

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Thursday, May 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Board Room, Second Floor, Government Center**  
**1316 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Superior, Wisconsin**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mark Liebaert.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Roll call taken by County Clerk Susan Sandvick. There were 18 Present, 3 Absent. Absent – Bong, Peterson, Bergman. (Remote – Baker, Borgeson, Long.)

Motion by Pomush, second Allen, to approve the April 15, 2021, meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Three items of correspondence were either received and placed on file or referred to the appropriate committee.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Lisa Freier, Public Health Nurse, presented Employee of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Award. Freier recognized for work ethic and initiative to learn new skills to assist the department. Kathy Ronchi accepted award on her behalf.

Proclamation recognizing Public Health Workers accepted by Kathy Ronchi, Health Officer, on behalf of department. Ronchi emphasized cooperation between many organizations for a successful transition through COVID-19 pandemic.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Public input solicited regarding Douglas County's 2020-2040 Comprehensive Plan. No comments received.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment allowed on action items listed on the agenda. All comments limited to three minutes in length, unless otherwise directed by the board. None.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Pomush		
2. Bong		
3. Certa-Werner		
4. Clark		
5. Baker		
6. Leino		
7. Glazman		
8. Raunio		
9. Jaques		
10. Peterson		
11. McGillis		
12. Lear		
13. Allen		
14. Ryan		
15. Hendrickson		
16. Luostari		
17. Liebaert		
18. Moen		
19. Long		
20. Borgeson		
21. Bergman		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____		
Passed _____ X _____ Lost _____ Refer _____ Amend _____ X _____ Other _____		
Rev. 8-20-20		

**RESOLUTION #14-21  
RESOLUTION BY THE LAND AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE**

Subject: Land Sales

WHEREAS, the following parcels of land were advertised on April 2, 9 and 16, 2021, in accordance with section 76.59, Wisconsin Statutes, and the highest bids received are as follows:

\$ 2,545.00 Parcel 18-20: Lots 481 thru 489, odd numbers, except r/w, and 16th Avenue East vacated, and Lot 491, 9th Street, except r/w, Ely's Addition to Superior, City of Superior. Zoned: R1B Family Residential B (02-802-02174-00, 02-802-02184-00), **from Scott Sislo**. Intended use: adjacent owner; and

\$ 150,000.00 Parcel 8-21: Approximately 5.9 acres in the general area of West 41st – 45th Streets near Stinson Avenue, City of Superior. Complete legal description available in County Clerk's Office. Zoned: M2 Manufacturing D2 (08-808-09862-00, 08-808-09863-01, 08-808-09886-00, 08-808-09888-00, 08-808-09889-00, 08-808-09890-00, 08-808-09893-00, 08-808-09894-00, 08-808-09895-00, 08-808-09906-00, 08-808-09907-00), **from Superior Refining Company**. Intended use: adjacent owner.

WHEREAS, the following parcel of land was previously advertised on the dates indicated below, in accordance with Section 76.59, Wisconsin Statutes, and the highest bid received is as follows:

\$ 1,125.00 Parcel 2-14: (February 28, March 7, 14, 2014 and April 2, 9, 16, 2021) Lots 557 and 559, except right of way, 9th Street, Ely's Addition to Superior, City of Superior (02-802-02245-00), from Robert and Geri Lear. Intended use: adjacent owner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors, in regular meeting assembled, authorizes the County Clerk to execute quit claim deeds on the above named properties.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

(Committee Action: Unanimous)  
(Fiscal Note: Increase "Profit and Loss on Land Sales Account" by \$153,670.00)

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Rev. 8-20-20		

ACTION: Motion by Allen, second Jaques, to adopt. Motion by Allen, second Jaques, to amend as follows: Prior to “Intended use” on parcel 18-20 add “from Scott Sislo” and prior to “Intended use” on parcel 8-21 add “from Superior Refining Company”. Motion carried. Motion to adopt resolution as amended, carried. Lear abstained.

**RESOLUTION #15-21**  
**RESOLUTION BY THE LAND AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**COMMITTEE**

Subject: Northwoods Rail Transit Commission Intergovernmental Agreement

WHEREAS, representatives of multiple counties within Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan have been meeting since June of 2011 for the purposes of addressing a mutual concern over the quality and quantity of freight rail service to their businesses and communities, and

WHEREAS, as a coalition, this county group has adopted a mission statement as follows: To sustain and enhance safe, reliable and efficient rail service critical to the businesses, communities and economies in northern Wisconsin and the upper peninsula of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, through their deliberations, this county group has determined that creation and maintenance of a formal multi-county rail transit commission is the most effective means to advance this mission, and

WHEREAS, rail transit commissions can apply for grants and other assistance from the Michigan and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, rail transit commissions can be formed by intergovernmental agreement under Wis. Stats. 66.0301, and

WHEREAS, the county group has drafted an intergovernmental agreement that creates a rail transit commission that maintains fiscal authority with the county boards/commissions. (Exhibit C-5-21)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Douglas County hereby enters into a joint intergovernmental agreement under Wis. Stats. 66.0301 to create the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that participation in the commission is approved for a two-year period and the \$500 annual dues are to be paid by The Development Association.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

(Committee Action: Unanimous)  
(Fiscal Note: None)

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21. Bergman		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____  Passed <u>  X  </u> Lost        _____ Refer       _____ Amend       _____ Other        _____  <div style="text-align: center;">Rev. 8-20-20</div>		

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Rev. 8-20-20		

**ACTION:** Motion by Luostari, second Allen, to adopt. Motion carried.

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Rev. 8-20-20		

**RESOLUTION #16-21  
RESOLUTION BY SUPERVISORS LIEBAERT AND  
POMUSH**

Subject: Wisconsin Statutes Reference for Property Owned by  
Regional Planning Commissions as Tax Exempt

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created pursuant to Wis. Stat. 66.0309 by the Governor upon petition of local units of government and are comprised of counties and other municipalities located within their defined geographical area, and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are granted broad powers in order to address the “physical, social and economic development of the region”, which may include holding title to real property for such purposes, and

WHEREAS, member counties provide funds annually to Regional Planning Commissions for the purpose of meeting operational expenses pursuant to Wis. Stat. 66.0309 (14), and

WHEREAS, dissolution of Regional Planning Commissions requires that “all outstanding indebtedness of the commission has been paid and all unexpended funds returned to the local units which supplied them” pursuant to Wis. Stat. 66.0309 (15), and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are therefore a direct instrument of and created for the benefit of the counties and municipalities that fund them, and

WHEREAS, all real property, including real property owned by Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions, is subject to the application of Wis. Stat. 70.11 for the purpose of obtaining property tax exempt status, and

WHEREAS, because Wis. Stat. 70.11 (2) specifically references other joint “districts” of communities, such as joint water authorities created under 66.0823 but not specifically planning commissions created under 66.0309, ambiguity exists as to whether or not planning commissions qualify for exemption under 70.11 (2), and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Commissions are created by local units of government and its assets are constructively assets of those local units of government.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that to rectify the existing ambiguity in Wis. Stat. 70.11 (2) the following language be added to specifically include Regional Planning Commissions as an additional exemption under this statute: “regional planning commissions created under Wis. Stat. 66.0309”, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Douglas County strongly encourages and supports the State Legislature in amending Wis. Stat. 70.11 (2) to include a specific reference of Regional Planning Commissions as exempt entities for the purpose of real property taxation, and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Wisconsin Counties Association, Senator Janet Bewley, Representatives Nick Milroy and Beth Meyers, and the other members of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

(Fiscal Note: None)

ACTION: Motion by Pomush, second Hendrickson, to adopt. Motion carried.

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Rev. 8-20-20		

**RESOLUTION #17-21**  
**RESOLUTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Subject: Medical Examiner Early Hire

RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors accepts the recommendation of the Administration Committee and approves early hiring of the Medical Examiner position.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

(Committee Action: Unanimous)

(Fiscal Note: Within budget)

ACTION: Motion by Jaques, second Lear, to adopt. Motion carried.



Motion by Baker, second Allen, to allow Resolution #18-21, not on agenda. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NOT ON AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION #18-21  
RESOLUTION BY SUPERVISORS ON THE LAND  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

Subject: Wildlife Damage Abatement Program

WHEREAS, Douglas County Land and Water Conservation Department currently administers the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Wildlife Damage Abatement Program assistance, and

WHEREAS, the WDNR contracts with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS-WS) for nuisance animal services, and

WHEREAS, the northern part of Wisconsin USDA-APHIS-WS office is located in Rhinelander with one field technician in Brule and additional seasonal employees for activities such as trapping, and

WHEREAS, the WDNR Wildlife Damage Abatement Program is currently operated by staff at a county level for Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Iron Counties, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Douglas Land and Water Conservation Committee supports the WDNR Wildlife Damage Abatement Program to continue to contract with USDA-APHIS-WS and be staffed at a county level for Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Iron Counties.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

(Committee action: Unanimous)

(Fiscal Note: None)

**ACTION:** Motion by Hendrickson, second Baker, to adopt. Motion carried.

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**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** Written report reviewed.

**COUNTY BOARD CHAIR REPORT:** Proposal in process to state legislature on behalf of all counties to extend redistricting deadline, as census totals will not be received until August/September. Committees will be created to work through redistricting and research of countywide broadband internet infrastructure. A potential buyer exists for Verso wood mill; unsure of what product will be produced.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Motion by Pomush, second Hendrickson, to approve the following appointments: **Superior Community Action Panel** – Kelly Peterson; **Northwoods Rail Transit Commission** – Jim Caesar, Charles Glazman; **Health and Human Services** – Jim Bolin; **Ethics Board** – Richard Berchild; **Zoning Board of Adjustment** – Gary Saari, Larry Kappes, Larry Luostari. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Jaques – Health and Human Services Board; Administration Committee. Hendrickson – Land Conservation Committee.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS:** Motion by Allen, second Moen, to approve. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Allen, second Pomush, to adjourn. Motion carried. Adjourned at 6:39 p.m. Next regularly scheduled meeting – June 17, 2021.

Submitted by,

Susan T. Sandvick  
Douglas County Clerk