

Bayfield County Clerk

Lynn M. Divine, *County Clerk*

Kim Mattson, *Accountant*
Gail M. Reha, *Bookkeeper*

Jeran Delaine, *Deputy Clerk*
Paige Terry, *Clerk III*



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Minutes of the:
Bayfield County Board of Supervisors' Meeting
April 20th, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Held in the Bayfield County Board Room, Courthouse, Washburn, WI
& Remotely

The meeting of the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Bayfield County *Chairman* Dennis M. Pocernich. A roll call was taken by *County Clerk*- Lynn Divine, as follows: Mary Dougherty-present; Charly Ray-present virtually; Jeff Silbert-present; Brett Rondeau-present; Steve Sandstrom-present; Larry Fickbohm-present; Jeremy Oswald-present; Tom Snilsberg-present; Fred Strand-present; David Zepczyk-present; Marty Milanowski-present virtually; Jim Crandall-present; Dennis Pocernich-present. Total: 13 present, 0 absent. A quorum was present to conduct business.

The following were also present for today's meeting: *County Administrator*- Mark Abeles-Allison; *County Clerk*- Lynn Divine; *Health Director*-Sara Wartman virtually; *Clerk III*- Paige Terry virtually

3. **Pledge of Allegiance;** The pledge of allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

4. **Discussion and Possible Action, Minutes from March 30th, 2021;**

Motion by Milanowski, seconded by Rondeau to approve the minutes from March 30, 2021.
Motion Carried, 13-0.

5. **Public Comment;** None.

6. **Bayfield County Resolution No. 2021-37;**

2021-37

Recognizing Washburn Girls Volleyball State Championship

WHEREAS, the Washburn Castle Guards Volleyball Program has had decades of success and is one of the premiere high school volleyball programs in Northern Wisconsin; *and*,

WHEREAS, the Washburn Castle Guards Volleyball Program has produced numerous athletes who competed and played college volleyball; *and*,

WHEREAS, the Washburn Castle Guards Volleyball Program has won more Conference Championships and WIAA Regional Championships than any other northern school; *and*,

WHEREAS, the 2021 Washburn Castle Guards State Volleyball Championship is the second State Title in Girls Volleyball in school history and one of the few teams in Wisconsin sports history to be undefeated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 20th day of April 2021, recognizes, commends and congratulates the Washburn High School 2021 Girls Volleyball Team for winning the State Championship; *and*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors thanks county officials and staff who assisted the team in accomplishing this feat.

Motion by Silbert, seconded by Rondeau to adopt Resolution No. 2021-37; Recognizing Washburn Girls Volleyball State Championship. Motion Carried, 13-0.

7. **COVID-19 Health Update:**

Sara Wartman gave an update regarding the total COVID-19 cases in Bayfield County and the trend of positive cases. Approximately 53.2% of Bayfield County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and an estimated 43.3% of the Bayfield County population has completed the COVID-19 vaccine series. Wartman reviewed the recent halt in distributing the Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) vaccine due to reports finding that 6 recipients of the vaccine had developed blood clots.

Discussion continued regarding COVID-19 symptoms experienced by vaccinated individuals.

Pocernich questioned if the Health Department would be planning on continuing the Johnson and Johnson vaccine distribution when the okay is given. Wartman replied that the department does have the intention to use the Johnson and Johnson vaccines they have once it is deemed okay to do so.

8. **Bayfield County Resolution No. 2021-31:**

2021-31

Bayfield County Face Covering Advisory

WHEREAS, Bayfield County remains in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic; *and*,

WHEREAS, following best practices during the pandemic including limiting in-person gatherings, washing hands, physical distancing and wearing face masks is the best way to decrease the number of COVID-19 patients needing hospitalization; *and*,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccinations continue across the state, it will be a while before 80% of the general population is vaccinated and some degree of herd immunity is achieved; *and*,

WHEREAS, Bayfield County Public Health has recommended the use of face masks, physical distancing and hand washing throughout the pandemic; *and*,

WHEREAS, Bayfield County is currently at approximately 50% of the population with a first dose of vaccine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 20th day of April 2021, issue a strong recommendation and Advisory that every individual, five years and older, should wear a face covering or mask when in any enclosed building where other people,

except for members of the person’s own household or living unit, could be present, and when social distancing of six feet or more cannot be maintained or guaranteed; *and*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this advisory remain in effect for 60 days.

Motion by Oswald, seconded by Strand to adopt Resolution No. 2021-31; Bayfield County Face Covering advisory. Motion Carried, 11-2.

9. **Bayfield County Resolution No. 2021-32;**

2021-32

Retirement of Cheryl Hanson

WHEREAS, Cheryl Hanson has served Bayfield County with distinction, honor and dedication in the Human Services Department for nearly 13 years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 20th day of April, 2021, honors Cheryl Hanson for her 13 years of public service to Bayfield County and expresses gratitude for her efforts, wishing her well in the years ahead.

Motion by Crandall, seconded by Milanowski to adopt Resolution No. 2021-32; In Recognition and Appreciation of Cheryl Hanson for 13 years of commitment and service in the Bayfield County Human Services Office. Motion Carried, 13-0.

10. **Bayfield County Resolution No. 2021-33;**

Chairman Pocernich skipped Resolution No. 2021-33 and asked that it be forwarded to the next meeting.

11. **Bayfield County Resolution No. 2021-34;**

2021-34

Amending the 2020-2024 Bayfield County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020 (Resolution 2020-25), the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors approved the 2020-2024 Bayfield County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (hereafter, Plan); *and*,

WHEREAS, the Plan outlines current and future outdoor recreation facility needs of Bayfield County that can be adequately maintained and/or developed; *and*,

WHEREAS, occasionally, the Plan will be updated to account for changes and/or modifications in outdoor recreation planning and/or facility needs; *and*,

WHEREAS, the Forestry and Parks Department is charged with maintaining the Plan; *and*,

WHEREAS, requests have been made to make the following amendments/updates to the Plan:

1. North Pikes Creek Wetlands Conservation Area and the Beaver Hollow Outdoor Education Area (see Exhibit A).
2. Across the Pond Veterans Park (see Exhibit B).

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2021 the Forestry and Parks Committee approved amending the Plan to include the items listed above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 20th day of April 2021, hereby formally approve the above described amendments to the 2020-2024 Bayfield County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Motion by Strand, seconded by Rondeau to adopt Resolution No. 2021-34; Amending the 2020-2024 Bayfield County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Motion Carried, 13-0.

12. Bayfield County Resolution No. 2021-35;

2021-35

**Approval of Public Participation Plan for Bayfield County
Comprehensive Plan 2020-2030**

WHEREAS, Bayfield County has decided to prepare a comprehensive plan update under the authority of and procedures established by Section 66.1001(4), Wis Stats; *and*,

WHEREAS, Section 66.1001(4)(a), Wis. Stats, requires that the governing body of the local governmental unit adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation at every stage of comprehensive plan preparation, and that such written procedures shall provide for wide distribution of draft plan materials, and a process for the governing body to respond to such comments; *and*,

WHEREAS, Bayfield County believes that regular, meaningful public involvement in the comprehensive plan process is important to assure that the resulting plan meets the wishes and expectations of the public; *and*,

WHEREAS, the attached Bayfield County Comprehensive Plan Update Public Participation Plan includes written procedures to foster public participation, ensure wide distribution of draft plan material, provide opportunities for written comments on such materials, and provide mechanisms to respond to such comments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 20th day of April 2021, hereby adopts the written procedures included in the attached Bayfield County Comprehensive Plan Update Public Participation Plan as its public participation procedures meeting the requirements of Section 66.1001(4)(a), Wis. Stats, for its current comprehensive plan update efforts.

Sandstrom questioned if a committee would be formed to work on the comprehensive plan update. Abeles-Allison answered that a special committee would typically be formed to work on updating the plan.

Motion by Rondeau, seconded by Crandall to adopt Resolution No. 2021-35; Approval of the Public Participation Plan for Bayfield County Comprehensive Plan 2020-2030. Motion Carried, 13-0.

13. Bayfield County Resolution No. 2021-36;

2021-36

Energy Innovations Grant Budget Amendment

WHEREAS, Bayfield County applied for and was awarded an Energy Innovations Grant through the Wisconsin Public Service Commission; *and*,

WHEREAS, funds would be used to update hot water solar equipment servicing the jail, adding approximately 21 kw of Solar PV, master metering the courthouse and jail complexes and installing a battery storage device; *and*,

WHEREAS, grant deliverables would improve resilience and reliability during power outages, generate energy savings, produce additional renewable energy and upgrade existing solar hot water exchangers, tank liner and pump; *and*,

WHEREAS, the project would allow both buildings to run off of a single generator in a more efficient and cost effective manner; *and*,

WHEREAS, approximately 52% or \$273,714 of total project costs (\$527,884) will be covered by the grant; *and*,

WHEREAS, approximately \$14,646 of personnel costs are donated time of muGrid Analytics, Madison Solar Consulting, and Cheq Bay Renewables, \$13,100 of personnel costs are Bayfield County staff time, and remaining County costs of \$201,425 will be recovered over time through energy savings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 20th day of April 2021, accepts the Wisconsin PSC EIGP Grant and authorizes a budget amendment utilizing fund balances to pay the County share with cost savings to replenish the fund over the next 20 years; *and*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the following line-item adjustments be made to the 2021 budget:

Revenue:

Generator Project Grant	Increase	430-14-43921	\$273,714
Fund Balance Applied	Increase	100-00-49301	\$201,425
Transfer from other funds	Increase	430-70-49201	\$201,425

Expense:

CI-Generator Project	Increase	430-70-57100-50820-007	\$500,139
Capital Improvements	Decrease	430-14-57100-50820	(\$ 25,000)
Transfer to CIP	Increase	100-00-59430-50820	\$201,425

Total REVENUE AND EXPENSE: \$676,564

Bill Bailey, *Cheq Bay Renewables*, gave a presentation regarding the Energy Innovation Grant Project that involve combining the Bayfield County Courthouse and Jail (Annex Building) into one Micro-Grid.

Motion by Silbert, seconded by Sandstrom to adopt Resolution No. 2021-36; Energy Grant Budget Amendment. Roll Call Vote: Ray-yes; Silbert-yes; Sandstrom-yes; Milanowski-yes; Zepczyk-yes; Dougherty-yes; Oswald-yes; Fickbohm-yes; Rondeau-yes; Strand-yes Snilsberg-yes; Crandall-yes; Pocernich-yes. Motion Carried, 13-0.

14. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Bayfield County Community Projects Submittals;

Abeles-Allison reviewed four community projects that have been submitted for approval:

Northern Lights Health Care Community Project – Abeles-Allison stated the project would consist of two separate components; the rehabilitation of the existing structure and the addition of a new assisted living facility. Silbert explained that the Northern Lights Health Board has not yet made a decision on the approval or disapproval of the project. Abeles-Allison informed the board that the overall approval of the project would be contingent on the Northern Lights Health Board’s approval.

County Highway N, Flood Damage Restoration – Abeles-Allison informed the board that the Bayfield County Highway Department has contracted with an engineer to work on elevation designs for County Highway N that would raise the road approximately 4 feet. Crandall stated that County Highway N is an important road in terms of traveling from East to West purposes.

County Forest COVID-19 Mitigation Outdoor Recreation – Abeles-Allison explained that a number of projects have been proposed with a 24-month timeline. The projects would aim to create additional outdoor recreational opportunities (i.e. outdoor toilets, fix trail, campground improvements).

Red Cliff Land Repatriation – Abeles-Allison informed the board that Bayfield County currently owns approximately 1,200 acres of land within the Red Cliff Tribal Reservation. Should Bayfield County receive enough funds from the Federal Government, the County would deed all of the land back to the Red Cliff Tribe. Silbert proposed two language corrections be made to the Red Cliff Land Repatriation project document:

-In the fifth paragraph, modifying the sentence “Bayfield County and Red Cliff have worked collaboratively over the past 5 years to return over 400 acres to the Tribe including lands currently serving as the first Tribal National Park” to read: “Bayfield County and Red Cliff have worked collaboratively over the past 5 years to return over 400 acres to the Tribe included lands **currently in conservation management.**”

-In the fifth paragraph, modifying the sentence “Frog Bay Tribal National Park sits on 180 acres of land on the shores of Lake Superior” to read: “Frog Bay Tribal National Park sits on **295 acres** of land on the shores of Lake Superior.”

Motion by Strand, seconded by Rondeau to approve the four Community Projects as presented. Motion Carried, 13-0.

15. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Bayfield County Procurement Policy;

Abeles-Allison explained to the board that the previously applied for Community Development Block Grant requires Bayfield County to have a procurement policy in place and gave a brief overview of the newly drafted policy. Abeles-Allison explained that the procurement policy will be a living document that will be able to be modified in the future if need be.

7:01p.m. – Milanowski left the meeting.

*Motion by Rondeau, seconded by Crandall to approve the Bayfield County Procurement Policy.
Motion Carried, 12-0. 1 Absent.*

16. Reports:

- a) **Remote / In Person Meeting Discussion;** Abeles-Allison informed the board that the County committees have been meeting in a variety of ways; virtual, in-person, or a combination of the two. Abeles-Allison stated that he wanted to double check with the board that all the supervisors were comfortable with these formats. No objections were brought forward by the board.
- b) **Future County Board Meeting Dates:**
 - a. **May 25, 2021: Budget Meeting at 4:30 & Monthly Meeting at 6:00**
 - b. **June 29, 2021**
 - c. **July 27, 2021**
- c) **American Recovery Act review;** Abeles-Allison reported that half of the funds to be distributed through the American Recovery Act are anticipated to be distributed near May 11, 2021. Dougherty questioned what position the County is currently at in terms of the development of projects and when negotiations would be taking place. Abeles-Allison stated that only the ideas have been put out, but there have been no steps taken towards moving forward.
- d) **CDBG-CV;** Abeles-Allison reported that the process of developing the projects for the CDBG-CV Grant continues to move forward and stated that notices may begin to be sent out to individuals the following week. Abeles-Allison noted that he and Sheldon Johnson with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission are considering expanding the monetary cap for each application to \$10,000 from \$5,000 in fear there may not be enough applicants otherwise.
- e) **Youth Local Government Scholarships;** Abeles-Allison reported only one individual, Drew Tuttle from Drummond, has applied for the 2021 Youth Local Government Scholarship.
- f) **2021 WCA Conference in LaCrosse;** Divine informed the board that room reservations for the conference open up May 3, 2021. Abeles-Allison added that, at the time when registration opens, staff would be working towards making the proper reservations.
- g) **WCA Resolutions due June 28;** Resolutions will need to be approved May 25. Abeles-Allison reviewed example resolutions that had been used in the past as potential ideas for resolution ideas for 2021.
- h) **Legislative Updates;** Abeles-Allison reviewed a letter that was drafted to the Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee regarding legislative language changes for repatriating land back to the tribe, more specifically In-Rem tax parcels.
- i) **Save to Give Energy Program Update;** Abeles-Allison gave a summary of the Save to Give Energy Program.

17. Supervisors' Reports:

Rondeau reported he recently went on a tour of the Great Divide Ambulance Services facility and was impressed with the on-site facilities.

Strand reported forestry and timber sales for the first quarter of the year are higher than predicted. The semi-annual timber sale bid opening will occur in May, which will paint a better picture for the future revenue of the Forestry Department.

Oswald reported that the Sheriff's Committee recently took a tour of the Bayfield County Jail and was able to view the expansion and remodeling that had recently been completed. Jail staff appear happy with the changes. Oswald informed the board that new Emergency Management Director Meagan Quaderer is in the process of following up on a power outage that resulted in the outage of 911 services to four separate areas in Bayfield County. The outage was a result of a generator running out of fuel after a previous power outage. Oswald explained that the processes of transferring addresses from the Emergency Management Department to the Land Records Department is ongoing.

18. Adjournment;

There being no further business to come before the Bayfield county Board of Supervisors, *Chairman Pocerlich* adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Sincerely,

LYNN M. DIVINE

Bayfield County Clerk

LMD/pat