

The Florence County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on January 21, 2025. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:00 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

County Board Supervisors present: Supervisors Brandt, Brunette, Hedmark, Johnson, Kellstrom, Mills, Sullivan, and Thompson.

Call-in: Supervisor Williams

Excused: Supervisors Modschiedler and Erickson

Absent: Supervisor Drewa

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

Moved by Supervisor Brunette to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Kellstrom.

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

Minutes

Moved by Supervisor Johnson to approve the December Minutes as presented.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Brandt.

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

Those wishing to address the Board

None

Supervisor Drewa arrived at 6:07pm

Broadband Improvements Project

Chris Shafer, Forest County Economic Development, and Jason Neilitz, from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community (SCC) Consortium, met with County Board asking for support from Florence County in forming a 5-person coalition board with the Sokaogon Chippewa Tribal Council and Forest County trying to secure \$60 to \$70 million in funding for the 3-year broadband project. The tribe is asking the Governor to waive the 25% match. This project is no risk to the County and the coalition is only asking for a letter of support from Florence County.

Chairman Hedmark thanked them for coming

Moved by Supervisor Johnson approval to send a letter to Governor Evers supporting the Sokaogon Chippewa Community (SCC) Consortium and Forest County's request for exemptions as it pertains to fairly and equitable pursuing and securing Wisconsin Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Sullivan.

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

Resolution

Moved by Supervisor Mills to adopt resolution # 2025 – 1 for the 2025-2030 Outdoor Recreation Plan as approved by the Forestry and Parks Committee.

Motion seconded by Supervisor Brunette.

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

RESOLUTION 2025- 1
APPROVAL OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2025-2030

WHEREAS, Florence County is devoted to providing aesthetic and functional parks and recreational facilities to the residents of, and the visitors to, Florence County; and

WHEREAS, Florence County Forestry and Parks Committee realizes the need for sound planning in order to meet the needs of park and recreational facility users; and;

WHEREAS, this plan highlights: the water resources and open spaces in Florence County; its population characteristics; outdoor recreation supply inventory; outdoor recreation needs assessment; and recommendations for ADA accessibility in Florence County and the associated Towns parks; and

WHEREAS, the County's outdoor recreation goals, objectives, and capital improvements projects, and annual operation and maintenance programs with respect to implementation of the Plan are also enumerated in the Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Florence County Board of Supervisors hereby approves this *Florence County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030* as the County's official plan for growth and development of parks and recreation opportunities over the next five years.

Panic Buttons

Supervisor Modschiedler, representing the Library Board, asked that this item be placed on the County Board agenda because the library did not have a panic button.

Tim Bomberg, Maintenance Supervisor, explained to the committee that each building needs a panel or board installed to run the panic buttons. The cost of installation is around \$70,000 and would only serve the library. Our security company, SGTS, and maintenance will look at other options for security at the county library, which is located in the Florence County High School building.

RE-Organization of Committee Meetings

Supervisors continued their discussion with splitting Personnel, EMS, Emergency Management, and Sheriff/Jail.

Reorganizing Building and Grounds to make the department the head of all county buildings is under discussion also.

Committee reports

None

Board member concerns for future agenda items

Chairman Hedmark told the Supervisors that the Audit and Budget meeting has been moved to the 3rd Monday of each month.

Chairman Headmark reminded the Supervisors to tell their department heads at their next home committee meetings to contact Kim Merrill, Finance Director, about any grants that a department is applying for or currently has. This needs to be a requirement, for each department, for tracking purposes.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned by Chair at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Trudell
County Clerk