

VERNON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
September 19, 2017

County Board Chairman, Dennis Brault called the September 19, 2017 meeting of the Vernon County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:30 a.m. in the County Boardroom of the Courthouse Annex.

Invocation by Pastor John Dumke of Our Saviors Lutheran Church Westby, was cancelled due to a funeral. Board members and others present gave the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Brault affirmed there had been proper public notice of the meeting.

Motion by Mitchell, 2nd by Redington to excuse Bobbi Richardson. Carried All. County Clerk, Ron Hoff, called roll call with 28 supervisors present. Motion by Leis, 2nd by Erlandson to approve the minutes of July 25, 2017 as amended. Carried all.

In the July 25, 2017 minutes, Evenstad asked about page 7, resolution #2017-18, what was the amendment? The following wordage was the amendment to Resolution #2017-18.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board of Supervisors directs the Vernon County Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association, all Vernon County State Representatives and Senators and the governor of the state of Wisconsin. Amendment passed by voice vote, some Nays were heard. Resolution passed by voice vote.

Chairman Brault asked if there were any announcements:

Ron Hoff delivered Supervisor Redington his marriage license.

Servais wants to remind everyone to read the VEDA handout, they always have good information for us on where they have been and where they are going.

Larson thanked everyone who worked at the Vernon County Fair. The fair was a great success.

Chairman Brault moved to **Special Order of Business**.

1. Sue Burkhamer – Reclassification of Assistant Zoning Administrator, Evenstad explained, this needs to be put in the proper grade. No fiscal impact. Amelse stated Zoning has asked twice on this position in the past year. Why? Kica stated there may be a small increase in salary. Motion by Amelse, 2nd by McCoy to postpone to next Board meeting for more information. Carried all.
2. Petitions – Fair Map – Redistricting, Dale Schultz – Fair Elections Project, Schultz has worked for years on redistricting policies of state and held over fifty meetings on this subject. Both parties have maneuvered the rules over the years and power should be for the people not parties. A lawsuit over redistricting is in process. This should not be a partisan issue and that redistricting fairly is important to all. Dahl stated Iowa had done this forty years ago under Republic Governor Ray and it has worked well in Iowa. Computer technology has made changing maps a very easy process. Counsel Swayne stated lawsuit doesn't answer questions intended for redistricting. Amelse asked how many counties have prepared a resolution, Swayne is not sure. Dahl stated this would be an open and transparent procedure. Motion by Evenstad, 2nd by Dahl to move resolution 2017-30 first. Carried. Brault stated 24 counties have passed this resolution. The Gerrymandering process, is not a fair process. Brault gave a slide presentation. Senate bills 13 and 44 would stop Gerrymandering.
3. Resolutions

Resolution # 2017 – 14

Title: Authorization to Hire a Construction Manager for the New Highway Facility

WHEREAS, Vernon County has determined the need for a new highway facility; and,

WHEREAS, Vernon County has completed the conceptual design phase of the new Highway facility; and,

WHEREAS, the next phase of such a project is to hire a construction management firm that will complete the master plan, preliminary plan and final plan of the highway facility; and,

WHEREAS, the Vernon County Highway Committee has interviewed three candidates and recommends Fowler & Hammer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors ratifies the selection of Fowler & Hammer as a construction manager for the highway facility, to complete the master plan, preliminary plan and final plan of the highway facility; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Finance Committee to pay for these plans from the new building fund.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated cost \$300,000 to \$450,000

Dated September 13, 2017

Submitted by JoAnn Nickelatti, Highway Committee Chair

Motion by Mitchell, 2nd by Nickelatti. New Resolution on desk has name of Fowler & Hammer as construction manager. Hewitt stated RFPS sent to seven companies, three responded and all 3 were interviewed and the committee selected Fowler & Hammer. If approved, Architect will be picked and cost determined, plans would be owned by Vernon County and we then can move forward or stop at any time. Originally we planned for 70,000 sq. ft. and now the plan is 40-50,000 sq. ft. also, we will still use the old building for storage to lower the cost. A construction manager only makes approximately \$5000.00 prior to construction, the balance of pay comes during building process. Other counties have built up to 80,000 sq. ft. and cost up to 13 million. Old highway shop was built in the 1940's. We have 285 miles and 94 bridges in the County to maintain with our equipment. Extending current bond was discussed. Building would be built so it would be easy to add on to in the future. Amelse asked total sq. ft. of all our highway buildings, over 100,000 sq. ft. Amelse concerned about tax increase because of our smaller population. Amelse asked if we should build a small shed in the east & west part of the county. Strudthoff asked about the construction manager's ability to say No to cost changes. Dave Mydy of Fowler & Hammer explained they will keep bids of construction work to what the bid originally was, not just do a change order. Dahl stated Strudthoff input of construction is appreciated and feels Fowler & Hammer has a great history, Servais agrees. Evenstad asked about downsizing now, will we need to add on in 20 to 30 years, Hewitt stated quality of building is most important. Erlandson stated highway committee has studied this for a long time and we need to move forward and build. Goede stated it's hard to vote without all details, in the future we will need to spend money at solid waste also. Voice vote, carried all. Resolution passed. Adopted by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017.

Resolution # 2017 - 30

Title: Fair Maps – Redistricting Resolution

WHEREAS, currently under the state constitution, the legislature is directed to redistrict legislative districts according to the number of inhabitants at its next session following the decennial federal census by the majority party; and at the same intervals, the legislature also reapportions congressional districts pursuant to federal law, and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting plans enacted pursuant to this procedure are used to elect members of the legislature and members of Congress in the fall of the second year following the year of the census, and

WHEREAS, historically legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to partisan influence that put the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of the people, and

WHEREAS, the 2011 process to draw the maps and fight litigation contesting those maps cost taxpayers nearly \$1.9 million, and

WHEREAS, a panel of federal district court judges has ruled that the redistricting that was done in Wisconsin in 2011 was unconstitutional, and

WHEREAS, redistricting to achieve partisan gains is improper, whether it is done by Republicans or Democrats,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors insists upon the creation of a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the process promotes more accountability and transparency and prohibits the consideration of voting patterns, party information, and incumbents' residence information or demographic information in drawing the maps except as necessary to ensure minority participation as required by the U.S. Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, all members of the state legislature, and to each Wisconsin County.

Dated: September 19, 2017

Submitted by Legal Affairs Committee, Mike Leis, Chair

386 petition signatures on Fair Maps were delivered to County Clerk Hoff.

Motion by Servais, 2nd by Yttri. Carried all, yes vote.

Adopted by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017.

Recess at 11:00 a.m.

Reconvene at 11:15 a.m.

Resolution # 2017 – 31

Title: Resolution to Establish Health Insurance Plans and Premiums for 2018 and Implement an Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Counties Association Group Health Trust, the County's current health plan provider, has submitted a renewal proposal to Vernon County with an increase in cost of 0% from the 2017 plan year rates, and

WHEREAS, the 2018 monthly health insurance premiums include the total cost for medical claims, ancillary and administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, the County currently does not offer an Employee Assistance Program, and

WHEREAS, An employer-sponsored employee assistance program (EAP) is a work-based intervention program designed to identify and assist employees in resolving personal problems that may be adversely affecting their performance at work, such as marital, financial or emotional problems; family issues; or substance or alcohol abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors approves renewing the health insurance contract with Wisconsin Counties Association Group Health Trust effective January 1, 2018 and

NOW, THEREFORE ALSO BE IT RESOLVED that effective January 1, 2018 the County will implement an Employee Assistance Program.

Projected Fiscal Impact: \$2,326,680.00

Estimated Premium Costs for 2018: representing a zero percent increase in premiums (Note: Actual premium cost is based on census.)

Employee Assistance Program: \$5,000

Dated: September 7, 2017

Submitted by Personnel Committee, Mary Bringe, Vice-Chair

Motion by Nickelatti, 2nd by Bringe. Beitlich thanked everyone for no premium increase for 2 years, total cost base on census of employees. McCoy asked about 5,000 EAP. This is consulting type of care for

employees who are depressed or have personal issues. Bringe stated a department head could have an employee use this if they see a need. Dahl asked if employees on Cobra Insurance could use this Assistance Program. Kica stated no.

Adopted by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017.

Resolution # 2017 – 20

Title: Withdraw County Forest Land Town of Jefferson, Vernon County, Wisconsin

WHEREAS, The County Vernon has entered into Public Private Partnership Agreement with Vernon Communications Cooperative to expand broadband capability in Vernon County.

WHEREAS, The proposed broadband expansion includes a burial of fiber optic cable outside of town road right-of-way and construction of a 100' Wi-Fi tower on Vernon County Forest Sidie Hollow compartment (hereinafter "Sidie Hollow")

WHEREAS, Sidie Hollow is enrolled in Wisconsin County Forest Law Wisc. Stat. §28.11(2).

WHEREAS, Siting of telecommunication towers on county forest land is considered inconsistent with County Forest Law purpose as set forth in Wisc. Stat. §28.11

WHEREAS, Wisconsin County Forest Law will require withdrawal of a portion of Sidie Hollow Wisc. Stat. §28.11(11) (a).

WHEREAS, *the County acknowledges that a decision to withdraw County Forest land should not be taken lightly and should be made with consideration of both the laws applying to County Forest land and the best public interest of the residents of the County.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Vernon County Board of Supervisors will make application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for withdrawal of a portion of the following described parcel from provision of Wisc. Stat. §28.11.

Part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 3, Township 12 North, Range 5 West, Town of Jefferson, Vernon County, Wisconsin.

County Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

Dated August 10, 2017

Submitted by Land and Water Conservation Committee, Will Beitlich, Chair

Motion by Amelse, 2nd by Mitchell. Andy LaChance explained need to withdraw small portion of land at Sidie Hollow dam site to set up broadband tower and fiber optic lines which would not be conducive to forest land program. LaChance has worked with Rod Olson of Vernon Communication coop to layout best area. Sidie Hollow Park will receive free internet service, we need a 15 x 15 foot area for tower, and there will be a chain link fence around the tower. State would have 60 days to review county plan. Dahl stated this will be great for tourism with more broadband. Beitlich stated this should be a onetime process, not setting a precedence. Motion by Beitlich, 2nd by Goede to add an amendment to Resolution 2017-20 to state, "**WHEREAS THE COUNTY ACKNOWLEDGES**, that a decision to withdraw County Forest land should not be taken lightly and should be made with consideration of both the laws applying to County Forest land and the best public interest of the residents of the County". Amendment passed, Voice vote all. Resolution carried all.

Adopted by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017.

Resolution # 2017 - 21

Title: Resolution approving the memorandum of understanding between City of Hillsboro, Juneau County Vernon County, and the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources

WHEREAS, Vernon County had been a cooperative partner since 1988 with Juneau County, the City of Hillsboro, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with regard to the Hillsboro State Trail between Hillsboro and Union Center in Vernon and Juneau Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Association and DNR find it necessary to update the original MOU to adhere to modern DNR requirements, including the development of a Hillsboro *State Trail*; and

WHEREAS, this MOU fits into the long-term Vernon County Parks and Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors that the

memorandum of understanding between the City of Hillsboro, Juneau County, Vernon County, and the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources be adopted and approved.

Increased County Fiscal impact: \$0

Dated August 10, 2017

Submitted by Land and Water Conservation Committee, Will Beitlich, Chair

Motion by Mischel, 2nd by Mitchel. Ben Wojahn explained agreement since 1988 with Juneau County, City of Hillsboro and WI DNR. Motion by Dahl, 2nd by Muller to amend and add state trail behind Hillsboro in the 2nd whereas. Carried all, Voice vote.

Adopted by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017

Resolution # 2017 – 22

Title: Vernon County Farmland Preservation Plan Amendment

WHEREAS, Towns in Vernon County have and are adopting Farmland Preservation Ordinances in order to preserve Farmland

WHEREAS, adoption of Farmland Preservation Zoning by Towns allows their residents to be eligible to claim The Farmland Preservation Tax Credit.

WHEREAS, it is the desire of some Towns to maintain eligibility for their residents in the Farmland Preservation Program

WHEREAS, an updated Farmland Preservation Plan is necessary for residents in Towns with Farmland Preservation Zoning to be eligible to claim the tax credit

WHEREAS, the Vernon County Farmland Preservation plan emphasizes the importance of decisions being made at a local level and protecting personal property rights

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 19th day of September, 2017 does hereby support passage of the Vernon County Farmland Preservation Plan map amendment

County Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

Dated August 10, 2017

Submitted by Land and Water Conservation Committee, Will Beitlich, Chair

Motion by Larson, 2nd by Redington. Wojahn explained that Christiania and Jefferson townships are using this. Carried all, Voice vote. Adopted by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017.

Resolution # 2017 – 23

Title: Vernon County Per Diem Rates

WHEREAS, Vernon County Supervisor Per Diem rates were last increased in April of 1996, and

WHEREAS, the legal Affairs Committee has surveyed our seven county comparables, and now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legal Affairs Committee recommends the Per Diem rates stay as is with No increase.

Dated August 10, 2017

Submitted by Legal Affairs Committee, Mike Leis, Chair

Motion by Leis, 2nd by Servais.

Yttri to Amend Resolution to Add: The Vernon County Board of Supervisors raises the Per Diem rate \$10.00 per Board and Committee meetings. Effective the 3rd Tuesday in April of 2018, 2nd by Easterday. Leis stated legal affairs studied and left as is. Amendment voice vote, carried.

Resolution roll call vote, 18 yes 10 No. The ten no votes were; Bringe, Ofte, Evenstad, Brault, Larson, Running, Turben, Mischel, Leis and Sullivan. Resolution passed.

Adopted by Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017

Resolution # 2017 - 24
Title: Vernon County Lodging Rate

WHEREAS, the Vernon County has not adjusted rates since June 5, 2007 and
WHEREAS, the last adjustment in 2007 was to increase rate from \$62.00 to \$90.00 and
WHEREAS, the Finance Committee receives numerous requests each year asking the County to exceed room rate limit, stating staff cannot get rooms with a rate of \$90.00
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors approves raising rate to \$125.00 per night lodging, and that any lodging above this rate must be preapproved by the Finance Committee. This change will be added to the Vernon County Training and Travel Policy.

Effective September 20, 2017

Dated: September 11, 2017

Submitted by Finance Committee, Ole Yttri Chair

Motion by Amelse, 2nd by McCoy. Leis stated time is wasted for manager's to come to Finance meeting for increase in lodging rate. Resolution carried, Voice vote all.

Adopted by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017

Resolution # 2017 – 25

WHEREAS, preliminary tax deed proceedings have been completed on a parcel of land described as: Lot 9 in Block 11 of the Original Plat of the City of Hillsboro, Vernon County, Wisconsin. And that portion of the vacated alley lying southeasterly of said Lot 9 Block 11.

PARCEL NUMBER: 236-00137-0000

WHEREAS, Section 75.14 (1) of the Wisconsin Statutes requires that the County Board by resolution, orders issuance of a deed under the aforementioned section.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VERNON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, that the Vernon County Treasurer and the Vernon County Clerk proceed with the execution of the tax deed whereby Vernon County will acquire the aforesaid property..

Dated June 14, 2014

Submitted by Land Sales Committee, Shawn Redington, Chairman

Motion by Goede, 2nd by Amelse. Treasurer Rachel Hanson, No action needed today.

Adopted by Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017

Resolution # 2017 – 26

WHEREAS, preliminary tax deed proceedings have been completed on a parcel of land described as: Lot of Volume 8 of Certified Survey Maps, Page 72, Map No. 532, as recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Vernon County, Wisconsin on June 3, 2005 as Document No. 423352, being part of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 13, Township 14 North, Range 1 East, Town of Hillsboro, Vernon County, Wisconsin.

TOGETHER WITH and SUBJECT TO rights to the private road and cul-de-sac for ingress-egress purposes as depicted in the aforementioned Certified Survey Map and in a Declaration of Easement for Private Road and Public Utilities recorded in Volume 561 of Records, Page 236. Declaration was then amended in an instrument recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Vernon County, Wisconsin on October 22, 2007 as Document No. 440417.

PARCEL NUMBER: 022-00305-0003

WHEREAS, Section 75.14 (1) of the Wisconsin Statutes requires that the County Board by resolution, orders issuance of a deed under the aforementioned section.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VERNON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, that the Vernon County Treasurer and the Vernon County Clerk proceed with the execution of the tax deed whereby Vernon County will acquire the aforesaid property.

Dated June 14, 2017

Submitted by Land Sales Committee, Shawn Redington, Chairman

Motion by Servais, 2nd by Turben. Rachel Hanson explained that the resolutions 2017 -26, 27, and 28 needed to be dated by September 21, 2017. Motion by Servais, 2nd by Dahl for amendment to do all three resolutions together. Carried all. All three resolutions carried, voice vote.

Adopted by Vernon County Board of Supervisors September 19, 2017

Resolution # 2017 – 27

WHEREAS, preliminary tax deed proceedings have been completed on a parcel of land described as: Lots 2 and 3 in Block 3 of Lien's Addition to the Village of Coon Valley, Vernon County, Wisconsin.

PARCEL NUMBER: 112-00118-0000

WHEREAS, Section 75.14 (1) of the Wisconsin Statutes requires that the County Board by resolution, orders issuance of a deed under the aforementioned section.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VERNON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, that the Vernon County Treasurer and the Vernon County Clerk proceed with the execution of the tax deed whereby Vernon County will acquire the aforesaid property.

Dated June 14, 2017

Submitted by Land Sales Committee, Shawn Redington, Chairman

Adopted by Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017

Resolution # 2017 – 28

WHEREAS, preliminary tax deed proceedings have been completed on a parcel of land described as: A parcel of land located in these ¼ of the NW ¼, and the NE ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 27, Township 13 North, Range 2 West, Town of Stark, Vernon County, Wisconsin, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a 1 inch iron pipe, the Northeast Corner of the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of said Section; thence South 00 minutes 00 seconds 00 seconds West, 1312.25 feet to a 1 ¼ inch iron pipe; thence South 71 degrees 12 minutes 00 seconds West, 1386.28 feet to the centerline of County Trunk D; thence North 88 degrees 49 minutes 18 seconds East, 603.91 feet to the point of beginning; thence South 88 degrees 49 minutes 18 seconds West, 124 feet; thence South to the South line of the NE ¼ of the SW ¼; thence East along said forty line to 365.00 feet West of the Southeast corner of the NE ¼ of the SW ¼; thence North to the southerly right of way line of State Highway #82; thence in a Southwesterly direction along said south right of way line to a point on said right of way line where a line North 04 degrees 18 minutes 54 seconds West, 501.98 feet from the point of beginning intersects with said right of way line; thence South 04 degrees 18 minutes 54 seconds East, 501.98 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel contains 15 acres more or less.

PARCEL NUMBER: 030-00604-0000 & 030-00609-0000

WHEREAS, Section 75.14 (1) of the Wisconsin Statutes requires that the County Board by resolution, orders issuance of a deed under the aforementioned section.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VERNON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, that the Vernon County Treasurer and the Vernon County Clerk proceed with the execution of the tax deed whereby Vernon County will acquire the aforesaid property.

Dated June 14, 2017

Submitted by Land Sales Committee, Shawn Redington, Chairman

Adopted by Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017

Resolution # 2017 – 29

Title: Supporting a multi-use trail (bike/pedestrian) and/or on road bike/pedestrian facilities in western Crawford and Vernon Counties along or adjacent to the Great River Road Corridor

WHEREAS, Vernon County recognizes the economic benefit of bicycle/pedestrian facilities (trails, designated routes) within the region; and,

WHEREAS, such bicycle/pedestrian facilities increase tourism and recreational opportunities for visitors and residents; and,

WHEREAS, a local effort to plan, develop and support a multi-use trail (bike/pedestrian) and/or on road bike/pedestrian facilities in western Crawford and Vernon Counties along or adjacent to the Great River Road Corridor has been initiated; and,

WHEREAS, the local initiative sponsored by Vernon-Crawford Trails Task Force strongly recommends that when improvements are planned/constructed on state or federal highways in the region and in particular State Highway 35 the Wisconsin Department of Transportation include designated bicycle/pedestrian facilities (preferably separate facilities on or adjacent to state or federal highways; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Vernon County supports the recommendations within this resolution and the concept of a multi-use trail (bike/pedestrian) and/or on road bike/pedestrian facilities in western Crawford and Vernon Counties along or adjacent to the Great River Road Corridor.

Dated: August 9, 2017

Submitted by Karen Dahl, TPED Committee Chair

Motion by Beitlich, 2nd by Evenstad. Motion by Dahl, 2nd by Mischel to amend resolution 2017-29 to delete and remove City, Village and organization in two places from the resolution. Amendment carried all, voice. Resolution carried all, voice.

Adopted by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors September 19, 2017.

Resolution # **2017-30**, De-Designate Official County Publication - No action, resolution pulled.

Ordinances - None

Memorials - None

Remonstrance - None

Yttri stated Finance Committee will meet today after the County Board meeting, to finalize budget.

The next County Board meeting will be November 7, 2017 at 9:30 am in the County Board Room at the Courthouse Annex. With the meeting concluded, a **motion was made by Beitlich, 2nd by McCoy to adjourn. Motion carried by all.** Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

CERTIFICATION

State of Wisconsin (

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County of Vernon (

Office of the Vernon County Clerk

I, Ronald C. Hoff, County Clerk of Vernon County, Wisconsin DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the statements above are a correct report of all actions and decisions of the Vernon County Board of Supervisors at the meeting of September 19, 2017, as indicated in transcription taken personally by me.

(Seal)

**/s/ Ron Hoff
Vernon County Clerk**