

Minutes of the
ASHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Ashland County Courthouse, 201 Main Street West, Room 204, Ashland, Wisconsin

1. CALL TO ORDER

A General Meeting of the Ashland County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 by Remote/Zoom and in person at the Ashland County Courthouse, County Board Room. Chairperson Richard Pufall called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

a. Roll Call:

Present: MacKenzie, Metzinger, Campbell, Ray, Kinney, Pufall, Franek, Starck, Sztynдор, Berlin, Bussey, Vitek, Huber, Schutte, Carl, Wiener, Mertig, 17

Absent: Ellefson, Nagro, Miranda, Mika. 4

Excused: 0

Laura Nagro came into the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Blake Ellefson came into the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

b. A moment of silence was held.

c. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL/ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Kathy Schutte and seconded by Ron Sztynдор to approve the Agenda as presented. Voice vote, motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERTINENT TO AGENDA ITEMS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES OF THE DAY *(3 minutes per speaker/30-minute limit total)*

There were no public comments.

4. REGULAR AGENDA – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of the November 7, 2023 County Board Minutes

A motion was made by Pat Kinney and seconded by Bradley Ray to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2023, Annual County Board meeting as presented. Voice vote, motion carried.

b. Approval of Emergency Fire Warden Organization List 2024

A motion was made by Martin Vitek and seconded by Kathy Schutte to approve the Emergency Fire Warden Organization List 2024. Voice vote, motion carried.

c. Snowmobile Alliance Update

Ron Sztynдор gave an update on the Snowmobile Alliance.

d. Ashland Chamber of Commerce 2023 Wrap-Up

Mary McPhetridge was unable to attend the meeting. She will be on the agenda for the next County Board meeting.

e. Approve Applying for EPA Grant

A motion was made by George Bussey and seconded by Clarence Campbell to approve applying for an EPA Grant. Voice vote, motion carried with Matt MacKenzie abstaining.

f. Town of Sanborn Update

Dan Grady reported that the State of Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee has approved disbursement of the money appropriated for counties to make up for lost settlements. Ashland County will receive approximately \$1.88M. The County will pay the Town of Sanborn for chargebacks out of these funds. A discussion followed.

5. CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Ron Sztynodor and seconded by Kathy Schutte to convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin ss19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session and Wisconsin ss19.85(1)(g) “Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved”.

Roll Call: Yes: Ellefson, MacKenzie, Nagro, Metzinger, Campbell, Ray, Kinney, Pufall, Franek, Starck, Sztynodor, Berlin, Bussey, Vitek, Huber, Schutte, Carl, Wiener, Mertig, 19

Absent: Miranda, Mika. 2

Excused: 0

a. Property Subject to Tax Deed

The County Board convened in closed session at 9:25 a.m.

6. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Matt MacKenzie and seconded by Laura Nagro to convene in open session. Voice vote, motion carried.

The County Board convened in open session at 9:47 a.m.

A motion was made by Pat Kinney and seconded by Ron Sztynodor to authorize payment of \$22,992.17 to Greg Bernitt for full settlement and release of all claims related to the claim for surplus funds on the sale of tax-foreclosed property. Voice vote, motion carried.

7. REPORTS/UPDATES

a. Administrator Updates

Dan Grady gave an update on what he has been working on since the November 7, 2023 County Board meeting. He noted that the Finance Committee approved \$40,000.00 from the Contingency Fund to allow for an addition of increased hours of healthcare at the Jail. A discussion followed.

b. County Board Supervisors

County Board members commented.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Dan Grady announced that the next County Board meeting will be held at Bad River.

9. ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Matt MacKenzie and seconded by Blake Ellefson. Voice vote, Motion carried. County Board adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather W. Schutte
Ashland County Clerk