 2023-04-25. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

8) Resolution 2023-04-26

Resolution accepting \$15,878 from Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs for the County Veterans Service Office Supplemental Grant

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Veterans Service Office play a critical role in advocating for the individual veterans and are often the initial point of contact in the Community for veteran's services;, and, WHEREAS, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is providing funds to accomplish four distinct Initiatives consistent with its mission to work on behalf of Wisconsin's veterans; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Veterans Service Office is committed to providing outreach and marketing activities that increase awareness of benefits and services provided by the Lincoln County Veterans Service Office; and,

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Veterans Service Office has been awarded with \$15,878.00 County Veterans Service Officer Supplemental Grant, funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); and,

WHEREAS the Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer is eligible for this one-time payment pursuant to the WDVA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding the Use of ARPA State Recovery Funds; and,

WHEREAS the Period of Performance for this MOU will run from February 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024; and,

WHEREAS the Lincoln County Veterans Service Officer is committed to using these funds to conduct outreach and marketing activities to increase awareness and education for benefits and services provided by Veterans Affairs, WDVA, and Lincoln County Veterans Service Office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors accepts and expresses gratitude for the \$15,878.00 CVSO Supplemental Grant from WDVA, funded through ARPA funds for Lincoln County and the Lincoln County CVSO who is responsible to administer the funds.

Dated: April 18, 2023

Authored by: Julie DePasse, District 12 Supervisor

Co-Sponsored by:; Angela Cummings, District 20 Supervisor; Jesse Boyd, District 10 Supervisor; Lori Anderson-Malm, District 2 Supervisor

Committee: Administrative and Legislative

Committee Vote: 6-0

Date Passed: 04.05.2023

M/S: Cumings/Boyd to approve Resolution 2023-04-26. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

9) Resolution 2023-04-27

Resolution Requesting the State Revise the Current Real Estate Transfer Fees Revenue Sharing Formula

Whereas, the collection by counties of a real estate transfer fee 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 arbitrarily changed the transfer fee formula to now require counties to remit to the State 80% of all transfer fees collected; and

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

Whereas, in 2021 Lincoln County collected \$524,357 in real estate transfer fees and retained only 20%, \$104,871, remitting 80%, \$419,486, to the State; and

Whereas, Lincoln County real transfer fee collections over the past five years totaled \$2,050,941, of which the County retained \$410,188 and remitted \$1,640,753 to the State; and

Whereas, in 2021 the State of Wisconsin had a budget surplus of approximately \$2.5 Billion, while many Wisconsin counties struggle financially due to the ever-increasing cost of providing State-mandated and other county governmental services; and

Whereas, in an effort to financially assist all Wisconsin counties, Lincoln County requests that the State of Wisconsin amend the real estate transfer fee share formula to allow Wisconsin counties to retain 80% of all real estate transfer fees collected, with 20% to be remitted to the State.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution is sent to Governor Evers, all members of the State Legislature representing Lincoln County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all other Wisconsin counties.

Dated: April 5, 2022

Introduced by: Julie DePasse, District 12 Supervisor

Co-Sponsored by: Administrative and Legislative Committee

Committee: Administrative and Legislative Committee

Committee Vote: 6-0

Date Passed: 04.05.2023

Fiscal Impact: \$300,000+ in Annual Revenue to Lincoln County

Boyd motioned to amend paragraph 5, Line 1 to read: Lincoln County real estate transfer fee collections over the past five years..... Chair Friske called for unanimous consent on the motion with no objection.

M/S: Cummings/Boyd to approve Resolution 2023-04-27. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

10) Resolution 2023-04-28

Reinstating the Human Resource Specialist

WHEREAS, the Administrative and Legislative Committee met on 12.01.2021 and approved to change the Human Resource Specialist Position at Grade H to Human Resource Generalist at Grade G at that same time.

WHEREAS, the new Administrative Coordinator in learning the roles and responsibility of the Administration/Human Resources department reviewed the positions, and

WHEREAS, the only variance in the positions is an additional essential duties and responsibilities to include "Creates wage schedules for Administration and Payroll use. Updates as changes occur." and the minimum training and experience language which states "...with three years..." to "...with three to five years..."

ADDITIONALLY, the Human Resource Generalist has assumed additional duties to create efficiencies between payroll and benefits. These duties include: bi-weekly payroll audits, process and reconcile benefit invoices, and act as a benefit liaison between employees and benefit providers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Supervisors recognizes and approves the reinstatement of the Human Resources Specialist position at Grade H.

Dated: April 18, 2023

Authored by: Don Friske, Supervisor, District 9

Co-Sponsored by: Angela Cummings, District 20 Supervisor; Julie DePasse, District 12 Supervisor

Committee: Administrative and Legislative

Committee Vote:6-0

Date Passed: 04.05.2023

M/S: Simon/Boyd to approve Resolution 2023-04-28. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

11) Resolution 2023-04-29

Accepting Lincoln County Vision Statement and Branding

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2023, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors along with various community members participated in a facilitated process to develop a future desired state; and

WHEREAS, having a future desired state helps guide the decision making process to best allocate resources in a manner that aligns with operations of the county with that vision; and

WHEREAS, the participants created a vision statement for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Administrative and Legislative committee met on March 21, 2023 and discussed the recommended statement and with some minor changes created an agreed upon Vision Statement and a Branding Statement for future strategic planning and marketing of Lincoln County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board of Supervisors adopts the proposed statements:

Vision Statement

Lincoln County will preserve the unique characteristics and resources that make it an exceptional place to live, work and play; we will work together, holding ourselves and each other accountable, to weave the fabric of community and provide opportunity to our citizens.

Branding

Lincoln County – Where the Northwoods Start and the Adventure Begins

Dated: April 18, 2023

Authored by: Jesse Boyd, District 10 Supervisor

Co-Sponsored by: Administrative and Legislative Committee

Committee: Administrative and Legislative Committee

Committee Vote: 6-0

Date Passed: 04.05.2023

Fiscal Impact: none

M/S: Boyd/Wickham to approve Resolution 2023-04-29. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

10. Report of Claims - None.

11. M/S Bialecki/Ashbeck to approve the mileage and per diem for this meeting. Motion carried by a voice vote.

12. Next County Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N Sales Street, Room 257, Merrill, WI 54452.

13. The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.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, March 21, 2023

Christopher J Marlowe, County Clerk