

The Florence County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on September 15, 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, Brunette, Dzekute, Johnson, Kelley, Kellstrom, Mills, Steber and Theer.

Excused: Supervisor Modschiedler and Supervisor Nichols

Absent: Supervisor Hedmark

Agenda

Moved by Supervisor Johnson 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 Steber to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Johnson.

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

Those wishing to address the Board

None

Lease Agreement – Visitor Center

Moved by Supervisor Kelley to approve Lease Agreement #395-064 with the State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration – Department of Transportation with the Resource/Visitor Center as recommended by the Forestry & 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 – 21 Implications of Verso Mill Closures as recommended by the Forestry Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Dzekute.

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

Resolution #2020-21

Implications of Verso Mill Closures

WHEREAS, On June 9, Verso announced idling of their Duluth, MN and Wisconsin Rapids, WI pulp and paper mills by the end of July 2020 for an indefinite period;

WHEREAS, the idling of these mills will directly impact 1,000 workers and indirectly affect 1,000s more across the entire state of Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, the forest products industry is the number 1 employer in Florence County based on number of employees;

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Rapids, WI mill accounts for over 25% of all pulpwood consumed in the state of Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, timber revenue from the Florence County Forest provides approximately 12% of levy dollars and the loss of this income will financially affect the 5,000+ citizens of Florence County and the public services available to them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Florence County Board of Supervisors ask that assistance be provided in any way possible to allow continuation of mill operations or financial assistance be considered to support the loss of jobs, either directly or indirectly impacted;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Florence County Forestry and Parks Committee has directed to forward this resolution to all local, regional and state representatives.

Committee reports

None

Board member concerns for future agenda items

None

Adjourn

Moved by Supervisor Theer to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Johnson.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Trudell
County Clerk