

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Columbia County, Wisconsin

Portage, Wisconsin  
August 16, 2023  
7:01 P.M.

The Board of Supervisors of Columbia County convened in regular session at the Administration Building at 112 East Edgewater Street, Portage pursuant to law. The meeting was called to order by Chair Polzer and was certified to be in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

All Supervisors were present.

Members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Holtan to approve the Journal of July 19, 2023. Second by L. Miller. Motion carried.

Motion by Balsiger to approve the agenda, as printed. Second by Schroeder.

Kolberg asked for clarification on why Motions #3 and #4 on the agenda (to reinstate Supervisor Matthew L. Rohrbeck to all committees with leadership roles; and appoint Supervisor Derek Granquist to all of former Supervisor Adam Hahn's committee assignments) state to suspend County Board Standing Rules.

Ruf explained the motions, which were added to the agenda based on a motion at the previous meeting, would require suspending the Standing Rules adopted by the County Board to take action.

Chair Polzer called on Attorney Andrew Phillips, Attolles Law, s.c., for a further explanation. Attorney Phillips is General Counsel for the Wisconsin Counties Association and is recognized as an expert in county board matters. Phillips and Ruf entertained several questions from the Board.

Motion to approve the agenda passed, not unanimously.

Communications/Public Input

Angie Braddock, Tony Navone, Doug Smedema, Mary Jean Eisenga, Becky Santowski, Doug Endrizzi, Travis Anderson, Elizabeth Groves and Lauren Tonn addressed the Board.

Motion by Groves to hold a special meeting a week from tonight at 7 p.m. with the removal of current county board chair and election of new county board chair placed on the agenda. Second by Granquist.

Motion failed on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 12; NO: 15; ABSTAIN: 1; ABSENT: 0

YES: Barker, Brusveen, Field, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Kolberg, M. Rohrbeck, S. Rohrbeck, Shimpach, Wynn.

NO: Balsiger, Baumgartner, Carr, Cook, Holtan, Leckwee, K. Miller, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, Schroeder, St. Maurice, Stevenson, Valencia, Weyh.

ABSTAIN: Ryan.

The following appointments were announced:

1. Tax Incremental District (TID) No. 11 for City of Portage

- Adam Field, County Supervisor Representative

Motion by Shimpach, to approve the appointment. Second by Richmond. Motion carried. Field abstained.

2. The Ride Improvement Project of Columbia County (TRIP)
  - Megan L. Jahoda, Citizen MemberMotion by Cook to approve the appointment. Second by Richmond. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-23**

WHEREAS, Columbia County (“County”) owns City of Portage Parcel No. 678 located at 108 E. Pleasant Street, Portage, Wisconsin 53901, that is currently leased to River Haven Homeless Shelter, Inc. (“River Haven”) and has an appraised value of \$68,100; and,

WHEREAS, County owns City of Portage Parcel No. 678.A located on the corner of DeWitt and East Pleasant Streets, Portage, Wisconsin, that is currently used as a public parking lot for the Columbia County Courthouse and has an appraised value of \$76,000; and,

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2023, in response to a request from River Haven, the County Information Services and Property Committee (“IS&P Committee”) unanimously approved transferring City of Portage Parcel Nos. 678 and 678.A to River Haven at no cost; and,

WHEREAS, the IS&P Committee’s February 1, 2023, approval of the transfer of ownership of City of Portage Parcel Nos. 678 and 678.A to River Haven included stipulations that: 1) River Haven must use the parcels exclusively to operate the current homeless shelter, and build and operate a new homeless shelter and related parking; and, 2) If River Haven does not start the project to build a new homeless shelter and related parking within five (5) years following the date of the transfer of ownership, then ownership of City of Portage Parcel Nos. 678 and 678.A will revert back to the County; and,

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2023, a Resolution presented to the County Executive Committee (“Executive Committee”) to authorize the transfer of ownership of City of Portage Parcel Nos. 678 and 678.A from the County to River Haven at no cost failed on a vote of 2-2; and,

WHEREAS, County Code of Ordinances Section 2.02(2) states that “All standing committees and any ad hoc committees of the County Board of Supervisors are subcommittees of the full Board. The County Board of Supervisors reserves the right of oversight of committee actions. Notwithstanding any provision of the Standing Rules, an action by the full County Board of Supervisors taken in accordance with the procedures in the Standing Rules shall supersede any action or in action by a committee.”; and,

WHEREAS, County Board Standing Rule 5(d) states that “Notwithstanding sub. (c), the full Board may take a resolution, petition, or motion from a committee that has not been considered by a majority vote. In addition, the full Board by majority vote may reject or stop any action made by a committee. If the motion passes, the resolution, petition, motion or action from that committee will automatically be placed on the full County Board meeting agenda for consideration at the next scheduled meeting.”.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that based on the Executive Committee’s June 15, 2023, failure to reach a majority decision on the transfer of ownership of City of Portage Parcel Nos. 678 and 678.A to River Haven, the IS&P Committee requests that the full County Board exercise its authority under County Code of Ordinances Section 2.02(2) and County Board Standing Rule 5(d), to approve the transfer of ownership City of Portage Parcel Nos. 678 and 678.A from the County to River Haven at no cost, consistent with the IS&P Committee’s unanimous February 1, 2023, decision to do so; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the transfer of ownership of City of Portage Parcel Nos. 678 and 678.A from the County to River Haven at no cost to River Haven is hereby authorized; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the transfer of ownership of City of Portage Parcel Nos. 678 and 678.A from the County to River Haven is subject to all necessary approvals being obtained from the City of Portage for modifications to the County's Courthouse parking plan, and for River Haven's planned construction and operation of a new homeless shelter and related parking on the property; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 1) River Haven must use the parcels exclusively to operate the current homeless shelter, and build and operate a new homeless shelter and related parking; and, 2) If River Haven does not substantially complete the project to build a new homeless shelter and related parking within five (5) years following the date of the transfer of ownership, then ownership of City of Portage Parcel Nos. 678 and 678.A will revert back to the County at no cost to the County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that subject to final approval of the terms of the transfer of ownership of the property by the Corporation Counsel, in compliance with the conditions identified in this Resolution, the Columbia County Board Chair and Columbia County Clerk are hereby authorized to execute all documents required to complete the transfer of ownership of the property as authorized in this Resolution.

Fiscal Note: None.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Steven Rohrbeck  
Joe Harvestine  
Andrew Fischer, Secretary  
Henry A. St. Maurice, Vice Chair  
John Stevenson, Chair  
INFORMATION SERVICES AND  
PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Motion by S. Rohrbeck to adopt the Resolution. Second by Baumgartner.

Motion by Brusveen to amend the resolution and remove all language referring to the parking lot. Second by Wynn.

Motion to amend failed on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 9; NO: 19; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 0

YES: Baumgartner, Brusveen, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Holtan, Kolberg, Wynn.

NO: Balsiger, Barker, Carr, Cook, Field, Leckwee, K. Miller, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, M. Rohrbeck, S. Rohrbeck, Ryan, Schroeder, Shimpach, St. Maurice, Stevenson, Valencia, Weyh.

The Resolution was approved on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 23; NO: 5; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 0

YES: Balsiger, Barker, Baumgartner, Carr, Cook, Field, Fischer, Harvestine, Holtan, Leckwee, K. Miller, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, M. Rohrbeck, S. Rohrbeck, Ryan, Schroeder, Shimpach, St. Maurice, Stevenson, Valencia, Weyh.

NO: Brusveen, Granquist, Groves, Kolberg, Wynn.

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-23**

WHEREAS, the Fifth Addition to Ohio Cemetery Plat is located in the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 1, T11N, R10E, Town of Lowville, Columbia County, WI, and was drafted in February of 1964 and not recorded; and

WHEREAS, said plat required County Board authorization and signature to be recorded at the time of draft; and

WHEREAS, the President of the Ohio Cemetery Plat signed the plat on May 22, 2023 and the Town of Lowville signed the plat on June 8, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the recording of this plat meets all requirements of the Chapter 12.100 Zoning Code of the Columbia County Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the President of the Ohio Cemetery Association is seeking authorization from the County Board to record said Fifth Addition to Ohio Cemetery Plat with County Board Chair signature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Columbia County Board of Supervisors that the County accepts the Fifth Addition to the Ohio Cemetery Plat as represented by “Exhibit A” attached to and made part of this Resolution be approved effective upon County Board Chair signature.

Fiscal Impact: None

Denise Brusveen  
Harlan Baumgartner  
Doug Richmond  
Andrew Kolberg  
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Motion by Richmond to adopt the Resolution. Second by Ryan.

The Resolution was approved on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 28; NO: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 0

YES: Balsiger, Barker, Baumgartner, Brusveen, Carr, Cook, Field, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Holtan, Kolberg, Leckwee, K. Miller, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, M. Rohrbeck, S. Rohrbeck, Ryan, Schroeder, Shimpach, St. Maurice, Stevenson, Valencia, Weyh, Wynn.

**RESOLUTION NO. 27-23**

WHEREAS, Columbia County is interested in assisting the Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council in acquiring a Producer Led Watershed Protection Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council will use this grant to formally develop the networking platform of this council to promote soil health and water quality, which will include providing cost share incentive payments to participating producers to install conservation practices such as cover crops;

WHEREAS, Wis. Admin. Code ATCP ch. 52. requires the group to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as part of the grant application, that assigns a collaborating entity and a fiscal manager;

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Land & Water Resource Management Plan identifies the creation of these producer-led watershed councils as a priority;

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department is a qualifying collaborating entity and fiscal manager;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Columbia County agrees to serve as a collaborating entity and the fiscal manager for the 2024 DATCP Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant, submitted on behalf of the Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council; and

HEREBY AUTHORIZES Kurt Calkins, Director, Land and Water Conservation Department, to act on behalf of Columbia County to:

- Sign an application to the State of Wisconsin Department Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection for any financial aid that maybe available:
- Submit signed documents, and
- Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Columbia County shall enter into an approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Columbia County Land & Water Conservation Department and the Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council.

Fiscal Note: Grant Request \$40,000 Anticipated

Fiscal Impact: In-kind Match

Andrew Fischer  
Andrew Groves  
Shawn Woody Barker, Secretary  
Brad Cook, Vice-Chair  
Mike Weyh, Chair  
AGRICULTURE, EXTENSION, LAND  
AND WATER CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE

Motion by Cook to adopt the Resolution. Second by Baumgartner.

The Resolution was approved on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 28; NO: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 0

YES: Balsiger, Barker, Baumgartner, Brusveen, Carr, Cook, Field, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Holtan, Kolberg, Leckwee, K. Miller, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, M. Rohrbeck, S. Rohrbeck, Ryan, Schroeder, Shimpach, St. Maurice, Stevenson, Valencia, Weyh, Wynn.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 28-23**

WHEREAS, Columbia County has been awarded a total of \$11,174,917 under the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and,

WHEREAS, under County Board Standing Rule 9, the expenditure of undesignated funds totaling \$50,000 or more annually must have County Board approval; and,

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee recommends the following requested expenditure of ARPA Funds to the full County Board for approval:

- MIS - Election Servers - \$1,100
- Sheriff – Tactical Armor/Plates - \$7,800
- Sheriff – Microwave Batteries - \$22,000
- Veterans Service – Dividers - \$955

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the expenditure of ARPA funds totaling \$31,855 for the items detailed above is hereby authorized and approved.

Fiscal Note: \$31,855 cost to purchase items identified in this Resolution to be entirely paid from ARPA funds.

Fiscal Impact: NONE

Adam R. Field  
Darren W. Schroeder, Secretary  
Denise J. Brusveen, Vice Chair  
Chris Polzer, Chair  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Miller to adopt the Resolution. Second by L. Miller.

The Resolution was approved on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 28; NO: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 0

YES: Balsiger, Barker, Baumgartner, Brusveen, Carr, Cook, Field, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Holtan, Kolberg, Leckwee, K. Miller, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, M. Rohrbeck, S. Rohrbeck, Ryan, Schroeder, Shimpach, St. Maurice, Stevenson, Valencia, Weyh, Wynn.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 29-23**

WHEREAS, Columbia County (hereafter the "County") has long recognized the need to prevent alcohol and substance use and abuse both broadly as well as within the County and has been committed to the local provision of alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) treatment and prevention services; and,

WHEREAS, reflective of its commitment to substance abuse treatment, the County and the Columbia County Circuit Court partnered to implement the Columbia County Drug Treatment Court (hereafter the "Drug Treatment Court"), a court model aimed at reducing criminal behavior for non-violent drug offenders; and,

WHEREAS, demonstrating both the issues created by opioid abuse in the County as well as its commitment to combating such drug abuse, the County is a participating subdivision in the national opioid litigation and received, and will continue to receive, certain funds as a result of its participation in that litigation and subject to those terms and conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Ad Hoc Opioid Abatement Committee has reviewed and considered the need for Drug Treatment Court in the County and determined that its continuation into 2024 is appropriate and necessary to combat drug use in this community;

WHEREAS, the 2024 Drug Treatment Court cost is determined to be \$68,040;

WHEREAS, no levy or budget moneys were or are to be used to cover its costs; and,

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Opioid Abatement Committee has since considered the use of Opioid Settlement funds in the amount of \$68,040, for the Drug Treatment Court, and it supports the use of this amount for this court program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the amount of \$68,040 shall be transferred from the received Opioid Settlement funds (Account # 100.355850) to be applied towards the 2024 Drug Treatment Court cost(s).

Fiscal Note: Apply \$68,040 from Opioid Settlement Restricted Equity Account # 100.355850 to the Drug Treatment Court, Business Unit 4518.

Fiscal Impact: \$68,040 of Opioid Settlement funds.

Adam R. Field  
Darren W. Schroeder, Secretary  
Denise J. Brusveen, Vice Chair  
Chris Polzer, Chair  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by Richmond to adopt the Resolution. Second by Balsiger.

The Resolution was approved on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 28; NO: 0; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 0

YES: Balsiger, Barker, Baumgartner, Brusveen, Carr, Cook, Field, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Holtan, Kolberg, Leckwee, K. Miller, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, M. Rohrbeck, S. Rohrbeck, Ryan, Schroeder, Shimpach, St. Maurice, Stevenson, Valencia, Weyh, Wynn.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 30-23**

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Board of Supervisors (“County Board”) adopted the Columbia County Board Standing Rules (“Standing Rules”) on April 19, 2022, and most recently revised those Standing Rules on August 17, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, at the July 19, 2023, County Board meeting, a motion by Supervisor Andrew C. Kolberg, seconded by Supervisor Andrew Groves was approved requiring a mandatory actionable agenda item at the next full County Board meeting in regards to amending the Standing Rules to add “adjourn” to the Order of Business for every County Board meeting and to require a majority vote to end any County Board meeting. This can be by voice vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED, that pursuant to Standing Rule 15. Suspension or Amendment of Rules: No rule of the Board shall be suspended, altered, or amended during a meeting without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present. The Standing Rules may be altered or amended generally by a simple majority vote of the members present as previously noted on the Board meeting agenda.; and,

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that Standing Rule 1. Board Meetings. (8) Order of Business. is hereby amended, in part, as follows:

(8) ORDER OF BUSINESS. The regular order of business, which is subject to the discretion of the Chair, shall be as follows:

- (a) Roll call.
- (b) Pledge of Allegiance.
- (c) Approval of the printed journal unless otherwise ordered.
- (d) Approve agenda and any changes thereto in compliance with open meeting law requirements under Wis. Stats. §§ 19.81 through 19.98.
- (e) Claims and petitions.
- (f) Communications/Public Input on agenda and non-agenda topics.
- (g) Committee reports.
- (h) Appointments.
- (i) Union Contract ratification.
- (j) Resolutions to be considered and resolved.

(k) Consideration of proposed ordinances.

(l) Consideration of other business on the table.

(m) Requests for future agenda items.

(n) Motion to Adjourn. (Requires approval by a majority voice vote of the members present.)

~~(n)~~ (o) On the day set for the adoption of the budget, the budget shall be considered immediately following “Appointments” during the morning session.

~~(o)~~ (p) On the last day of the current session, a reading and correcting of the journal of the day shall be done immediately prior to the final adjournment.; and,

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that all other portions of County Board Standing Rule 1 as well as all other current Standing Rules are unchanged by this Resolution and shall remain in full force and effect.

Motion by Shimpach to Amend County Board Standing Rule 1. Board Meetings. (8) Order of Business. Second by Groves.

Motion passed on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 15; NO: 12; ABSTAIN: 1; ABSENT: 0

YES: Baumgartner, Brusveen, Field, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Kolberg, K. Miller, Polzer, M. Rohrbeck, Ryan, Shimpach, St. Maurice, Wynn.

NO: Balsiger, Barker, Carr, Cook, Holtan, Leckwee, L. Miller, Richmond, S. Rohrbeck, Schroeder, Valencia, Weyh.

ABSTAIN: Stevenson.

Motion Submitted by Supervisor Kolberg and Second by Supervisor Groves to Amend County Board Standing Rule 24 (5). Standing Committees as follows:

(5) Standing committee members shall be appointed at the biennial organizational meeting by the Board Chair, subject to the approval by the Executive Committee, ~~and shall serve at the pleasure of the Chair.~~; and,

Motion by Field to Amend County Board Standing Rule 24 (5). Standing Committees. Second by Harvestine.

Motion by M. Rohrbeck to amend the amendment to County Board Standing Rule 24 (5) to state as follows: (5) Standing committee members shall be appointed and removed by a majority vote of the full Board. The Board Chair may nominate standing committee members that shall be mandatorily reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee by a majority vote before consideration for appointment by the full Board. This rule shall supersede Rule 1 (1). Second by Groves.

Motion to amend amendment failed on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 14; NO: 14; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 0

YES: Barker, Brusveen, Field, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Kolberg, K. Miller, M. Rohrbeck, S. Rohrbeck, Shimpach, Stevenson, Wynn.

NO: Balsiger, Baumgartner, Carr, Cook, Holtan, Leckwee, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, Ryan, Schroeder, St. Maurice, Valencia, Weyh.

Motion to amend failed on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 12; NO: 16; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 0

YES: Barker, Brusveen, Field, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Kolberg, K. Miller, M. Rohrbeck, Shimpach, Wynn.

NO: Balsiger, Baumgartner, Carr, Cook, Holtan, Leckwee, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, S. Rohrbeck, Ryan, Schroeder, St. Maurice, Stevenson, Valencia, Weyh.



Motion Submitted by Supervisor Kolberg and Seconded by Supervisor Groves to Suspend County Board Standing Rules and Reinstate Supervisor Matthew L. Rohrbeck to All Committees with Leadership Roles.

Motion by Field to Suspend County Board Standing Rules – Reinstate Supervisor Matthew L. Rohrbeck to All Committees with Leadership Roles. Second by Kolberg.

Two-thirds vote of the members present are required to pass the motion.

The motion failed on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 14; NO:12; ABSTAIN: 2; ABSENT: 0

YES: Barker, Brusveen, Field, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Holtan, Kolberg, K. Miller, M. Rohrbeck, S. Rohrbeck, Shimpach, Wynn.

NO: Balsiger, Baumgartner, Carr, Cook, Leckwee, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, Schroeder, St. Maurice, Valencia, Weyh.

ABSTAIN: Ryan, Stevenson.

Motion Submitted by Supervisor Kolberg and Seconded by Supervisor Groves to Suspend County Board Standing Rules and Appoint Supervisor Derek Granquist to All of Former Supervisor Adam Hahn's Committee Assignments.

Motion by Groves to table the motion to Suspend County Board Standing Rules – Appoint Supervisor Derek Granquist to All of Former Supervisor Adam Hahn's Committee Assignments. Second by Kolberg.

Motion passed on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: 16; NO:11; ABSTAIN: 1; ABSENT: 0

YES: Barker, Brusveen, Carr, Cook, Fischer, Granquist, Groves, Harvestine, Holtan, Kolberg, K. Miller, S. Rohrbeck, Ryan, Shimpach, Stevenson, Wynn.

NO: Balsiger, Baumgartner, Field, Leckwee, L. Miller, Polzer, Richmond, Schroeder, St. Maurice, Valencia, Weyh.

ABSTAIN: M. Rohrbeck.

The meeting concluded at 10:57 p.m.

**Please note that supporting documents (i.e. addendums, exhibits and handouts) are filed in the County Clerk's Office.**