

The Florence County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on March 17, 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, Hedmark, Kelley, Mills, Modschiedler, Stratton, Steber and Theer.

Excused: Supervisor Neuens. Absent: None

Others present: Nancy Modschiedler and County Clerk/Administrative Coordinator Donna Trudell.

Agenda

Moved by Supervisor Johnson to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Stratton.

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

Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Mills to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Dzekute.

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

Those wishing to address the Board

None

Florence County Deputy Sheriffs Association Union Contract

Moved by Supervisor Johnson to approve the ratification of a 2-year union contract for the Florence County Deputy Sheriff's Association for 2020 and 2021 as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Kelley

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

Prevention Facilitator position

Moved by Supervisor Johnson to approve new Prevention Facilitator position as recommended by the Human Services Board and the Personnel Committee. No County levy required.

Motion Seconded by Supervisor Steber.

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

Snowmobile Club Lease

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to approve Corporate Counsel to draft a Snowmobile Club Lease of County Land Agreement as recommended by the Forestry and Parks Committee.

Motion Seconded by Supervisor Theer.

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

Resolutions

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to adopt Resolution 2020-10 in support of SB 723 for increased funding for local conservation efforts as recommended by the Land Conservation Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Dzekute.

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

RESOLUTION#2020-10

SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 723, INCREASED FUNDING FOR LOCAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS

WHEREAS, the County Land Conservation Department (LCD) is the local delivery mechanism for a wide range of Wisconsin's natural resource management programs including non-point pollution control, farmland preservation, reclamation of non-metallic mines, invasive species control, woodland management, lakes protection, and more; and,

WHEREAS, LCD professionals work as trusted, technical advisors to support producer-led watershed groups, assist waterfront property owners, help farmers develop and implement nutrient management plans, and respond to natural disasters like floods, and spend years building the trust to be able to successfully do so; and,

WHEREAS, the conservation practices that LCD professionals help landowners apply to farm fields, forests, and shorelines have numerous water quality benefits, including: preventing soil erosion and promoting soil health, increasing infiltration into groundwater aquifers, protecting drinking water supply, reducing surface runoff and flood severity, and more; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin codifies the counties' role in coordinating and implementing local conservation standards in Wis. Stats Chap. 92, and defines a state-supported staffing goal for every LCD of an average of three positions at 100, 70, and 50 percent support; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has not ensured baseline support of counties by meeting this funding goal since its inception, and current state-funded LCD staff number 40% fewer than they did 20 years ago; and,

WHEREAS, the return on investment in county LCDs is high—on top of the valuable, cost-effective services they provide to local communities, they also multiply several times over the impact of state funding by leveraging federal and private grant dollars into more conservation on the land, and more dollars into local economies; and,

WHEREAS, supporting county LCDs was the top priority voiced by Wisconsinites at statewide Water Quality Task Force hearings and elsewhere over the past year by farm, conservation, environmental and local government groups alike, including Wisconsin Counties Association, Dairy Business Association, Wisconsin Corn Growers, Wisconsin Farm Bureau, and Wisconsin Farmers Union; and,

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 723 seeks to provide an increase of \$2,960,900 in baseline support to county LCDs, resulting in more conservation on the landscape, and better protection of water quality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florence County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 17th day of March, 2020, does hereby urge the Wisconsin State Senate to schedule Senate Bill 723 to be heard on the floor of the Senate prior to the closure of the 2019-20 legislative session, and vote to support the bill, providing necessary state support to counties, recognizing that if we are to improve water quality and achieve clean and safe drinking water and support a viable agricultural industry at the same time, county LCD professionals are the best and most cost-effective solution we have.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the resolution be sent to WI Land+Water Conservation Association, all State Legislators, the Governor, DATCP Secretary, DNR Secretary, Wisconsin Counties Association, and Wisconsin Towns Association.

Moved by Supervisor Johnson to adopt Resolution 2020-11 in support of a Florence County Emergency Declaration for flexibility for COVID-19 as recommended by County Attorney.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Theer.

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

RESOLUTION # 2020-11
EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR COVID-19

WHEREAS, in December, 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 was detected, and COVID-19 has continued to spread throughout the world, including to the United States and the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, state governments, and local governments are working together to contain the further spread of the disease and treat existing cases; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and on March 12, 2020 the Governor of the State of Wisconsin declared a Health Emergency in the State; and

WHEREAS, Florence County (the "County") has been working to protect the health and well-being of its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare for the impacts the disease is likely to have on the County; and

WHEREAS, the County Board (the "Board") has determined that it is necessary to make all possible resources and means available to the County in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents from the threat posed by the continued spread of COVID-19, be able to seek and utilize mutual aid and to potentially obtain reimbursement from the State or Federal Governments if available; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 323.11 the Board finds and declares that an emergency exists within the County by reason of an imminent threat of disaster impairing medical care, health, and other critical systems of the County due to the spread of COVID-19, and ensures that the Counties health professionals and other local stake holders have the necessary tools at their disposal such as N-95 respirators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the period of emergency prescribed by this Resolution, the Board may order, by ordinance or resolution, whatever is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons and property within the County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board Chair and County Administrative Coordinator are hereby authorized and directed by the Board to coordinate and administer the County's emergency management response and to carry out the orders of the Board related thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Head of Emergency Management of the County is authorized and directed to carry out his duties under the County's Emergency Management Plan under the supervision and direction of the County Board Chair and County Administrative Coordinator and perform such other duties as may be directed by further resolution of the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the period of emergency the County Supervisors are hereby authorized to attend meetings of the Board remotely, and the Board shall take all actions necessary to effectuate the same in compliance with all other applicable laws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, based upon the information available to the Board and the ongoing threat posed by the spread of COVID-19, the period of emergency shall continue for sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Resolution unless sooner terminated or extended by further resolution of the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions heretofore taken by the Board and other appropriate public officers and agents of the County with respect to the matters contemplated under this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

COVID-19 Sanitizing

County Board Chair Bomberg informed the Board that she called a meeting with the administrative coordinator, courthouse building supervisor and maintenance staff and went over plans for extra hours to clean and sanitize the Courthouse building every day.

Under Committee reports

Supervisor Stratton said she is having a teleconference on March 26th for WEXA.

Adjourn

Moved by Supervisor Steber to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Johnson.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Trudell
County Clerk