

The Florence County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on March 19, 2013. The meeting was called to order by the Chair. Members present were Supervisors: Bomberg, Halada, Johnson, Kelley, Osterberg, Steber, Stratton, Theer and Wenger. Excused: Supervisor Erickson, Gardner, and Neuens. Absent: None.

Moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Stratton to approve the Agenda, as presented. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

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

There was no one wishing to address the board.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Halada to approve the Snowmobile Club Loan for \$40,000 as recommended by Audit and Budget Committee. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Kelley to send a letter to the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, DATCP opposing revisions proposed to the ATCP 50 rule. The DATCP reduced the base funding of State support of this program by \$10,000 per County. This loss of support even now has resulted in a necessary work plan reduction amendment and a decrease in public educational opportunities as presented by Margie Yadro, Conservation Specialist for Land Conservation and recommended by Land Conservation and Legislative Committees. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Osterberg to send letters of support for filling the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, WIDNR new class of foresters, the Private Lands Forester/Ranger position in Florence County. This position supports the management of DNR and Florence County Land and will also act as the contact point for the local volunteer fire departments. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Wenger to approve the 2013 Emergency Fire Wardens for Florence County as recommended by the WI department of Natural Resources. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Steber, seconded by Supervisor Stratton to approve changes to the RLF Loan Manual required by federal HUD regulations as presented by Wendy Gehlhoff, Director for Florence County Economic Development. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2013 – 13

Intent and Synopsis: This resolution states that the Florence County Board of Supervisors supports adding Florence County to the list of Wisconsin Border Counties allowing full Michigan truck weights on US '2'.

WHEREAS: Log hauling trucks, conforming to Michigan lighter axle weight design specifications, have routinely operated in Wisconsin within 11 miles from the Wisconsin/Michigan border for three decades using the Michigan Border Permit; and

WHEREAS: The forest products industry is a major contributor to the county's economy and tax revenue by providing jobs in direct employment of the industry and indirect jobs for other goods and services in support of the industry; and

WHEREAS: Our local forest product industry competes with out-of-state and foreign competitors, which use more efficient truck weight configurations; and

WHEREAS: More efficient truck weight configurations provide fewer trips, less traffic, less wear, greater fuel economy, more efficient braking, reduced stopping distance, less air pollution, less time spent transporting forest products and less time spent on empty back hauls; and

WHEREAS: This would level the playing field for our largest sawmill located in the Florence Industrial Park on US '2' that is suffering from a competitive disadvantage versus sawmills right across the border in Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Florence County Board of Supervisors ask that our legislators pass legislation to add the 16 miles of US Highway '2' in Florence County (from Florence to Iron Mountain, MI East 11 miles and from Florence to Crystal Falls, MI West 5 miles) to the list of Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties whereby Michigan configured trucks with proper permit are allowed to haul up to 164,000 lbs GVW of Forest Products on US '2'.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are sent to Governor Scott Walker; Mark Gottlieb, Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation; Senator Jerry Petrowski, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee; Representative Keith Ripp, Chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee, Senator Tom Tiffany; Representative Rob Swearingen; and Representative Jeff Mursau.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Steber to adopt a resolution to add Florence County to the list of Wisconsin Border Counties allowing full Michigan truck weights on US "2" as presented by Wendy Gehlhoff and recommended by Florence County Economic Development, Forestry and Parks and Highway Committees. Ayes: Nine (9). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Under Committee reports, Chairwomen Bomberg reminded all Board members they are invited to attend the Safety & Security Training on Monday, March 25th, at 10:30am and 1:30pm. She also reminded the Board of the upcoming County Board Transition Training that is scheduled on Thursday, March 28th, at 6:00pm with Phillips/Borowski at the Courthouse.

Chairwoman Bomberg reported on the many grants Jake Walcisak, Assistant Forester, wrote, and applied for. In 2012 the County received over \$422,000 for Snowmobile and ORV Trails. Jake has also applied for \$235,000 for 2013. Chairwoman Bomberg expressed a big Thank You to Jake for all his hard work.

Supervisor Osterberg informed the Committee that there is a WCA North Central Regional Meeting Wednesday March 20th, at 1:00pm in Antigo if anyone is interested in attending.

Under Board member concerns, Supervisor Stratton expressed her concern for the UW Extension Program. She explained that the program has been closely watching their budgets and will not be able to hire an intern this summer to help with the Food, Fun & Fitness Program, and the Adventure Program. Supervisor Stratton said this will affect over 125 children from the area. The Program is applying for a grant.

Supervisor Stratton stated UW Extension did receive a matching grant to hire a Horticulture Person for the summer.

Chairwoman Bomberg informed the Committee of the email they should have all received from Jen Steber, IT Director, that the Courthouse Building has recently received Wi-Fi. Chairwoman Bomberg brought in her I Pad to test out the new wireless and said it works great.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Trudell
County Clerk