

The Florence County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on December 15, 2015. The meeting was called to order by the Chair. Members present were Supervisors: Bomberg, Dzekute, Erickson, Halada, Kelley, Neuens, Steber, Theer, and Wenger. Excused: Supervisors Johnson and Stratton. Absent: None.

Moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Neuens to approve the Agenda. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens to approve the minutes of the last meeting as read. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Steber, seconded by Supervisor Wenger to approve the RLF Loan #2015-59 contingent on completion of all documents required by the Florence County Revolving Loan Program. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to approve the appointments of Cynthia Kmecheck and Yvonne Van Pembroke to serve 3-year term 2016-2019 on the Board of Health as recommended by the Board of Health Committee. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Halada approval of the 2016 Specialized Transportation Assistance Program for Counties as recommended by the ADRC/Aging Committee. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Wenger approval of the 2016 Annual Florence County Forest Work Plan as recommended by the Forestry and Parks Committee. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute approval to authorize the County Board Chair to send a letter on behalf of the County Board opposing AJR - 85 relating to combining the offices of county clerk, register of deeds, and treasurer as recommended by the Legislative Committee. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Neuens approval to authorize the County Board Chair to send a letter on behalf of the County Board supporting H.R. 3918 relating to Strengthen Employment And Seasonal Opportunities Now (SEASON) Act as recommended by the Legislative Committee. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute approval to authorize the County Board Chair to send a letter on behalf of the County Board supporting Senator Tiffany to draft legislation that includes "e-waste" as an eligible component of Wisconsin's recycling grant program as recommended by the Legislative Committee. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Steber to adopt Resolution #2015-24 opposing SB326/AB429 affecting Child Welfare Programs as recommended by the Human Services Committee Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2015-24

OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 326/ASSEMBLY BILL 429 AFFECTING CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 326/Assembly Bill 429 have been introduced by Senator Robert Cowles and Representative John Macco; and

WHEREAS, the bills relate to the referral of cases of suspected or threatened child abuse or neglect to the sheriff or police department, coordination of the investigation of those cases, and referral of those cases to the district attorney for criminal prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the bills, on their face, might seem favorable, the bills actually compromise child welfare best practice; and

WHEREAS, even though the legislation impacts child welfare practice, the state Department of Children and Families, Office of Children's Mental Health, county child welfare agencies, and child advocacy organizations were not consulted on the legislation; and

WHEREAS, issues with the legislation include the following:

- Law enforcement involvement in all child welfare cases negatively impacts alternative response, community response, and other voluntary services provided to families;
- The legislation is in sharp contrast to evidence-based practice, including trauma- informed care;
- The legislation requires child welfare agencies to "coordinate in the planning and execution of the investigation" in all cases, including screened out cases in which the child welfare agency lacks statutory authority to act;
- The bills require all reports to be referred to law enforcement within 12 hours, allowing for no prioritization of cases;
- The implementation of the legislation has not been thought through, especially when it comes to confidentiality, jurisdictional issues, and the philosophical differences between law enforcement and child welfare agencies; and

WHEREAS, counties and law enforcement in most jurisdictions have a positive working relationship and have entered into Memorandums of Understanding with regard to how local agencies will respond to reports of child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, counties have requested that the proponents of the legislation bring all parties impacted by the legislation together so all gain an understanding of the others' needs; and

WHEREAS, counties believe a compromise on the legislation can be negotiated; however, such a meeting has yet to take place.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florence County Board of Supervisors does hereby oppose Senate Bill 326/Assembly Bill 429; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Florence County renews the request for a meeting of all interested parties to discuss the legislation in greater detail.

Under Committee reports, Supervisor Neuens attended a recent Bay lakes Regional Planning Meeting where they discussed the Green Tier Program. Mr. Neuens will speak with Bob Friberg, Florence Utilities, to apply for funding for the street light project on Main Street in Florence.

Supervisor Neuens received a Bay Lakes Regional Planning Newsletter asking Counties to put together a proposal on all the different projects planned and their needs. He thought it could be beneficial to fill out the one page application.

Chairwoman Bomberg received information from the U.S. Census Bureau giving the new medium income levels in 72 Wisconsin Counties from 2009 – 2014 showing two-thirds of the State dropping and 23 Counties held steady. Incomes in Adams and Florence Counties where the only Counties in the State that rose. She said this is a tribute to the growth and economic development in Florence County.

There being no further business and on a motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Trudell
County Clerk