

The Florence County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on February 18, 2020. 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, Dzekute, Johnson, Kelley, Mills, Modschiedler, Stratton, Steber and Theer.

Excused: Supervisors Hedmark and Neuens. Absent: None

Others present: Sheriff Miller, Deputy Windell, K9 Rambo, Finance Director Joe Bestor, Florence School District Administrator Ben Niehaus, School Board President Don Dumke, Iron Mountain Daily News Betsy Bloom and County Clerk/Administrative Coordinator Donna Trudell.

Agenda

Moved by Supervisor Mills to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion seconded by Modschielder Mills.

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

Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Steber to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Kelley.

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

Those wishing to address the Board –

Sheriff Miller introduced K9 Rambo and his handler Deputy Windell to the Board. Rambo is a 2-year-old German Shepard bred in Czech Republic and trained at Jessiffany Canine Services in Iron Wood, Wisconsin. Rambo joined the Sheriff Department just into the 2020 new year with the help of over \$40,000 in donations and many volunteer hours with fundraising and building a kennel. Deputy Windell completed his training with Rambo on February 8, 2020.

Chairwomen Bomberg thanked Deputy Windell for taking on the new position as our K9 Handler.

Sheriff Miller presented his 2019 Annual Report. His report included 4,921 Calls for Service, 140 arrests, 430 Citations, 31 Felonies, 1,226 Traffic Stops, 207 reported Accidents, 1,210 – 911 calls received. All staff wear black uniforms now, received a \$50,000 grant for new equipment, increased the fleet and added the purchase of 4 new squads, purchased an armored vehicle, 2 staff now certified Field Training Officers, move forward to replace flooring and roof for the Public Safety Building, organized National Night Out, snowmobile and atv trail patrol, added an electronic inmate commissary system, and several other accomplishments.

Chairwomen Bomberg thanked Sheriff Miller.

Florence School District Administrator Ben Niehaus addressed the Board saying that the district is collecting information on the possibility of hiring a School Resource Officer(SRO). He said he will be attending Town meetings and have articles in the local newspaper. Niehaus does not have exact number on the cost but is confident that the SRO will cost less than \$1 per month per taxpayer.

Payroll Accountant New Job Position

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to approve the new Payroll Accountant job position that will report to the Finance Director with responsibilities for payroll processing, benefits tracking, annual reporting and financial & administrative support to the Sheriff Office as recommended by the Personnel and Audit & Budget Committees.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Johnson with additional changes being made to the job description under General Administrative Support, remove sentence #3 and add language to #4 that reads, under the direction of the Financial Director.

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

Payroll Accountant

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to approve proposed 2020 budget amendment transferring funds from the General Fund Balance to increase salary, benefit, and office costs of the County Clerk's Office by \$50,000 to cover the cost of a new Payroll Accountant position that will report to the Finance Director with responsibilities for payroll processing and reporting, benefit tracking, and financial support to the Sheriff's Office as recommended by the Personnel and Audit & Budget Committees.

Motion Seconded by Supervisor Steber.

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

Resolutions

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-01 to allow Establishing Total Annual Compensation for County Elected Officials Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 59.22 as recommended by the Personnel & Audit and Budget Committees for their term of office from 2020 – 2024 with the following list of wages: Treasurer for 2021-\$45,135.18, 2022-\$46,037.88, 2023-\$46,958.64, 2024-\$47,897.81; Register of Deeds for 2021-\$45,135.18, 2022-\$46,037.88, 2023-\$46,958.64, 2024-\$47,897.81; County Clerk for 2021-\$54,055.84, 2022-\$55,136.96, 2023-\$56,239.70, 2024-\$57,364.49

Motion seconded by Supervisor Johnson.

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

Resolution # 2020-01

Establishing Total Annual Compensation For
County Elected Officials Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §59.22

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §59.22(1), the Board must establish the total annual compensation for services to be paid to county elected officials (other than supervisors and circuit judges) prior to the earliest time for filing nomination papers for the county elective office; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish the total annual compensation for county elected officials, which is separate and distinct from the fringe benefits offered by the County to elected officials, and which fringe benefits are subject to increase or decrease during the officer’s term at the discretion of the Board and in accordance with state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, as part of the County’s fringe benefit program, county elected officials may participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System in accordance with state law; and

WHEREAS, as part of the County’s fringe benefit program, county elected officials may elect to receive health insurance coverage under the same terms and conditions as the health insurance coverage offered to non-represented managerial county employees who are not law enforcement managerial employees or non-represented managerial employees described in Wis. Stat. §111.70(1)(mm)2;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Florence County Board of Supervisors, that the total annual compensation for county elected officers under Wis. Stat. §59.22(1) shall be as follows, effective on the first day of a term of office that begins after the date of this Resolution:

| <u>Elected Official:</u> | <u>Total Annual Compensation:</u> | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> |
| Treasurer | \$45,135.18 | \$46,037.88 | \$46,958.64 | \$47,897.81 |
| Register of Deeds | \$45,135.18 | \$46,037.88 | \$46,958.64 | \$47,897.81 |
| County Clerk | \$54,055.84 | \$55,136.96 | \$56,239.70 | \$57,364.49 |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforementioned county elected officials are entitled to participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System in accordance with law and the County shall pay only its share of contributions required by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforementioned county elected officials are entitled to participate in the County’s health insurance program subject to the terms and conditions of the program, which may be modified from time to time, under the same terms and conditions as the health insurance coverage offered to non-represented managerial county employees who are not law enforcement managerial employees or non-represented managerial employees described in Wis. Stat. § 111.70(1)(mm)2.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-02 for Snowmobile Trail Maintenance as recommended by the Forestry and Parks Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Stratton.

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

Resolution # 2020-02

Snowmobile Trail Maintenance

WHEREAS, Florence County is interested in maintaining, acquiring, insuring and developing lands for public snowmobile trail use; and

WHEREAS, said public snowmobile trails are eligible for funds under S.23.09(26) Stats.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Florence County apply for funds under S.32.09(26),Stats., for such eligible maintenance, acquisition, insurance and development costs and hereby authorizes Patrick J. Smith, County Forest Administrator, and/or Mary Podnar, Business Manager, and/or Mat Gummin, Recreation Coordinator of the Florence County Forestry & Parks Department to act on behalf of Florence County to:

Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available; sign documents; and take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-03 for Waterways Commission Project as recommended by the Forestry and Parks Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Stratton.

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

Resolution # 2020-03

Waterways Commission Project

WHEREAS, Florence County hereby requests assistance for the purposes of, and or, performing a feasibility study for, developing recreational boating facilities, acquiring weed harvesting equipment, dredging a channel for recreation boating, acquiring aids to navigation or regulatory markers as described in an application, acquiring trash skimming equipment, and or chemical treatment for Water Eurasian Milfoil.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Florence County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the study, project, or acquisition and

HEREBY AUTHORIZES, Patrick J. Smith, Administrator, and/or Mary Podnar, Business Manager, and/or Mat Gummin, Recreation Coordinator of the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department, to act on behalf of Florence County to: submit an application to the Wisconsin Waterways Commission for financial assistance, sign document, and take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Florence County will comply with state and federal rules for the programs; may perform force account work; will maintain the complete project in an attractive, inviting and safe manner, will keep the facilities open to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain approval in writing from the Wisconsin Waterways Commission before any change is made in the use of the project site (if applicable).

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-04 for Wildlife Habitat Partnership as recommended by the Forestry and Parks Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Stratton.

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

Resolution # 2020-04

Wildlife Habitat Partnership

WHEREAS, Florence County Forestry and Parks Department is interested in obtaining a cost-share grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources;

WHEREAS, the respondent attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the proposal;

WHEREAS, an Agreement is required to carry out the project; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Florence County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project or acquisition and

HEREBY AUTHORIZES Patrick Smith, Florence County Forestry and Parks Administrator, and/or Mary Podnar, Business Manager and/or Mat Gummin, Recreation Coordinator to act on behalf of Florence County to:

Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;

Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within six month of project completion date;

Submit signed documents; and

Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that respondent will comply with all local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and ordinances relating to this project and the cost-share agreement.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-05 for County Fish and Game Project as recommended by the Forestry and Parks Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Stratton.

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

Resolution # 2020-05

County Fish and Game Project

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin enacted legislation providing for allocation to the respective

counties in the state on an acreage basis for the county fish and game projects on the condition that the counties match the State allocation, and

Whereas, Florence County desires to participate in county fish and game projects pursuant to provisions of section 23.09(12) of the Wisconsin Statutes;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the Florence County Board of Supervisors does hereby appropriate a matching allocation for such projects and such appropriations shall continue as long as matching state aids are available, or

Until this resolution is modified by the Board of Supervisors of Florence County;

Be it further resolved:

That the Forestry and Parks Committee of the Florence County Board of Supervisors be and hereby Authorizes Patrick J. Smith, Administrator, and/or Mary Podnar, Business Manager and/or Mat Gummin, Recreation Coordinator of the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department, to expend the funds hereby appropriated and the funds to be received from the State of Wisconsin, for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, and to operate and maintain or to cause to be operated and maintained the project for its intended purpose.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-06 for Outdoor Motorized Recreation Aids as recommended by the Forestry and Parks Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Stratton.

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

Resolution # 2020-06
Outdoor Motorized Recreation Aids

WHEREAS,

Florence County is interested in acquiring, insuring, maintaining, or developing lands for Public Outdoor Motorized Recreation purposes as described in the application; and

WHEREAS,

Financial aid is required to carry out the project

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That Florence County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project, and

HEREBY AUTHORIZES,

Patrick J. Smith, County Forest Administrator, and/or Mary Podnar, Business Manager, and/or Mat Gummin, Recreation Coordinator of the Florence County Forestry & Parks Department to act on behalf of Florence County to; submit an application to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available; sign documents, and take necessary action to undertake, direct, and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That Florence County will comply with State rules for the programs may perform force account work; will maintain the completed project in an attractive, inviting and safe manner; will keep the facilities open to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-07 for Outdoor Recreation Aids as recommended by the Forestry and Parks Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Stratton.

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

Resolution # 2020-07
Outdoor Recreation Aids

WHEREAS, Florence County is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application and

WHEREAS, financial aid is required to carry out the project;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Florence County has budgeted a sum sufficient to complete the project or acquisition and

HEREBY AUTHORIZES Patrick Smith, Florence County Forestry and Parks Administrator, and/or Mary Podnar, Business Manager and/or Mat Gummin, Recreation Coordinator to act on behalf of Florence County to:

Submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;

Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within six months of project completion date;

Submit signed documents; and

Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Florence County will comply with state or federal rules for the programs to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-08 to Establish a Wolf Population as recommended by the Forestry and Parks Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Stratton.

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

Resolution # 2020-08

Establish a Wolf Population

WHEREAS, the WI DNR established a wolf population goal of 350 animals in 1999, and nothing has changed to increase prey availability or decrease human density in the intervening year; and

WHEREAS, the WI DNR has not provided for meaningful wolf population control in any of its management efforts; and

WHEREAS, Florence County residents have experienced depredation and threatening incidents involving wolves, and

WHEREAS, the high predator population, in particular wolves, has resulted in lower deer populations, reduced hunting opportunities, impacted livestock and pleasure horse activities, and subjects pets and people to potential wolf attacks.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florence County Board of Supervisors request the WI DNR to keep the wolf population goal for the State of Wisconsin at 350 or less in the next Wisconsin Wolf Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Florence County Board of Supervisors requests that the WI DNR and other partners implement meaningful population controls in the next Wisconsin Wolf Plan to bring the wolf population down to the management goal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Florence County Board of Supervisors requests that the WI DNR not relocate wolves that have caused problems in Wisconsin or other areas into any county in Wisconsin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers; DNR Secretary Preston Cole, Representative Rob Swearingen, Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tom Tiffany and the Wisconsin Counties Association

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-09 Support Assembly Bill 692 and Senate Bill 623 as recommended by the Forestry and Parks Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler.

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

Resolution # 2020-09

Support Assembly Bill 692 and Senate Bill 623

WHEREAS, Florence County manages over 150 miles of snowmobile trails; *and*

WHEREAS, the snowmobile trail program is vital to the tourism of Florence County; *and*

WHEREAS, the increase of \$3,000,000 in funding each fiscal year will result in snowmobile trail improvements such as purchasing land for trails, enforcing laws, development and maintenance of trails, and improvements of bridges; *and*

WHEREAS, AB 692 and SB 623 will increase the segregated snowmobile trail and area aids appropriation in Chapter 20 for snowmobile trail maintenance, which will allow the DNR to appropriate the funds that currently exist within the program account and ensure that these funds go back to our trails; *and*

WHEREAS, Chapter 20 spending authority schedule caps spending on trail maintenance and miles at \$2,475,000 annually. AB 692 and SB 623 would increase this limit to \$5,475,000 annually, a \$3 million increase; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florence County Board of Supervisors assembled this 18th day of February, 2020, does hereby petition the state legislature and the Governor to increase the spending authority for the Snowmobile Trail program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with all other counties with state funded snowmobile trails, Wisconsin County Forest Association, Governor Evers, Senator Tiffany, Representative Swearingen and WDNR Secretary Cole

Under Committee reports

Supervisor Stratton gave 2019 Workforce Development numbers for Florence County with 322 hits to the website.

Under Board Member Concerns

County Clerk Trudell was asked to mention that Zoning still has a vacancy on the Board of Review which represents the Towns of Aurora, Homestead, Fence and Tipler. Zoning Administrator is asking for anyone interested to contact the Zoning Office.

Supervisor Theer thanked the Sheriff for the annual report and all his hard work.

Adjourn

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Mills.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Trudell
County Clerk