

# Minutes of the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors

Budget Planning & Monthly Meeting

May 25, 2021

Meeting Held in the Bayfield County Board Room  
& Remotely

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors was called to order by County Board Chair, Dennis Pocerlich, at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call was conducted by County Clerk, Lynn Divine: Present were Steve Sandstrom, Mary Dougherty, Charly Ray, Jeff Silbert, Brett Rondeau, Fred Strand, Tom Snilsberg, Marty Milanowski, David Zepczyk, Jim Crandall, and Dennis Pocerlich. Members present virtually were Larry Fickbohm and Jeremy Oswald. Absent- 0. A quorum was present to conduct business.

Others present at the meeting were: Mark Abeles-Allison, Bayfield County Administrator; Lynn M. Divine, Bayfield County Clerk; Paul Johanik, Highway Commissioner; Elizabeth Skulan, Human Services Director; Paul Susienka, Bayfield County Sheriff; Kellie Pederson, UW-Extension Community Development Educator; Rob Schierman, Planning & Zoning Director; Sara Wartman, Health Department Director; and Kevin Johnson, Veteran Services Officer. Others present virtually were: Mary Pardee, UW-Extension Area 1 Director and Paige Terry, Clerk III.

## BAYFIELD COUNTY BOARD BUDGET PLANNING MEETING - 4:30 P.M.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge of allegiance was recited by all in attendance.
3. **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS:** County Board Chairman Pocerlich welcomed meeting attendees and thanked them for coming. Chair Pocerlich listed the budget as the most important task of the County Board. Chair Pocerlich reviewed the purpose of the budget planning meeting and urged members to actively participate in the budget process. Abeles-Allison explained the process of adopting the budget. AA board's role in the budget.
4. **BUDGET PLANNING INTRODUCTION AND CALENDAR:** County Administrator Mark Abeles-Allison explained the process of adopting the budget and the County Board's role in the budget planning process. County Clerk Lynn Divine reviewed the budget planning calendar with the board.
5. **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS:** Highway Commissioner Paul Johanik gave a presentation for the Highway Department that reviewed anticipated highway work to be started and completed over the next five years (2021-2025), explained general transportation aids, and listed a history of budget totals.

Human Services Director Elizabeth Skulan gave a presentation on the 2022 budget for the Human Services department which included explaining the various sub-departments in the Human Services Department, services the department provides, and the individuals that may qualify for the services.

Bayfield County Sheriff Paul Susienka reviewed the Sheriff Office's budget, including the different components that make up the budget, the different challenges that affect the budget, and recommendations for the future.

6. **COUNTY BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS:** UW-Extension Community Development Educator Kellie Pederson reviewed the results of the 2022 budget survey with the board. The survey results indicated the top three priorities for the community were; cell coverage and broadband service, economic development and job retention, and groundwater and surface water resource protection. The top three Funding Priorities for Bayfield County residents were; broadband expansion, senior services, and assistance to businesses.
7. **BUDGET OVERVIEW:** UW-Extension Area 1 Director Mary Pardee reviewed the purpose and process of the County's budget. Abeles-Allison gave a presentation to review where Bayfield County currently stands in financial terms.
8. **2022 BUDGET QUESTIONS:** County Administrator Mark Abeles-Allison posed two questions before the County Board, the first being; should Bayfield County levy the maximum amount under the current levy lid rule? The second question was should Bayfield County maintain the current Highway debt-service bond by planning to levy approximately \$1.6 million again? The County Board of Supervisors agreed to levy the maximum amount under the current levy lid rule and to plan on levying the same amount for the Highway debt-service plan again.
9. **WRAP-UP, DISCUSSION:** Chairman Pocernich omitted this item from the agenda due to the meeting running longer than expected.
10. **ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, Chairman Pocernich adjourned the Budget Planning portion of the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

**BAYFIELD COUNTY BOARD MONTHLY MEETING – Approximate Start Time 6:00 P.M.**

**11. PUBLIC HEARING, BAYFIELD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE:**

6:24 – Chairman Pocernich closed the meeting as a whole and opened up for the Bayfield County Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing.

Planning & Zoning Director Rob Schierman reviewed the process for updating the County Comprehensive Plan. Schierman recommended waiting for the 2020 Census data to become available to update the Comprehensive Plan and extend the date of the current plan until such data is available. Abeles-Allison informed the board that there was the intention to keep the current Bayfield County Comprehensive Plan and wait until 2022-23 to go through the formal process of updating the plan. The Board agreed to wait for the Census data before updating the plan.

6:25 – Chairman Pocernich closed the public hearing and reconvened the meeting of the Board of Supervisors as a whole.

6:26 – The Board adjourned for a short recess.

6:39 – Board reconvened.

12. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-38:** *Motion by Sandstrom, seconded by Milanowski to adopt Resolution No. 2021-38; A Resolution to Adopt the Comprehensive Plan Update for Bayfield County, Wisconsin. Motion carried, 13-0.*

13. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Motion by Milanowski, seconded by Crandall to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Bayfield County Board of Supervisors Meeting held on April 20, 2021. Motion carried, 13-0.*

14. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

15. **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE:** Wartman reported of an approximate total of 1,300 probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 throughout Bayfield County. Wisconsin is currently labeled as High for disease activity level. Most new cases in Bayfield County are manifesting in school-age children, particularly among toddlers. Wartman explained that, on top of COVID-19, seasonal coronavirus is also circulating throughout Wisconsin. Bayfield County is shortening the quarantine duration from 14 days to 10 days. The Bayfield County Health Department has recommended that school students and staff maintain mask wearing policies for the remainder of the school year since most of the students remain unvaccinated. Wartman informed the Board that the Health Department has been able to visit every school within the County that have students within the 12-18 age range with plans to attempt to conduct more vaccine clinics in the future.

Discussion occurred regarding individuals that have been vaccinated, gotten sick, and the symptoms they have presented.

Chair Pocernich led a discussion regarding mask guidelines, particularly those pertaining to vaccinated individuals.

16. **COUNTY-PUBLIC GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19:** Abeles-Allison reviewed the COVID-19 guidelines that County employees are currently following. Chair Pocernich questioned how long these guidelines would be in effect. Abeles-Allison replied that the Courthouse is in the process of coordinating with the courtroom staff for developing a schedule to change the guidelines but anticipates the changes to occur relatively soon. Chair Pocernich asked Abeles-Allison if the signs asking the public to call before entering were still posted. Abeles-Allison explained that the signs are posted but will be taken down the upcoming Friday. Employees and citizens will still be allowed to wear masks, but they will no longer be required.

17. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-33:** *Motion by Milanowski, seconded by Crandall to adopt Resolution No. 2021-33; In Recognition and Appreciation of Jane Cook for 20 years of commitment and service in the Bayfield County Human Services Office. Motion Carried, 13-0.*

18. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-39:** *Motion by Silbert, seconded by Crandall to adopt Resolution No. 2021-39; In Recognition and Appreciation of Roseann "Rosie" Kozeneski for 19 years of commitment and service in the Bayfield County Human Services Office. Motion Carried, 13-0.*

19. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-40:** *Motion by Oswald, seconded by Crandall to adopt Resolution No. 2021-40; In Recognition and Appreciation of Joanne Sarver for 25 years of commitment and service in the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office. Motion Carried, 13-0.*

20. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-41:** *Motion by Crandall, seconded by Rondeau to adopt Resolution No. 2021-41; In Recognition of Memorial Day 2021. Motion Carried, 13-0.*

21. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-42:** *Motion by Crandall, seconded by Rondeau to adopt Resolution No. 2021-42; Adding a Specific Reference in Wis. Stat. §70.11(2) to Property Owned by Regional Planning Commissions as Exempt from Real Property Taxes. Motion Carried, 13-0.*
22. **NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING, CDBG-CV CONTRACT:** Abeles-Allison reviewed the contract provided by the NWRPC, who will be administering the funds/projects received for the CDBG-CV.

*Motion by Crandall, seconded by Silbert to adopt the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, CDBG-CV Contract for Administering Projects. Roll Call Vote: Fickbohm-yes; Oswald-yes; Strand-yes; Snilsberg-yes; Sandstrom-yes; Zepczyk-yes; Silbert-yes; Ray-yes; Dougherty-yes; Rondeau-yes; Milanowski-yes; Crandall-yes; Pocernich-yes. Motion Carried, 13-0.*

Abeles-Allison informed the board that there was a press release scheduled for the upcoming week to announce both the rental assistance and business assistance programs.

23. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-43:** *Motion by Milanowski, seconded by Zepczyk to adopt Resolution No. 2021-43; Supporting and Authorizing Matching Funds for Bayfield County “RAISE” Grant Project on County Highways A & N. Motion Carried, 13-0.*
24. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTIONS FOR WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION PLATFORM:** Information was provided regarding the following six Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Resolutions by County Administrator, Abeles-Allison. The resolutions are being proposed to the WCA for legislature consideration.
- a. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-44; Supporting a Change in State Regulations and Legislation to Require Meaningful Local Input in Siting of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs);**
  - b. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-45; Support Medicaid Expansion;**
  - c. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-46; Support Wolf Conservation in Wisconsin;** Sandstrom led a discussion on a bulleted point under the Now, Therefore be it Resolved clause, “Resume work immediately on developing a new state wolf conservation plan using the best science and public attitudes data available on wolves,” stating that the phrase “and public attitudes data” should be removed. The Board Supervisors agree that the change should be made.
  - d. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-47; Conduct Additional Research on Chronic Wasting Disease to Improve Testing, Treatment, and Management Options;** Sandstrom led a discussion on a bulleted point under the Now, Therefore be it Resolved clause, “Develop a vaccine for CWD,” explaining that the word “cervid” should be inserted before the word “vaccine” to prevent confusion regarding if the vaccine would be intended for humans or cervids. The Board Supervisors agreed that the change should be made.
  - e. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-48; Enact Stronger Regulations to Limit the Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease;**
  - f. **BAYFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-49; Supporting Changes in State Regulations and Legislation to Support Rural Emergency Medical Services in Rural Areas;**

*Motion by Silbert, seconded by Sandstrom to adopt Resolutions No. 2021-44, No. 2021-45, No. 2021-46, No. 2021-46, No. 2021-47, No. 2021-48, No. 2021-49 Wisconsin Counties Association Resolutions with the one change being made to Resolution No. 2021-46 and one change being made to Resolution No. 2021-47. Motion carried, 13-0.*

**25. BAYFIELD COUNTY AMENDATORY ORDINANCE NO. 2021-02:** *Motion by Rondeau, seconded by Milanowski to adopt Amendatory Ordinance No. 2021-02; Codification Ordinance Amendments Renumbering and Inclusion. Motion Carried, 13-0.*

**26. AMERICAN RESCUE ACT PROJECT:** Abeles-Allison reviewed projects submitted for the American Rescue Act Funding. Abeles-Allison listed the following four projects that are recommended for the Board's approval: HVAC improvements at the Courthouse, a new backup generator and the replacement of sewer pipes at Northern Lights, broadband expansion, and additional staff and COVID-19 capabilities for the Health Department.

**Project Totals:**

HVAC Improvements	\$600,000
Northern Lights	\$250,000
Broadband	\$261,400
Health Staffing and Testing	\$ 86,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,197,400</b>

Pocernich suggested Bayfield County cover the entire cost of the Northern Lights projects and not require the facility to contribute, which would bring that project's total to \$300,000. The Board agreed to put forward the entire \$300,000.

Discussion took place regarding the need to provide more staff to the Health Department. It was decided that a new staff member for the Health Department would be hired on contract rather than budgeted for the department.

*Motion by Dougherty, seconded by Sandstrom to approve the four listed American Recovery Act Projects for the following amounts; Courthouse HVAC Improvements-\$600,000, Northern Lights-\$300,000, Broadband-\$261,400, Health Department Staffing and Testing-contracted. Roll Call Vote: Strand-yes; Crandall-yes; Dougherty-yes; Silbert-yes; Ray-yes; Snilsberg-yes; Zepczyk-yes; Fickbohm-yes; Oswald-yes; Rondeau-yes; Milanowski-yes; Pocernich-yes.*

**27. REPORTS:** Reports were given regarding Bayfield County Courthouse Mask and Signage Status Update; future county board meetings; and an EMS Ad Hoc Committee Update.

**28. SUPERVISORS' REPORTS:** None.

**29. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to conduct, *Chairman Pocernich adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn M. Divine, Bayfield County Clerk

(A complete transcript of these Minutes may be obtained at the Bayfield County Clerk's Office)