



LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Lincoln County Service Center - 801 N. Sales Street

Merrill, Wisconsin 54452

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Don Friske
County Board Chairman

Jesse Boyd
County Board Vice-Chair

May 12, 2023

Residents of Pine Crest
2100 E. Sixth Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Dear Sir. Ma'am

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits as another spring in Wisconsin approaches. In June of 2022 the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors formed an ad hoc committee to review the Pine Crest Nursing Home due to continued annual budgetary shortfalls. All facets of its operations have been researched to help us develop the best possible plan of action for our county residents moving forward. Since 2014 Pine Crest has lost close to \$9 million dollars. In 2022 alone the Lincoln County budget included nearly one million dollars for Pine Crest operations. In addition to the budgeted amount, another \$1.1 million was needed to cover operational monetary shortfalls. Due to these losses, other county services have been impacted. However, we realize the importance of Pine Crest to our community and as our community's leaders continue to work on finding the best possible solutions. You are a valued member of our county and I want to assure you that the entire County Board has always and will continue to have you and your medical care providers in our hearts and our minds as we determine how to proceed.

As the county board continues to sift through the information, provided to us by the Ad Hoc Committee on Pine Crest, we have narrowed our options for its future to two. The two options the County Board is considering at this time are as follows:

- 1). Draft a referendum question asking our voters to support an increase in their property taxes to fund Pine Crest's Operational losses.
- 2). Explore the sale of the Pine Crest Nursing Home to a privately owned skilled nursing home care provider.

Reviewing past budgets proves that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors has been very generous and supportive of the Pine Crest Nursing Home by budgeting large portions of our tax levy and by funding their budgetary shortfalls. While we continue our efforts, I want to again assure you that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors has you and your care givers in our hearts and minds as we determine the best way to meet your needs while finding a way to continue operations at Pine Crest Nursing Home.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Friske", is written over a light blue background. Below the signature, the name "Don Friske" is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font.

Lincoln County Board Chairman, District 9
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