



Resolution

No. 2023-12

Supporting and Authorizing Matching Funds for Bayfield County “RAISE” Grant Project on County Highways A & N

WHEREAS, Bayfield County maintains 172 miles of county highways; *and*,

WHEREAS, Forestry is a critical industry for Bayfield County; *and*,

WHEREAS, Bayfield County annually places road weight limit restrictions on county highways during the spring break-up to protect roads which negatively impact the ability of the logging industry to access and transport forest products; *and*,

WHEREAS, County Highways A and N provide access to thousands of acres of forestland that supplies timber for forest products; *and*,

WHEREAS, County Highways A and N are used by local industry; *and*,

WHEREAS, Bayfield County uses highways for multi modal purposes with County Highway A designated as a bike route and County Highway N designated as an ATV route; *and*,

WHEREAS, funding for highways is important. Scarce resources make funding difficult. Bayfield County has annually dedicated additional resources to highway projects but does not have the ability to contribute to fund this entire project; *and*,

WHEREAS, over the past five years both the Bayfield County Board and the Citizens of Bayfield County have ranked Highways as a top priority of the County during the annual budget process and budget survey; *and*,

WHEREAS, maintenance and upkeep of roadways are of regional concern to support the forest industry; *and*,

WHEREAS, alternate funding mechanisms are important to supplement the county’s ability to properly maintain county roads; *and*,

WHEREAS, Bayfield County has proposed a “replace in kind” construction method to keep costs to a minimum; *and*,

WHEREAS, the US Department of Transportation RAISE program offers matching funds for economic development projects and in March of 2022 the Bayfield County Board authorized submittal of an application to the RAISE grant program for reconstruction of County Highways A and N to all season road standards; *and*,

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the project is Seventeen Million, Three Hundred Thirty-one Thousand, Four Hundred Sixty-eight dollars (17,331,468), encompassing sixteen (16) miles of county highway reconstruction on County Highway N and conversion of six (6) miles of County Highway N from A to Highway 27 making this entire route (US 2 to State Highway 27) an All-Season Road; *and*,

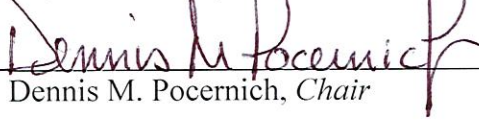
WHEREAS, this improvement project would have a significant economic development impact on Bayfield County communities, businesses, bikers, ATV users and tourists in addition to improving safety and reducing maintenance costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 31st day of January 2023, will commit and hereby encumbers 10% or \$1,733,147 towards this project over a period of up to five years; *and*,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bayfield County has previously supported efforts at the state level to raise additional funds for county highway reconstruction and that the Bayfield County Board hereby petitions the Governor, the Assembly, and the Senate of the State of Wisconsin to pursue supplemental funding for county highways in Wisconsin.

By Action of the:

Bayfield County Board of Supervisors


Dennis M. Pocernich, *Chair*

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF BAYFIELD)

I, Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2023-12, Volume 29, adopted by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on the 31st day of January 2023.


Lynn M. Divine, *Bayfield County Clerk*