

The Florence County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on January 19, 2021. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

County Board Supervisors present: Bomberg, Brunette, Dzekute, Johnson, Kelley, Kellstrom, Mills, Modschiedler, Nichols, Steber and Theer.

Excused: Supervisor Hedmark

Absent: none

Agenda

Moved by Supervisor Dzekute to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Theer.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Johnson to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Theer.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Those wishing to address the Board – None

Public Safety Building 2020 Annual Jail Inspection Report

Sheriff Miller presented the 2020 Annual Jail Inspection Report to the Board showing them the 19 changes/improvements they have made to the building, current goals, inmate resources, and the 3 issues mentioned in the letter addressing and rectifying. The jail inspector thanked Theresa Pataconi for being well prepared, organized and professional. Miller invited all the Supervisors to tour the facility.

County Board Chair Bomberg thanked Miller and Pataconi for the open door policy with the jail report. She also thanked Miller and his staff for going above and beyond with this remodel, meeting all regulations and having our facility be noted as a top rated facility.

Supervisor Theer thanked Pataconi for all the work she has done, and stating she has made a difference.

Supervisor Kellstrom asked if a motion could be made for the record.

Moved by Supervisor Kellstrom to approve the Public Safety Building 2020 Annual Jail Inspection Report with appreciation of the excellent work that went into making the inspection a success.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Johnson.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Board Appointment

Moved by Supervisor Johnson to approve the appointment of G. Steber, C. Kellstrom, and T. Jonet to the HSD Board for a term of 2021 – 2023 as recommended by the Human Services Board.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Theer.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Resolutions

Moved by Supervisor Johnson to adopt resolution # 2021 – 01 in support of increased Child Support funding.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Kellstrom.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION 2021-01

Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding

WHEREAS: FLORENCE COUNTY administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing services to approximately 800 residents including paternity establishment, obtaining child support and health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and

WHEREAS: Our children's well-being, economic security and success in life are enhanced by parents who provide financial and emotional support; and

WHEREAS: County child support agencies collected \$935 Million in child support during 2019 and established 98,405 health insurance orders for Wisconsin children; and

WHEREAS: FLORENCE COUNTY's Child Support Agency provides services to children as well as custodial and non-custodial parents that reduce childhood poverty rates, establish parental rights and promote the involvement of both parents in the lives of their children; and

WHEREAS: The economic security and social service programs provided by FLORENCE COUNTY Child Support Agency are needed by Wisconsin children and families now more than ever due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to growing caseloads, inflation and new federal regulations; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program has fallen from 2nd in the nation for collecting current support to 5th; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin's decreased performance has led to the state losing out on an estimated \$70,000 in potential federal incentive payments between Calendar Year 2019 and 2020; and

WHEREAS: An abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional state funding. Further drops in performance would result in additional reductions to federal funding for Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS: Decreased federal funding results in less funding for FLORENCE COUNTY's child support agency. This could lead to reductions in child support enforcement staff and services and reduced child support collections; and

WHEREAS: New state investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2 in federal matching funds; and

WHEREAS: Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$6.20 in support for every dollar invested in the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the FLORENCE COUNTY Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$4 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing FLORENCE COUNTY, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration.

Under Committee reports

Supervisor Nichols will attend her next LEO Meeting in February.

County Board Chair Bomberg reported that Clerk Trudell emailed the annual reminder along with the Administrative Policy and the Personnel Policy instructing all employees to read, understand, and follow the policies.

Chair Bomberg asked Trudell to report on a letter sent to employees that receive the County Medical Insurance stating the In-Network coverage ending between Bellin Health and Security Health. The letter stated that the coverage would continue for Florence County Employees through December 31, 2021.

Sheriff Miller reported that he received a letter from the Florence Rescue Squad December 22, 2020 stating they are ending service for Part of Commonwealth, Florence, Fence, and Fern on March 1, 2021 due to lack of EMT volunteers. Miller said they have had 2 meetings with all 8 towns and the rescue squads discussing solutions.

Under Board Member concerns for future agenda items

Supervisor Dzekute asked if we could change County Board Meetings from 7:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. moving forward. Chair Bomberg asked if anyone had any objections. No objections stated. Meeting times will be permanently changed to 6:00pm.

Adjourn

Moved by Supervisor Mills to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Nichols.

Motion carried, with all voting "Aye" on a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Trudell
County Clerk