

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Thursday, January 18, 2007, 6:00 p.m., Board Room, Second Floor, Government Center
1316 North 14th Street, Superior, Wisconsin

Meeting called to order by Chairman Douglas Finn.

Pledge of Allegiance recited.

Roll call taken by County Clerk Susan T. Sandvick. There were 26 present, 2 absent. Absent and excused was Woody Budnick. Absent was Adam Ritscher. Baker left at 7:00 p.m. Youth representatives present were Lindsey Shiff, Alanna Naughton and Ashley Burger.

Motion by Martin, second Corbin, to approve minutes of the December 21, 2006, meeting. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thirteen items of correspondence were either received and filed or referred to the appropriate committees. County Board members can request a copy of any of the items by returning the Copy Request Form (attached to their agendas) to County Clerk

PRESENTATIONS

Koszarek presented an award recognizing Max Erickson, who volunteered to harvest and haul the 2006 Christmas tree to the State Capitol. Jon Harris, Forestry Department expressed appreciation for the contributions of Erickson, a local logger and contributor to forestry education programs for youth. The tree was recognized in the Timber Producers State Association magazine. Erickson's son-in-law, accepted the certificate of appreciation on behalf of Erickson.

Koszarek presented the Employee of the Quarter Award to Linda Helenius, employee in the County Treasurer's Office since 2001, and currently the Deputy Treasurer. A county employee since 1985, serving in various departments, Helenius's attributes of excellent work and customer service were recognized. Helenius thanked the County Board for their support, adding Douglas County is a great place to work.

Annual Review of Land Conservation projects was postponed.

Peg Sweeney, St. Louis County Commissioner, and members of The Tinklenberg Group – David Christianson, Elwin Tinklenberg, and John Ongarro presented an overview of the plan for a new passenger rail service between the Twin Ports and Twin Cities. Chair Finn recalled that several County Board members were involved in trying to get passenger service (AMTRAK) to Superior years ago. Ken Buehler summarized the history of passenger rail service in Northwest Wisconsin and Northeast Minnesota. Visions of the future in terms of this area's economy were included in Buehler's presentation, including market comparisons and potential. Specifics on funding, routes, and connections for the proposed passenger rail service, were presented and discussed. A comprehensive feasibility study is planned at a cost of \$350,000. Tinklenberg, former State of Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation, on behalf of the Group, stated his appreciation to the

County Board for the opportunity to make this presentation. The preliminary feasibility study results have been very positive. Lengthy discussion followed on the project. Half the money for the comprehensive feasibility study is in place. A Joint Powers Group is in the process of formation, and Tinklenberg indicated that a county in Wisconsin can be part of the Joint Powers Group based in Minnesota. The Group asked for Douglas County's support for the project. The proposed site for the Superior station would be towards the southerly end of the City of Superior, by-passing the main BN yard. Board members questioned by-passing Superior's downtown areas. The comprehensive feasibility study will be more detailed and provide better projections. In terms of rail crossing improvements which have plagued Superior, the comprehensive study will take repair and maintenance at crossings into consideration. Subsidies for the rail service were briefly discussed. County Board Supervisors stated their appreciation for the presentation, and agreed the key to success of these types of projects is a good working partnership. The Tinklenberg Group has not talked with the State of Wisconsin yet. They are willing to make the presentation to any groups Douglas County would recommend. This discussion needs to be continued, and Chair Finn noted it may be an item for Superior Days. There has been discussion about taking Superior Days to Washington, D.C. , which may be another avenue for this project. Tinklenberg offered to participate in Superior Days.

RESOLUTIONS

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Finn		
2. Browne		
3. O'Brien, John		
4. Isackson		
5. Baker		
6. Ritscher		
7. Livingston		
8. Martin		
9. Prettie		
10. Robinson		
11. Coyle		
12. Jaques		
13. Quam		
14. O'Brien, James		
15. McKenzie		
16. Sweeney		
17. Egan		
18. Allen		
19. Miller		
20. Hendrickson		
21. Johnson, Kay		
22. Thompson		
23. Corbin		
24. Liebaert		
25. Budnick		
26. Johnson, Carol		
27. Stewart		
28. Graven		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____ Passed <u> X </u> Lost _____ Refer _____ Amend _____ Other _____		
Rev. 12-22-06		

RESOLUTION #1-07

RESOLUTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Subject: Side Letter Agreement Between Douglas County and Douglas County Professional Registered Nurses

RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors accept the recommendation of the Administration Committee and approve Side Letter Agreement between Douglas County and Douglas County Professional Registered Nurses, Local Union No. 2375-A, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO, as set forth in Exhibit B-1-07.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2007.

(Committee Action: Unanimous)

(Fiscal Note: None)

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

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Finn		
2. Browne		
3. O'Brien, John		
4. Isackson		
5. Baker		
6. Ritscher		
7. Livingston		
8. Martin		
9. Prettie		
10. Robinson		
11. Coyle		
12. Jaques		
13. Quam		
14. O'Brien, James		
15. McKenzie		
16. Sweeney		
17. Egan		
18. Allen		
19. Miller		
20. Hendrickson		
21. Johnson, Kay		
22. Thompson		
23. Corbin		
24. Liebaert		
25. Budnick		
26. Johnson, Carol		
27. Stewart		
28. Graven		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____ Passed <u> X </u> Lost _____ Refer _____ Amend _____ Other _____		
Rev. 12-22-06		

RESOLUTION #2-07

RESOLUTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Subject: Bank Account Authorized Signatories

RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors amend the authorized signatories for the following bank account:

Checking account at M&I First National Bank for Register of Deeds; Gayle I. Wahner and Debora A. Prigge, authorized signatories.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be delivered to the above named depository.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2007.

(Committee Action: Unanimous)

(Fiscal Note: None)

ACTION: Motion by Quam, second Corbin, to adopt. Motion carried.

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Finn		
2. Browne		
3. O'Brien, John		
4. Isackson		
5. Baker		
6. Ritscher		
7. Livingston		
8. Martin		
9. Prettie		
10. Robinson		
11. Coyle		
12. Jaques		
13. Quam		
14. O'Brien, James		
15. McKenzie		
16. Sweeney		
17. Egan		
18. Allen		
19. Miller		
20. Hendrickson		
21. Johnson, Kay		
22. Thompson		
23. Corbin		
24. Liebaert		
25. Budnick		
26. Johnson, Carol		
27. Stewart		
28. Graven		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____ Passed _____ Lost _____ Refer _____X_____ Amend _____ Other _____		
Rev. 12-22-06		

RESOLUTION #3-07
RESOLUTION BY THE JUDICIARY, LEGISLATIVE AND
VETERANS COMMITTEE

Subject: Repeal of Wisconsin Act 100 Supported

WHEREAS Wisconsin legislators recently enacted Act 100, which allows the County Board of Supervisors or the electors of the county by petition and referendum, to decrease the number of County Board Supervisors one time only between board enactments of decennial supervisory district plans, and

WHEREAS the adopted legislation requires a petitioning body secure signatures of only 25 percent of the electors in the last election for County Board Supervisors to place a referendum question on the ballot to reduce the size of the County Board, and

WHEREAS there is no limit to the number of times a governing body can, every ten years, face a referendum to reduce the size of the County Board, placing an undue financial burden on the taxpayers of the county, and

WHEREAS Wisconsin Act 100 only allows a county to decrease their County board size, not increase, with no recourse available to correct a too drastic decrease, and

WHEREAS Wisconsin Act 100 does not take into consideration changes that have occurred in population shifts since the last federal decennial census causing over and under representation of districts, and

WHEREAS Wisconsin Act 100 requires that existing wards within municipalities be utilized to create new supervisory districts, potentially causing over and under representation and putting counties in the dubious legal position of denying citizens equal representation as set forth in the XIV Amendment, and

WHEREAS citizens of Douglas County could be unfairly required to bear the financial burden of a lawsuit after being bound to redistrict under Wisconsin Act 100.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors on behalf of its citizenry request that Wisconsin's state elected officials repeal 2005 Wisconsin Act 100 releasing the county from undue hardships and potential litigation.

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Finn		
2. Browne		
3. O'Brien, John		
4. Isackson		
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8. Martin		
9. Prettie		
10. Robinson		
11. Coyle		
12. Jaques		
13. Quam		
14. O'Brien, James		
15. McKenzie		
16. Sweeney		
17. Egan		
18. Allen		
19. Miller		
20. Hendrickson		
21. Johnson, Kay		
22. Thompson		
23. Corbin		
24. Liebaert		
25. Budnick		
26. Johnson, Carol		
27. Stewart		
28. Graven		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____ Passed _____ Lost _____ Refer <u> X </u> Amend _____ Other _____		
Rev. 12-22-06		

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors requests that all Wisconsin counties pass a resolution calling for the repeal of 2005 Wisconsin Act 100.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2007.

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

ACTION: Motion by Corbin, second Livingston, to adopt. Chair Finn expressed some concern with this resolution, noting he did oppose the Act when it was approved. He would prefer the resolution not be so strong, as some of the language is not totally accurate. Motion by Egan, second Prettie, to refer the resolution back to committee for a re-write and re-submission to the County Board. Motion to refer carried.

RESOLUTION #4-07
RESOLUTION BY THE FOREST, PARKS AND
RECREATION COMMITTEE

Subject: Withdrawal of Property from Forest Crop Law

RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors accept the recommendation of the Forest, Parks and Recreation Committee and approve a request to the Wisconsin DNR to withdraw the following parcel from County Forest Crop Law:

Part of Government Lot 2 being the East 598 feet of the North 686.4 feet, Section 18, Township 46 North, Range 15 West, Town of Summit, Douglas County.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2007.

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

ACTION: Motion by Liebaert, second Corbin, to adopt. Liebaert explained the need for this action. Motion carried.

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Finn		
2. Browne		
3. O'Brien, John		
4. Isackson		
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8. Martin		
9. Prettie		
10. Robinson		
11. Coyle		
12. Jaques		
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14. O'Brien, James		
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16. Sweeney		
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18. Allen		
19. Miller		
20. Hendrickson		
21. Johnson, Kay		
22. Thompson		
23. Corbin		
24. Liebaert		
25. Budnick		
26. Johnson, Carol		
27. Stewart		
28. Graven		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____ Passed <u> X </u> Lost _____ Refer _____ Amend _____ Other _____		
Rev. 12-22-06		

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Finn	X	
2. Browne	X	
3. O'Brien, John	X	
4. Isackson	X	
5. Baker		
6. Ritscher		
7. Livingston	X	
8. Martin	X	
9. Prettie	X	
10. Robinson	X	
11. Coyle	X	
12. Jaques	X	
13. Quam	X	
14. O'Brien, James	X	
15. McKenzie	X	
16. Sweeney	X	
17. Egan	X	
18. Allen	X	
19. Miller	X	
20. Hendrickson	X	
21. Johnson, Kay	X	
22. Thompson	X	
23. Corbin	X	
24. Liebaert	X	
25. Budnick		
26. Johnson, Carol	X	
27. Stewart	X	
28. Graven	X	
Roll: Ayes <u> 25 </u> Noes <u> 0 </u> Absent <u> 3 </u> Abstain <u> </u> Passed <u> X </u> Lost <u> </u> Refer <u> </u> Amend <u> </u> Other <u> </u>		
Rev. 12-22-06		

RESOLUTION #5-07
RESOLUTION BY THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Subject: Budgetary Transfers

RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors accept the recommendation of the Administration Committee and approve the following budgetary transfers:

- (1) Court I \$1,200.00 (J.E. #132278 from 2006 Contingency to Court I Supplies); and
- (2) Comm Center \$29,000.00 (J.E. #131997 exceed equipment line item for purchase of logging recorder; net budget will not be exceeded due to savings in personnel); and
- (3) Forestry \$15,878.00 (J.E. #131960 from TSI Reserve to TSI Contractual Services for services provided by Northwoods Forestry, Inc.).

Dated this 18th day of January, 2007.

(Committee Action: Unanimous)
(Fiscal Note: (1) Reduce contingency fund by \$1,200.00 and increase Court I budget; (2) No fiscal impact; and (3) Reduce forestry TSI reserve and increase contracted line item by \$15,878.00)

ACTION: Motion by Corbin, second K. Johnson, to adopt. Egan questioned the transfer of personnel dollars, recalling a resolution that required excess personnel dollars to be put into the general fund. Sandvick and Koszarek will check on this for future reference. Roll call vote taken and passed with 25 Yes, 0 No, 3 Absent. Absent were Baker, Budnick, Ritscher.

RESOLUTION #6-07
RESOLUTION BY THE LAND AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

Subject: Repurchase of Property

RESOLVED that the Douglas County Board of Supervisors accept the recommendation of the Land and Development Committee and approve the following request to repurchase tax delinquent property, pursuant to Douglas County Ordinance #1.5:

From Ralph A. Merrill and Evelyn M. Neste, to repurchase Parcel #SS-181-00541-00, described as Lots 6 & 7, Blk 8, Charles Lord's Add to White Birch, 26-45-12, Village of Solon Springs, having paid delinquent taxes and fees in the amount of \$6,747.50.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2007.

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

ACTION: Motion by Martin, second James O'Brien, to adopt. Motion carried.

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
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4. Isackson		
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6. Ritscher		
7. Livingston		
8. Martin		
9. Prettie		
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20. Hendrickson		
21. Johnson, Kay		
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23. Corbin		
24. Liebaert		
25. Budnick		
26. Johnson, Carol		
27. Stewart		
28. Graven		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____ Passed <u> X </u> Lost _____ Refer _____ Amend _____ Other _____		
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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Koszarek briefly summarized the written report he distributed to the Board. In addition, he announced that Board members will receive information on a Long Term Care meeting, scheduled for February 15, in Hayward, regarding the nine county consortium in which Douglas County will be a participant. Koszarek advised the Board to pay close attention to what is happening with this initiative, as it is expected to begin happening in the next two to three months. A Committee of the Whole meeting may be scheduled to discuss this initiative.

COUNTY BOARD CHAIR REPORT AND APPOINTMENTS

Chair Finn is considering scheduling an Executive Committee meeting in early February. ATC has six months to make environmental payment to Douglas County, so it will probably happen this summer. Any County Board members going to Superior Days, need to contact Chair Finn.

The following committee appointments were recommended: **Health and Human Services Board, Land and Development Committee, Metro Interstate Council, St. Louis River Remedial Action Program** - Mike Coyle (change from temporary to permanent appointments); **Land Records Committee** - Gayle Wahner (replacing Kathy Hanson), and **Vice Chair** - Steve Rannenberg (replacing Kathy Hanson as Vice Chair); **Land and Development Committee – Vice Chair** - Alan Jaques (replacing David Conley as Vice Chair); **Recreational Trail Committee** – John Krivinchuck, Alternate (replacing John Shepard, Jr.); and **Head of the Lakes Fair Board, Inc.** – County Board *Liaisons* - Jerry Egan and Tom Stewart. Chair Finn explained the rationale for liaison, not voting members, to HOL Fair Board, Inc. Motion by Quam, second Thompson, to approve appointments. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

McKenzie reported the 4-County Conservation Committee meets in Ashland at the Field Station, next Thursday. Hog Island Committee met last week, and EPA hired a consultant to evaluate how to enhance the area now that it is cleaned. In conjunction with the city, several public meetings will be held to plan the future of Hog Island. EPA has held up Hog Island as a model project. County Board members received an invitation to attend Metro Interstate Council informational meeting at WITC, during which the future of the organization will be addressed.

K. Johnson reported Highway Commissioner Halverson has been working very closely with adjacent counties on frozen road declarations and exemptions. Senior meals in Brule are doing very well.

C. Johnson reported Comprehensive Planning Committee met January 9, and discussions have been very positive. Next meeting is March 13, 10:00 a.m. She and Hendrickson attended a Planning Commission meeting for the public, presented by UW-Stevens Point Center for Land Use Planning. The information will be provided to the Zoning Committee and Zoning Department. C. Johnson asked when the meetings will be scheduled to educate the public on reduction of County Board. Chair Finn responded this is in progress.

Allen reported Land and Development Committee discussed setting aside Mocassin Mike Road area land in conservancy, as requested by City of Superior. Allen has been working on this for four years. It is 160 acres south of the intersection, mitigation planned, credit limits are set. This is an excellent environmental project. Brief discussion.

Browne reported Extension is working hard on Superior Days, Home and Health Care, and Youth Community Program, youth County Board representative projects, and 4-H projects. He attended WASAC Committee meeting in Ladysmith, which included programs on the environment and innovations for fuel economy/alternative fuels, and student participation in government.

James O'Brien, announced veterans in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, can enroll in the VA clinic here in Douglas County. The clinic has open enrollment.

Martin report Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency just completed four homes in the Oliver area. They rent 30 units in five counties.

Quam reported Health and Human Services 2006 budgets through November are considerably under budget. However, one juvenile sent to the Eau Claire facility significantly impacts the budget.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Burger presented the youth report on activities of the SSHS Amnesty International Club.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

Motion by C. Johnson, second Thompson, to approve. Motion carried.

SUCH OTHER MATTERS AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE WISCONSIN STATUTES

A new and improved Living Green Conference will be February 3, Copper Top Church, Duluth.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by James O'Brien, second Corbin, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m.
Next regularly scheduled meeting - Thursday, March 15, 2007.

Submitted by,

Susan T. Sandvick
Douglas County Clerk