

Minutes of the  
**Bayfield County Board of Supervisors' Meeting**  
**Of December 18, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.**  
Bayfield County Board Room, Courthouse, Washburn, Wisconsin

The monthly meeting of the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Kacvinsky at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken by Bayfield County Clerk, Scott Fibert as follows: Kittleson-present; Blahnik-present; Kacvinsky-present; Beeksma-present; Williams-present; Bichanich-present; Miller-present; Crandall-present; Rondeau-present; Good-present; Gordon-present; Jardine-present; Maki-present; Total 13: 13 present, 0 absent. Others present were: County Administrator, Mark Abeles-Allison; County Clerk, Scott Fibert; Deputy County Clerk, Dawn M. Bellile; Elizabeth Skulan, Human Services Director; Carrie Linder, Aging & Disability Services Manager; and Dale Brevak, Highway Commissioner.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Chairman Kacvinsky announced the passing of Jerry Jolly, and in that regard a moment of silence was held in his memory.

1. **Motion to Approve Minutes of the November 13, 2007 County Board of Supervisors' Meetings.** *A motion was made by Gordon/Blahnik to approve the November 13, 2007 Minutes of the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors' meeting. The motion carried.*

2. **Public Comment.** No one from public this evening.

3. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Highway 2 & 13 Intersection.** Supervisor Blahnik stated that this was brought to both the Highway and Sheriff's Committee, and that the topic of stop and go lights was discussed for an interim solution. The Committees are not saying the stop and go lights are the perfect answer. Further discussion took place to the fact that not many people want the round-about, and it is not a matter of what the County Board wants, but rather, what our constituents want. This was brought up by taxpayers and others from surrounding communities. Discussion also took place that at Superior Days, we will be rallying for 4-lanes to Superior. A single lane round about just doesn't make sense.

Discussion then took place on exactly what type of influence the County Board would have anyway. We can voice all of our concerns, but, the DOT does not have to do what we suggest. Discussion on whether the Board should write directly to our representatives in Madison. Discussed fast lanes, snow removal, and curb & gutter, which are not necessary at all. This issue has been going on long enough and it is not being heard by the right people. Perhaps we can get the DOT representatives back here and tell them exactly what we are looking for. A suggestion that was also brought up to perhaps put this to a vote on a referendum.

Highway Commissioner Brevak was present and asked to say a few words indicating how he felt. He also stated that the DOT's mind has been made up for quite awhile, and the roundabout is their answer. The intersection is already cramped up now, let alone putting a roundabout in its place. The more lanes you have the faster people drive. Sooner or later a 4-lane highway will be coming through. That is the direction we need to take - look to the future. He gave a brief scenario on different ideas that were presented to the DOT, which he felt fell on deaf ears. Also, as an FYI, there have been no fatalities on the US 2 & 51 overpass in Hurley.

After further discussion, *a motion was made by Blahnik/Maki to invite the DOT representative to the next Highway Committee meeting and to have the Highway Committee come up with a plan to bring a recommendation back to the County Board.* It was also discussed to invite the Ashland Highway Committee to attend meeting. DOT has a specific study group for this intersection. By keeping them in the loop where we are, may send messages back to Madison as to how we feel. Discussed having a special Highway Committee meeting for both groups. *The motion carried.*

4. **Presentation on Aging & Disability.** Elizabeth Skulan introduced Carrie Linder, the Human Services Aging & Disability Services Manager. Carrie Linder gave a presentation on the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. Linder reported that there are only a few in our area and these centers offer a convenient place for the general public to get information about long-term care. They offer a single entry point for publicly-funded long term care services, and the services are provided through the telephone or in visits to an individual's home. The idea is a "one-stop" for all services the elderly may need. Linder then gave a power point presentation and passed out documents to follow along with entitled, "Aging and Disability Resource Centers - The Front Door to Accessing Information and Long Term Care."

It is hoped that the doors will be opened to the Resource Center will be open by January 1, 2009. It is hopeful that more information and/or resolutions will be coming to the County board as soon as February to start the implementation of the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

A brief discussion took place after presentation. Board thanked Skulan and Linder for their time.

At this time, the Board deviated away from the outlined agenda, as there were individuals who needed to leave.

5. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Library Agreement with Vaughn Library.** Abeles-Allison explained the need to have a written agreement between the Vaughn Library and Bayfield County. He then introduced Ward Simpson, Vaughn Library Board Chairman, who explained the contents of the agreement and outlined the Memorandum of Understanding. As explained, this funding is based on a formula of non-resident borrowers that are using the Vaughn Library

who do not have a library within their own municipality. He stated that presently 25-30% of people using the Vaughn Library do not have a library to use within their own township.

Discussion took place. Abeles-Allison stated that Attorney Bussey was consulted regarding Act 420 and with this agreement in place, Bayfield County will be in compliance by helping both parties.

*A motion was made by Gordon/Blahnik to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ashland Vaughn Public Library and Bayfield County and to authorize Chairman Kacvinsky and Administrator Abeles-Allison to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.* Discussion. It is a unique feature in the United states that there is a public library "free" to use. Libraries were instituted to give them a chance to learn, be with citizens, interactive, etc. The libraries have a long dedicated history of service to this type of service. *The motion carried with one opposition.*

**6. Bayfield County Resolution 2007-59, Supporting the Ashland Ministerial Association's Oversight of the Area Food Shelf.** Supervisor Blahnik explained that our area's food shelf closed and the local churches recognized that there is a need for such a facility in our area and in turn, took over the management of providing food and temporary housing for citizens in our county. The Board dispensed with the reading of this Resolution, which reads as follows:

**Supporting the Ashland Ministerial Association's Oversight of the Area Food Shelf**

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 1654, or 11% of citizens in Bayfield County have income below poverty level;

**WHEREAS**, over 300 families depend on the services provided by the food shelf;

**WHEREAS**, Bayfield County recognizes the efforts of the Ashland Ministerial Association in providing food and temporary housing to citizens in need in our county;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors assembled this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2007, hereby extend their sincere appreciation to the Ashland Ministerial Association for the their management of the area food shelf and in providing temporary housing to those in need.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Board encourages all able citizens to support the food shelf year round through monetary and food contributions.

**BAYFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

William D. Kacvinsky, John J. Blahnik, David L. Good, Thomas J. Gordon, Kenneth Jardine,  
Harold A. Maki, Delores Kittleson, Shawn W. Miller, James A. Crandall, Wayne H. Williams, James Beeksma,  
Marco T. Bichanich, Brett T. Rondeau

Discussion took place on how it is run, how we can help support, etc. *A motion was made by Jardine/Bichanich to adopt Bayfield County Resolution No. 2007-59, Supporting the Ashland Ministerial Association's Oversight of the Area Food Shelf. The motion carried.*

**7. Discussion and Possible Action On Elevator Improvement Project for Access to the Bayfield County Human Services Department.** Abeles-Allison updated the Board on problems we have been having with the Courthouse elevators. There are number of options, but, there does need to be access to the Human Services Department, via an elevator. We presently have an elevator and a lift elevator. The lift elevator is open aired, you have to "hold" the hold button down as it lowers you to the basement. Over the past 4-6 months, there have been increasingly more problems with this. Service calls have been placed and work has been done, but, the issues haven't been resolved. Senior citizens are uncomfortable using the lift, however, the lift rather than the elevator, is closest to the Human Service Department. Many of these issues have become more apparent over the past few months. \$1.5 million was allocated for the construction project, however, we are concerned that we will be going over the amount due to more and more "add ons." We need good accessibility to the Human Services Department. Elizabeth Skulan was also present to address the situation. A number of options were discussed, but, it always came down to the fact that there is not a good way to access the department. It is an injustice to anyone who has any type of handicap. Discussion then took place about moving other offices so that the reception area is closer to the current elevator. There is no accessible funding for this. We need to look back at the first plans which contained an elevator and then decide where to go from there.

A further, lengthy discussion took place on what exactly is wrong with the lift and can it be fixed. Have we looked into it? The switch can be replaced to one that doesn't have to be held constantly, this is an easy change. Minnesota Elevator was contacted to look at the elevator. We are again piece mealng the project, this is happening after the fact, why wasn't this being looked at when architectural plans were being drawn up. Our lack of communication has fallen to the wayside again. There was a gap in communication. When the project was downsized to take the elevator out we were not aware that the elevator was not working correctly. The courtroom didn't need an elevator, Human Services did, but the Board took out the plans for the new elevator.

Discussed the fact that the architects already have the plans and prints in hand, they do not need to reinvent the wheel. What are we going to do. It was suggested that the Human Services Board Chair, Elizabeth Skulan, Abeles-Allison, Kacvinsky, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee sit down and look at what is needed and what will work best for us and to bring something back for us to look at.

*A motion was made by Gordon/Bichanich to refer this back to the Human Services Board, Abeles-Allison, Kacvinsky, and Executive Committee to come back to the County Board with a recommendation for the next County Board meeting.*

*Gordon withdrew his motion/seconded by Bichanich.*

No one agrees with what is proposed and we need someone to do a study with the best cost estimate. Very lengthy discussion on proposal submitted by KKE Architects. This entire proposal is very costly. Discussion on whether funds were obtainable by disability funding.

*A motion was made by Crandall/Blahnik to go with Phase I as outlined, not exceeding \$6,400.00 with an architectural firm of our choice. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Blahnik-yes; Kacvinsky-yes; Beeksma-yes; Williams-yes; Bichanich-yes; Miller-yes; Crandall-yes; Rondeau-absent; Good-yes; Gordon-yes; Jardine-yes; Maki-yes; Kittleson-yes. Total: 13, 12 yes, 1 absent, 0 no, the motion carried.*

*The Board took a 15 minutes recess at 8:00 p.m.*

**8. Bayfield County Highway Committee's Annual Report of Nov. 1, 2006 to Oct. 31, 2007.** This Report was already adopted at the November, 2007, County Board meeting, however, Dale Brevak, Highway Commissioner, was unable to attend that meeting and wanted to bring the Board up to speed on a few items in the Report that had changed. Discussion on different projects for 2008. The Report is on file in the County Clerk's office.

*A motion was made by Crandall/Good to move into Executive Session pursuant to §19.85(1)(c),(e) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which, the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; A roll call vote was taken as follows: Kacvinsky-yes; Beeksma-yes; Williams-yes; Bichanich-yes; Miller-yes; Crandall-yes; Rondeau-absent; Good-yes; Gordon-yes; Jardine-yes; Maki-yes; Kittleson-yes; Blahnik-yes. Total: 13, 12 yes, 1 absent, 0 no, the motion carried.*

*A motion was made by Gordon/Beeksma to move out of Executive Session to §19.85(1)(c),(e) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which, the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; A roll call vote was taken as follows: Beeksma-yes; Williams-yes; Bichanich-yes; Miller-yes; Crandall-yes; Rondeau-absent; Good-yes; Gordon-yes; Jardine-yes; Maki-yes; Kittleson-yes; Blahnik-yes; Kacvinsky-yes. Total: 13, 12 yes, 1 absent, 0 no, the motion carried.*

**9. Administrator's Report:**

- a) Make sure you get your per diems and mileage turned a.s.a.p.
- b) Fibert reported that all current Supervisors are running again in April. He also reported that Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> is deadline for declaration for non-candidacy. All nomination papers are to be turned in by January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Thus far, there no one has any opponents.
- c) There is a report on Superior Days - there are 3 legislative issues. Abeles-Allison wants to make sure the Board is comfortable with him for these issues.
- d) Abeles-Allison reported that the courtroom project is on schedule. This Friday is the last day the courtroom will be used. and committee meetings will be adjusted accordingly to different meeting rooms to accommodate.
- e) The IT and Land Conservation departments are now moved in across the street;
- f) The Clinic in Iron River is hopeful to be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.
- g) The Veteran's Service Clinic closing was discussed.
- h) Nothing has been heard on the snowmobile trail issue as of today.

**10. Supervisors' Reports:**

- a) Northwest Regional Planning brochure was sent. Blahnik updated everyone on the report, he will make a copy for everyone to review and if you have questions, you can ask him at the next meeting.
- b) An update on World Class Mfg. was given stating that the business is doing an outstanding job.

There being no further business to come before the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, *a motion was made by Jardine/Kittleson to adjourn. The motion carried* and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott S. Fibert,  
Bayfield County Clerk