

Lincoln County Board of Supervisors  
Meeting: 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 6:03 p.m.
2. Pledge of allegiance followed.
3. County Clerk Marlowe called Roll - Members Present: Allen, Anderson-Malm, Ashbeck, Bialecki, Boyd, Detert, Friske, Hafeman, Hartwig, Lemke, McCrank, Meunier, Rusch, Simon, Thiel, and Wendorf. (16) Virtual: Cummings and Wickham (2) Excused: Callahan, DePasse, and Osness (3) Quorum of 18 was present.
4. Announcements/Recognitions/Awards/Appointments
  - A. Announcements
    1. Posting placed in newspaper seeking County Board District 16 seat. Application deadline - 12:00 PM, Monday, July 31, 2023.
    2. Chair Friske announced that Supervisor Boyd will chair the LE/EMS/Judicial/EMS Committee and Supervisor Cummings will chair the Board of Health due to Mike Loka's resignation.
  - B. Appointments & Re-Appointments - None
  - C. Awards - None
  - D. Service Recognitions – July  
25 Years: Jamie Taylor, Social Services
5. Approval of Journal – May 16, 2023: M/S Meunier/Thiel to approve the June 20th 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 and answered questions.
  - B. Finance & Insurance Committee: 2024 Budget – Finance Director (Samantha Fenske) Director Fenske gave her report and answered questions. Chair Friske reiterated the 2024 Budget Timeline.
8. Public Comment – Four members of the public offered comment on this month's agenda and are listed in the order they spoke: Dora Gorski, Judy Woller, Michael Southcombe, and Irene Mehlos.
9. Resolutions and Ordinances

A. 1) Resolution 2023-07-45

Amendment to Resolution 2023-05-33

Approval of ARPA Funding in the Amount of ~~\$101,000~~ \$148,500 for Electronic Timekeeping

**WHEREAS**, Lincoln County currently operates on paper timesheets; and

**WHEREAS**, the external auditors (CLA) brought to the attention of the Finance Committee the need to implement electronic timesheets; and

**WHEREAS**, the current scheduled upgrade to MUNIS has the capability to meeting this need and allowed the elimination of a previously approved human resources software, BAMBOO; and

**WHEREAS**, the upfront purchase is expensive but the annual costs are covered through the removal of BAMBOO. Furthermore, the implementation of the electronic timesheets through MUNIS provides benefits to include elimination/reducing of double entry, employee access to enroll in their own benefits and update personal information, eliminate most manual entry of time for 250 employees, reducing workload and human error of human resources and payroll specialists, increase telecommuting opportunities, and oversight of real time supervision; and

**WHEREAS**, using the ARPA funding for electronic timekeeping has the potential to reduce expenditures/tax levy obligations, create a more attractive organization for recruitment by modernizing the way we work which could potentially increase revenues through relocations; and

**WHEREAS**, the electronic time keeping will also help create efficiencies within our organization that reduce the county's liability as well as allow management more effective supervision tools.

WHEREAS, during the implementation process, additional features were also identified as required due to the lack of compatible features within the existing, scaled-down MUNIS software platform.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors, based on the recommendation of the Administrative and Legislative Committee who was charged with vetting all ARPA requests, order the Director of Finance to allocate ~~\$101,000~~ \$148,500 from the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation for the purpose of purchasing software to implement electronic timekeeping.

Dated: June 18, 2023

Authored by: Don Friske, Supervisor, District 9

Co-Sponsored by: Administrative and Legislative Committee

Committee: Administrative and Legislative

Committee Vote: 6-0 Date Passed: June 28, 2023

Fiscal Impact: ARPA funds ~~\$101,000~~ \$148,500

Drafted by: Renee Krueger, Administrative Coordinator

Finance Director Fenske explained the resolution and why the additional software piece was needed. M/S Cummings/Detert to approve Resolution 2023-07-45. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

### 2) Resolution 2023-07-46

Resolution accepting \$18,171.15 in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant Funds from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to Support Lincoln County Broadband Planning

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission established funding allocations for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grant program through the Commission's Order of February 1, 2023, in docket 5-BP-2023, to assist Wisconsin counties and federally recognized Tribes to define the need, vision, and strategy for deployment of broadband in communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2023-02-09 on February 20, 2023 which declared Lincoln County's intent to participate in BEAD Local Planning Grants and authorized the County to submit a letter of intent to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission certifying Lincoln County's intent to participate in BEAD Local Planning Grants; and

**WHEREAS**, Lincoln County submitted a letter of intent to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission on March 6, 2023 certifying the County's intent to participate collaboratively with Centergy, Incorporated, the local Regional Economic Development Office, in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission awarded a total of \$100,855.75 on a reimbursable basis to Centergy, Incorporated, for Adams, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, and Wood Counties to support local broadband planning efforts and build local capacity that will be needed throughout the BEAD planning and initial implementation period. Funds will support planning activities that include but are not limited to outreach initiatives, conducting local needs assessments, and developing local plans for broadband development; and

**WHEREAS**, Lincoln County's total share of the \$100,855.75 BEAD Local Planning Grant funding amounts to \$18,171.15 on a reimbursable basis for the period February 1, 2023 through May 1, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, Lincoln County is committed to using these funds to support the creation of the Lincoln County Broadband Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors accepts and expresses gratitude for the \$18,171.15 Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant funds for use on a reimbursable basis for eligible Lincoln County broadband planning expenses.

Dated: July 18, 2023

Authored by: Kenneth L. Wickham, District 18 Supervisor

Co-Sponsored by: Broadband Committee members

Committee: Broadband Committee

Committee Vote: 3-0 Date Passed: June 5, 2023

Fiscal Impact: Receiving up to \$18,171.15 for Broadband Planning

Drafted by: Kenneth L. Wickham, District 18 Supervisor

Supervisor Wickham explained the resolution and grant procedure. M/S Detert/Hartwig to approve resolution 2023-07-46. Discussion followed. Motion carried by a voice vote.

### 3) Resolution 2023-07-47

Resolution to Support Establishment of a Broadband Commission and Supporting Broadband Expansion to Provide High Speed Internet Service to all Residents of Lincoln County

**WHEREAS**, large areas within Lincoln County lack internet service or have internet service data upload and download speeds lower than those required for reliable data processing and data transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, reliable High-Speed Internet service and infrastructure related to internet service are critical components in providing police, fire, rescue communication services and access to internet application which increase efficiency of these services and therefore improve public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, reliable High-Speed Internet service at homes is an essential need for students of all area school districts which now require utilization of technology including tablets and laptops for daily assignments, and without internet services some students are left behind in required classes and classwork; and

**WHEREAS**, Merrill Public Schools administers *Bridges Virtual Academy* that has 742 total students enrolled, 80 students who are resident students and 662 which are non-resident students, which provides for additional funding to the school district; and

**WHEREAS**, reliable High-Speed Internet service at homes allows for Colleges, Universities and other higher forms of advance education for provision of remote instruction and learning, and without internet services some Lincoln County residents do not have opportunities for advanced education without relocation from Lincoln County addresses; and

**WHEREAS**, reliable High-Speed Internet service at homes and facilities is a critical need for health care providers that can monitor patient health remotely (also known as Telemedicine) and without that ability many people, including aging and disabled, must relocate their homes to areas with appropriate Telemedicine opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses of all varieties now require Reliable High-Speed Internet service to provide access to financial transactions, and regional and worldwide markets and areas within Lincoln County without Reliable High-Speed Internet service fail to retain and attract businesses and industry which sustain the local work force; and

**WHEREAS**, having reliable High-Speed Internet service allows residents to live and work in Lincoln County for employers who allow telework options in other areas of the country; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic accentuated the need for Reliable High-Speed Internet service in all homes, businesses and industry locations as a primary utility; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the above facts, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors believes that provision of Reliable High-Speed Internet service for all locations within Lincoln County is extremely important to the residents, businesses, industry and economy of Lincoln County; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the above facts, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors believes that provision of Reliable High-Speed Internet service for all locations within Lincoln County will improve efficiency of emergency and medical services and improve the safety of all residents and visitors of Lincoln County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lincoln County Broadband Committee recommends the establishment of a Broadband Commission organized under the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation, and further recommends the Commission include the following members:

1. One Member from the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation as designated by action of the Corporation
2. One member of the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors as appointed by the County Board Chair
3. The Lincoln County Administrative Coordinator
4. One Member from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department or dispatch center as designated by the County Sheriff
5. A representative of all fire departments within the County as determined by nomination from the departments
6. The Lincoln County Emergency Management Director
7. The Lincoln County Informational Technology Director
8. The Lincoln County Land Information Program Manager
9. One Member from each major medical provider to Lincoln County residents as designated by those organizations.
10. One member from each of the Merrill and Tomahawk school districts as appointed by the respective School Board.
11. One member from each municipality within Lincoln County as appointed by the appropriate Board or Council.

**WHEREAS**, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors requests that at its earliest convenience, the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors establish a Broadband Commission and approve the members of the Broadband Commission at a scheduled and posted public meeting of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recommends that the Broadband Commission, at its first meeting, appoint a Broadband Commission Chairman by a majority vote of its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recommends that the Broadband Commission Chairman act as the single point contact for broadband opportunities in Lincoln County.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors hereby requests and supports the creation of a Broadband Commission organized under the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors agrees to consider recommendations of the Broadband Commission and may authorize County sponsorship of grant funding requests and County budget funding for Broadband based activities with future approvals by the Board.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recognizes the authority for Broadband Commission activities. Broadband Commission requests for County support should be forwarded to the Lincoln County Administrative and Legislative Committee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors supports Broadband Commission activities to make Reliable High-Speed Internet service, at Federal minimum service standards, available to all areas of Lincoln County, with priority given to projects based on areas that are unserved or underserved. Actual speeds will be determined by the Broadband Commission.

Dated: July 18, 2023

Authored by: Randal Detert, District 11 Supervisor

Co-Sponsored by: Broadband Committee members

Committee: Broadband Committee

Committee Vote: 3-0

Date Passed: June 5, 2023

Fiscal Impact: None

Drafted by: Renee Krueger, Lincoln County Administrative Coordinator

M/S: Wickham/Bialecki to postpone resolution 2023-07-47 to next month’s county board meeting citing there would be additional information available at that time. Motion carried by a voice vote.

B. 1) Ordinance 2023-07-741

An Ordinance Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 1  
(Revising 1.29 – County Board of Health)

The County Board of Supervisors of Lincoln County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain that Chapter 1, Section 1.29 be amended as indicated in the attachment.

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting.

Authored by: Angela Cummings

Co-Sponsored by: Board of Health Member: Michael Clark, MD, Julie Allen, Brenda Mueller, and Laurie Thiel

Committee: Board of Health

Committee Vote: 5-0

Date Passed: July 10, 2023

Fiscal Impact: None

Drafted by: Karry A. Johnson, Corporation Counsel

Corp. Counsel Johnson explained the ordinance. M/S Detert/Thiel to approve ordinance 2023-07-741. Discussion followed. Motion carried by a voice vote.

10. Report of Claims - None.

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

Next County Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 15, 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 6:32 p.m.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)  
) SS  
COUNTY OF LINCOLN)

I, Christopher Marlowe, County Clerk in and for 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 18, 2023

Christopher Marlowe, County Clerk

DRAFT