

Minutes of the
ASHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 26, 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, March 26, 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, Franek, Starck, Berlin, Bussey, Vitek, Huber, Schutte, Carl, Wiener, Mertig, Mika, Pufall, Ellefson, Nagro. 19

Absent: Miranda. 1

Excused: Sztynдор. 1

b. A moment of silence was held.

c. The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL/ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion was made by Kathy Schutte and seconded by Rich Huber 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 public comments.

4. PRESENTATION

a. Ashland Chamber of Commerce 2023 Wrap-Up

Ashland Chamber Director Mary McPhetridge gave an update on 2023 and 2024 tourism activity. She also distributed maps and visitor brochures to the board.

5. REGULAR AGENDA – DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of the January 23, 2024 County Board Minutes

Motion was made by Bill Metzinger and seconded by Clarence Campbell to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024, County Board meeting as presented. Voice vote, motion carried.

b. Approve Applying for a CDBG-CV Grant and Approve Setting a Date for a Public Hearing

Motion was made by Martin Vitek and seconded by Laura Nagro to approve applying for a CDBG-CV Grant and set the Public Hearing for April 16, 2024. A discussion followed. Voice vote, motion carried, with Matt MacKenzie opposed.

c. Approve Applying for Safe Streets Grant

Motion was made by Laura Nagro and seconded by Mike Berlin to approve the application for a Safe Streets Grant. Voice vote, motion carried.

d. Public Health Updated Fee Schedule – Elizabeth Szot

Facility/License Type	Annual License Fee	Pre-inspection Fee	Re-inspection Fee	Second & Subsequent Re-inspection Fee	Late Fee	Operating Without a License Fee	Special Condition Inspection Fee	Duplicate License Fee	
Recreational or Educational Campgrounds	585	1200	540	720	85	749	175	15	Current Fee Schedule
Recreational and Educational Camps New Proposed Fee scheduled based on updated DATCP classifications									
Rec and Ed - Simple	565	1130	200	300	85	749	175	15	
Rec and Ed - Simple with Hospitality	625	1245	200	300	85	749	175	15	
Rec and Ed - Moderate	610	1220	200	300	85	749	175	15	
Rec and Ed - Moderate with Hospitality	735	1465	200	300	85	749	175	15	
Rec and Ed - Complex	660	1315	200	300	85	749	175	15	
Rec and Ed - Complex with Hospitality	825	1645	200	300	85	749	175	15	
Safety, Maintenance and Operation of Public Swimming Pool									Current Fee Schedule
Pool/Hot Tub	175	150	75	50	85	749	175	15	
Water Attraction	205	175	75	50	85	749	175	15	
Water Attraction with up to 2 pools slides	290	250	125	50	85	749	175	15	
Additional Slide (>2)	175	150	125	50	85	749	175	15	
Proposed Fee Scheduled based on updated DATCP classifications									
Pool - Simple	230	230	100	150	85	749	175	15	
Pool - Simple with Features	385	385	100	150	85	749	175	15	
Pool - Moderate	345	345	100	150	85	749	175	15	
Pool - Moderate with Features	500	500	100	150	85	749	175	15	
Pool - Complex	435	435	100	150	85	749	175	15	
Pool - Complex with Features	585	585	100	150	85	749	175	15	
New fees are based on state rate + 15% (annual license fee and pre-inspection fee)									

Motion was made by Clarence Campbell and seconded by Rich Huber to approve the Public Health Updated Fee Schedule. Voice vote, motion carried with Matt MacKenzie abstaining.

e. Resolution R03-2024-1463 to Set Wages for County Officials Elected in November 2024

**Resolution No. R03-2024-1463
A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION TO BE
PAID TO ELECTED OFFICIALS OF ASHLAND COUNTY**

WHEREAS, at its February 13, 2024 meeting, the Executive Committee of the Board of Supervisors of Ashland County, per Wisconsin Statute §59.22(1)(a) 1 and 2, considered the compensation of the elected officials of Ashland County and recommend the increases set forth below:

4 Year Term of Office – Grade 16, Step 4-7

	01/01/2025	01/01/2026	01/01/2027	01/01/2028
Register of Deeds	\$70,554	\$72,318	\$74,126	\$75,979
County Clerk	\$70,554	\$72,318	\$74,126	\$75,979
County Treasurer	\$70,554	\$72,318	\$74,126	\$75,979

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors go on record setting the wages for the Register of Deeds, County Clerk, and County Treasurer as stated above for the new four (4) year term of office for 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforementioned County elected officials are entitled to participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System in accordance with law and the County shall pay only its share of contributions required by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforementioned County elected officials are entitled to participate in the County’s health insurance program subject to the terms and conditions of the program, which may be modified from time to time, under the same terms and conditions as the health insurance coverage offered to non-represented managerial County employees described in Wisconsin State §11.70(1)(mm).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each elective official is eligible for and may elect to participate in the fringe benefit package provided to full-time non-represented employees of Ashland County. Such eligibility and participation is subject to the same terms and conditions as full-time non-represented employees of Ashland County.

Adopted by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors on this 26th day of March, 2024.

By Action of the **Ashland County Board of Supervisors**:

Richard Pufall, County Board Chair

Motion was made by Bill Metzinger and seconded by Martin Vitek to approve Resolution R03-2024-1463 Set Wages for County Officials Elected in November 2024. Voice vote, motion carried with Laura Nagro opposed.

f. Approve Employee Handbook Updates

Motion was made by Bradley Ray and seconded by Kathy Schutte to approve the Employee Handbook Updates. A discussion followed.

Motion was made by Bradley Ray and seconded by Kathy Schutte to amend Page 12-Sick Leave, paragraph 5 to add “those hired after January 1, 2012 upon retirement, death or retirement due to a disability, the employee or their estate will be paid 50% of unused time in their sick bank for all sick leave earned up to 240 hours. Voice vote, motion carried approving the amendment.

Voice vote, motion carried approving the Employee Handbook Updates as amended.

g. Approve Staffing Agreement for the Jail



**ASHLAND COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Brian Zupke

Staffing Agreement for Operation of the Ashland County Jail

This agreement is entered into between Sheriff Brian Zupke and the Ashland County Public Property Law Enforcement Committee for the purpose of jointly agreeing on the adequate sta ffing needs including support staff and services, required to ensure the health, safety and security of staff and inmates of the Ashland County Jail. The following are terms of this agreement:

1. The sheriff and the Ashland County Public Property Law Enforcement Committee agree that to operate the Ashland County Jail, the staffing needs as approved and budgeted for through the Sheriff's Office operational budge are:
 - 1-Jail Captain (FTE)
 - 1-Jail Lieutenant (FTE)
 - 4-Jail Sergeants (FTE)
 - 12-Jail Officers (FTE)
 - 1-Jail Officers (Flex/PTE)
2. The recommendation is to have (3) jailers on day shift (6am-6pm) and three (3) jailers on night shift (6pm-6am) with the rank of jail sergeant or below. A minimum of one male and one female shall be on each shift.
3. The Sheriff and the Ashland County Public Property Law Enforcement Committee agree that staffing will be reviewed anytime there is an operational need, or annually for each successive year through the budget process.
4. This agreement shall remain in effect unless changed as outline in item 3 of this agreement.

Richard Pufall
 Richard Pufall
 Ashland County Board Chairperson
 3/25/2024
 Date

Brian Zupke
 Brian Zupke
 Ashland County Sheriff
 03/26/24
 Date

220 6th Street E – Ashland, WI 54806
 Telephone: (715) 685-7640 – Fax: (715) 682-7039
 Website: co.ashland.wi.us

Motion was made by Laura Nagro and seconded by Elizabeth Franek to approve the Staffing Agreement for the Jail. Voice vote, motion carried.

h. Approve Letter of Agreement for Humane Officer

On file in the County Clerk's office.

Motion was made by Mike Starck and seconded by Bradley Ray to approve the Letter of Agreement for the Humane Officer. Voice vote, motion carried.

i. Resolution R03-2024-1469 to Draft Dark Sky Week

Resolution No. R03-2024-1469
DARK SKY WEEK RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind and our community is an awesome viewing spot; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people and out-of-area visitors within the local communities; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population, including some people in Ashland County, Wisconsin lives under a dome of light pollution-excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness-and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security, both of which also impact Ashland County; and

WHEREAS, natural night sky advocates at Northland College and in the Town of Morse are seeking an international designation of Copper Falls State Park as an International Dark Sky Park, advancing the economic, recreational, and educational Interests of the local community and Ashland County; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin hosts some of the world's most revered observatories-including those at Geneva Lake Astronomy STEAM and University of Wisconsin Astronomy Department; and

WHEREAS, optical astronomy-which is both hindered and endangered by unfettered light pollution-represents a new opportunity for tourism with its associated capital investments and revenue; and

WHEREAS, Ashland County is home to dozens of nocturnal wildlife species-including bats and other species which rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, Dark Sky International, [headquartered in [Arizona/the United States], is the globally recognized authority on light pollution and has created International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution, and provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Ashland County Board of Supervisors declares April 2-8, 2024 as INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK!

Adopted by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors on this 26th day of March, 2024.

By Action of the **Ashland County Board of Supervisors:**
Richard Pufall, County Board Chair

Motion was made by Kathy Schutte and seconded by John Wiener to approve Resolution R03-2024-1469 Draft Dark Sky Week. Voice vote, motion carried.

Motion was made by Kathy Schutte and seconded by John Wiener to present and vote separately on Resolutions R03-2024-1464 – R03-2024-1468. Voice vote, motion carried with George Mika in opposition.

j. Resolution R03-2024-1464 – Honoring Supervisor MacKenzie

Resolution Number R03-2024-1464
HONORING MATT MACKENZIE

WHEREAS, Matt MacKenzie has served as the 2nd District Supervisor on the Ashland County Board of Supervisors April 2002 – April 2024, and

WHEREAS, Ashland County recognizes the excellent and dedicated service that Matt MacKenzie has rendered Ashland County during his term in office, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the entire County, extends a unanimous vote of thanks and appreciation to Matt MacKenzie for 22 years of excellent and dedicated service he has provided Ashland County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors wishes Matt MacKenzie health and happiness during all of his future endeavors.

Adopted by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, Ashland, Wisconsin on this 26th day of March, 2024.

By Action of the **Ashland County Board of Supervisors:**
Richard Pufall, Ashland County Board Chair

Motion was made by Laura Nagro and seconded by Louis Carl to approve Resolution R03-2024-1464 Honoring Supervisor MacKenzie. Voice vote, motion carried.

k. Resolution R03-2024-1465 – Honoring Supervisor Mika

Resolution Number R03-2024-1465
HONORING GEORGE MIKA

WHEREAS, George Mika has served as the 15th District Supervisor on the Ashland County Board of Supervisors April 1992 – April 2024, and

WHEREAS, Ashland County recognizes the excellent and dedicated service that George Mika has rendered Ashland County during his term in office, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the entire County, extends a unanimous vote of thanks and appreciation to George Mika for 32 years of excellent and dedicated service he has provided Ashland County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors wishes George Mika health and happiness during all of his future endeavors.

Adopted by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, Ashland, Wisconsin on this 26th day of March, 2024.

By Action of the **Ashland County Board of Supervisors:**
Richard Pufall, Ashland County Board Chair

Motion was made by George Bussey and seconded by Martin Vitek to approve Resolution R03-2024-1465 Honoring Supervisor Mika. Voice vote, motion carried.

l. Resolution R03-2024-1466 – Honoring Supervisor Schutte

Resolution Number R03-2024-1466
HONORING KATHY L. SCHUTTE

WHEREAS, Kathy L. Schutte has served as the 18th District Supervisor on the Ashland County Board of Supervisors April 1992 – April 1994 and April 2014 – April 2024, and

WHEREAS, Ashland County recognizes the excellent and dedicated service that Kathy L. Schutte has rendered Ashland County during her term in office, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the entire County, extends a unanimous vote of thanks and appreciation to Kathy L. Schutte for 12 years of excellent and dedicated service she has provided Ashland County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors wishes Kathy L. Schutte health and happiness during all of her future endeavors.

Adopted by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, Ashland, Wisconsin on this 26th day of March, 2024.

By Action of the **Ashland County Board of Supervisors:**
Richard Pufall, Ashland County Board Chair

Motion was made by George Bussey and seconded by Elizabeth Franek to approve Resolution R03-2024-1466 Honoring Supervisor Schutte. Voice vote, motion carried.

m. Resolution R03-2024-1467 – Honoring Supervisor Carl

Resolution Number R03-2024-1467
HONORING LOUIS CARL

WHEREAS, Louis Carl has served as the 19th District Supervisor on the Ashland County Board of Supervisors April 2022 – April 2024, and

WHEREAS, Ashland County recognizes the excellent and dedicated service that Louis Carl has rendered Ashland County during his term in office, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the entire County, extends a unanimous vote of thanks and appreciation to Louis Carl for 2 years of excellent and dedicated service he has provided Ashland County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors wishes Louis Carl health and happiness during all of his future endeavors.

Adopted by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, Ashland, Wisconsin on this 26th day of March, 2024.

By Action of the **Ashland County Board of Supervisors:**
Richard Pufall, Ashland County Board Chair

Motion was made by Laura Nagro and seconded by Bill Metzinger to approve Resolution R03-2024-1467 Honoring Louis Carl. Voice vote, motion carried.

n. Resolution R03-2024-1468 – Honoring Supervisor Wiener

Resolution Number R03-2024-1468
HONORING JOHN L. WIENER

WHEREAS, John L. Wiener has served as the 20th District Supervisor on the Ashland County Board of Supervisors April 2018 – April 2024, and

WHEREAS, Ashland County recognizes the excellent and dedicated service that John L. Wiener has rendered Ashland County during his term in office, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the entire County, extends a unanimous vote of thanks and appreciation to John L. Wiener for 6 years of excellent and dedicated service he has provided Ashland County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ashland County Board of Supervisors wishes John L. Wiener health and happiness during all of his future endeavors.

Adopted by the Ashland County Board of Supervisors, Ashland, Wisconsin on this 26th day of March, 2024.

By Action of the **Ashland County Board of Supervisors:**
Richard Pufall, Ashland County Board Chair

Motion was made by Gary Mertig and seconded by Kathy Schutte to approve Resolution R03-2024-1468 Honoring John Wiener. Voice vote, motion carried.

6. REPORTS/UPDATES

a. Administrator Updates

Dan Grady gave an update on what he has been working on since the last County Board meeting.

b. County Board Supervisors

County Board members commented.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

None

8. ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Matt MacKenzie and seconded by John Wiener. Voice vote, Motion carried. County Board adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather W. Schutte
Ashland County Clerk