

WASHBURN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA

March 19, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Board Room, Washburn County Services Center, Shell Lake, Wisconsin

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chair Wilson
2. Moment of Silent Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance – Supv. L. Featherly
3. Notice of Meeting – County Clerk Swearingen
4. Roll Call – County Clerk Swearingen
5. Approval of February 20, 2024 County Board Proceedings
6. Presentation of Certificates to Youth Representatives
7. Concerned Citizens
8. Consent Agenda Resolutions
 - a. Rezone and Amendatory Ordinance – February 2024 – Shell Lake
 - b. Resolution for 2024 Work Zone Safety Awareness Week in Washburn County
9. Resolutions and Ordinances:
 - a. Resolution to Waive Interest and Penalty Fees for Town of Minong Residents Relating to the 2023 Tax Statement Postmark Date – Supv. S. Smith
 - b. Resolution Calling for a Moratorium on Refugee Resettlement Under the Refugee Act of 1980 (8 U.S.C. 1522) Within Washburn County – (*postponed from Feb. meeting*)
 - c. Resolution for a Moratorium on Refugee Resettlement Within Washburn County – (*New, proposed*)
10. Committee Reports
11. Chair Appointments
 - a. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
12. Citizen Comments
13. Chair Comments
 - a. County Officials Workshop – May 9th
 - b. WCA Annual Conference – Submit Ideas by March 29th
14. Next Meeting Date and Possible Future Agenda Items
15. Audit Per Diems
16. Adjourn

WASHBURN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES

February 20, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Board Room, Washburn County Services Center, Shell Lake, Wisconsin

1. Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Wilson
2. Moment of Silent Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance – Supv. L. Featherly
3. Notice of Meeting was read by County Clerk Swearingen
4. Roll Call was verified by County Clerk Swearingen. Board Members Present: (19); Excused: (2) Louie Vilella and Jocelyn Ford. Youth Present: (2) Serena Lu and Aaron Anderson.
5. Approval of January 16, 2024 County Board Proceedings on motion by Supv. J. Hoy, 2nd by Supv. L. Olson; Roll Vote: Yes (19); No (0); Excused (2); Youth: Yes (2); No (0); MC
6. Concerned Citizens – Joe Welter of Trego spoke against the moratorium on the proposed refugee resolution.
7. **Consent Agenda Resolutions** – Supv. G. Cusick requested to have item 7b pulled for further discussion. Supv. J. Bruce requested to have item 7a pulled for further discussion.
 - a. **Resolution 2024-10 Calling for a Moratorium on Refugee Resettlement Under the Refugee Act of 1980 (8 U.S.C. 1522) Within Washburn County** – Motion to approve by Supv. B. Melton, 2nd by Supv. C. Masterjohn. Motion to postpone by Supv. J. Hoy, 2nd by Supv. S. Smith. Discussion followed, and several supervisors would like more information. Motion to postpone takes precedence. Roll Vote to Postpone: Yes (13); No (6) DW, CM, SR, KK, BM, CS; Excused: (2); Youth: Yes (2); No (0); MC
 - b. **Resolution 2024-11 to Approve Policy A-15 Prohibiting the Carry-In of Alcohol Policy** – Motion to approve by Supv. S. Smith, 2nd by Supv. B. Olsgard. Discussion followed. Roll Vote: Yes (17); No (2) JB, GC; Excused: (2); Youth: Yes (2); No (0); MC
8. **Resolutions and Ordinances:**
 - a. **Resolution 2024-12 to Carry Over 2023 Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) Grant Dollars to the 2024 Register of Deeds and Land Information/Surveyors Office Budgets and Carryover Proceeds from the Sale of the Surveyors Argo and Trailer to the Land Information/Surveyors Office 2024 Budget** – Motion to approve by Supv. S. Smith, 2nd by Supv. C. Stariha. Roll Vote: Yes (19); No (0); Excused (2); Youth: Yes (2); No (0); MC
 - b. **Resolution 2024-13 to Amend the 2024 Capital Project Fund Budget for Boiler System Strainers – Maintenance Project** – Motion to approve by Supv. S. Smith, 2nd by Supv. G. Cusick. Roll Vote: Yes (19); No (0); Excused (2); Youth: Yes (2); No (0); MC
 - c. **Resolution 2024-14 Establishing Annual Compensation for County Elected Officials Pursuant to WIS. STAT. 59.22** – Motion to approve by Supv. H. Graber, 2nd by Supv. C. Masterjohn. Roll Vote: Yes (19); No (0); Excused (2); Youth: Yes (2); No (0); MC
9. Committee Reports - Suspended
10. Chair Appointments - None
11. Citizen Comments – Colleen Cook of Spooner spoke in regards to the alcohol policy. She spoke of what other senior centers do and mentioned the Mocktails are fun and very well liked. Dana Herman spoke against the refugee resolution.
12. Chair Comments
 - a. Youth Supervisor, Serena Lu had a very nice article in the Spooner Advocate regarding her experience at the Legislative Days in Madison.
 - b. A letter was received from the Shell Lake Arts Center thanking us for our support. If they receive the grant, they will come and present to us.
 - c. Thank you to all the poll workers and clerks that are involved in today's Spring Primary election – they have some long hours.

13. Next Meeting Date and Possible Future Agenda Items – March 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

14. Audit Per Diems on motion by Supv. C. Masterjohn, 2nd by Supv. G. Cusick; MC

15. Adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

REZONING PETITIONS

Washburn County Board of Supervisors

Rezoning petitions were filed with the Washburn County Zoning Office for changes in the Zoning districts. Notices were sent that a public hearing would be held on February 27, 2024.

The Zoning Committee did conduct the public hearings, considered the following and recommend as:

Barronett Township: David Beecroft, Shell Lake WI. Property: Tax ID#345-10.610 acres, PT SE SW, in Section 16-37-13, Town of Barronett, to rezone 10.610 acres from Agricultural to Commercial, for future business improvements.

The Zoning Committee recommends APPROVAL of the request to rezone 10.610 acres of Agricultural to Commercial.

Interested persons were given the opportunity to be heard.

Dated

Jocelyn Ford, Chairman
Washburn County Zoning Committee

Rezonepetitions022724

AMENDATORY ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Washburn County Board of Supervisors has heretofore been petitioned to amend the Washburn County Zoning Ordinance and Maps; and

WHEREAS, the rezoning petitions have been referred to the zoning district boundaries, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Chapter 59.69, and;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washburn County Zoning Ordinance and maps, adopted in 1977 are hereby amended and designated as;

Barronett Township: David Beecroft, Shell Lake WI. Property: Tax ID#345-10.610 acres, PT SE SW, in Section 16-37-13, Town of Barronett, to rezone 10.610 acres from Agricultural to Commercial, for future business improvements.

Interested persons were given the opportunity to be heard.

Supervisor _____ move to _____ rezonings,
second by _____

Supervisor _____, motion carried.

Dated _____ David Wilson, Chairman

Washburn County Board of Supervisors

Rezonepetitions022724

Resolution # ____ - ____
Washburn County Board of Supervisors
2024 Work Zone Safety Awareness Week in Washburn County

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WASHBURN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

RE: RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 15, 2024 THROUGH APRIL 19, 2024 AS "WORK ZONE SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK" IN WASHBURN COUNTY.

WHEREAS: In 1999, the Federal Highway Administration partnered with the American Association of State Highway Officials and more recently the American Traffic Safety Services Association to create the National Work Zone Safety Awareness campaign which is held annually in April prior to the construction season in much of the nation and;

WHEREAS: The Wisconsin County Highway Association is asking all seventy-two counties in the state to unite and kick-off "Work Zone Safety Awareness Week" with a resolution and campaign to raise awareness for its workers, the travelling public, public safety workers, and those of various highway contractors performing work for the counties; and

WHEREAS: Construction and maintenance activities on our streets and highways periodically require that work zones be established; and

WHEREAS: there has been over 2,000 work zone crashes in Wisconsin in each of the last three years; and

WHEREAS: in 2022, there were 857 fatalities in 774 work zone crashes in the United States; and

WHEREAS: In 2023, Wisconsin suffered from nearly 2,034 crashes in road construction and maintenance zones, resulting in over 666 injuries and 8 fatalities; and

WHEREAS: In 2023, there were 342 crashes reported in Washburn County of which 20 occurred within a Work Zone and resulted in 13 injuries; and

WHEREAS: Through their enforcement activities and other participation, the Washburn County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin State Patrol, and Washburn County Highway Department will work to make Work Zone Safety Awareness Week a success; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Highway Administration has designated April 15 through April 19, 2024 as National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week with this year's theme "Work Zones are temporary. Action behind the wheel can last forever.";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Washburn County Board of Supervisors that the week of April 15 through April 19, 2024 be designated as Work Zone Safety Awareness Week in Washburn County.

Recommended for adoption by the Washburn County Highway and Dam Committee this 18th day of March, 2024 and approved by the Washburn County Board of Supervisors this 19th day of March, 2024.

Highway Committee

Tim Kessler, Chairperson

Hank Graber, Vice-Chair

Sandy Johnson

Clint Stariha

Brian Melton

Resolution # _____

**RESOLUTION TO WAIVE INTEREST AND PENALTY FEES FOR TOWN OF MINONG RESIDENTS
RELATING TO THE 2023 TAX STATEMENT POSTMARK DATE**

WHEREAS, the Town of Minong Clerk/Treasurer identified an issue with the 2023 Tax Statements that were mailed out of the Minong Post Office on December 12, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Minong received a large amount of phone calls from residents inquiring about not receiving their tax statements. Some residents have reported receiving them after the January 31, 2024 deadline with a postmark dated after the deadline; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Minong is requesting that these residents have their interest and penalty fees waived if proof of original envelope with the late postmark date is provided; and,

AND WHEREAS, it was recommended by the Finance Committee to approve waiving the interest and penalty fees for the Town of Minong residents that provide proof of the late postmark, dated after January 31, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washburn County Board of Supervisors supports the waiving of interest and penalty fees for the Town of Minong residents that provide proof of the late postmark, dated after January 31, 2024, by March 28, 2024. Tax payments can be made without interest or penalty fees up until April 28, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT: unknown at this time

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE THIS 7th DAY OF MARCH, 2024
AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THIS 13th DAY OF MARCH, 2024 AND APPROVED BY THE
WASHBURN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THIS 19th DAY OF MARCH, 2024.

Stephen Smith, Chair

Linda Featherly, Vice Chair

Cristina Masterjohn, Member

Scott Roppe, Member

Sandy Johnson, Member

OLD

Resolution # _____

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT UNDER THE REFUGEE ACT OF 1980 (8 U.S.C. 1522) WITHIN WASHBURN COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1522(1)(A)(iii) "local voluntary agency activities should be conducted in close cooperation and advance consultation with State and local governments (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1522(2)(A): "The Director and the Federal agency administering subsection (b)(1), shall consult regularly (not less often than quarterly) with State and local governments and private nonprofit voluntary agencies concerning the sponsorship process and the intended distribution of refugees among the States and localities before their placement in those States and localities" (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1522(2)(B): "The Director shall develop and implement, in consultation with representatives of voluntary agencies and State and local governments, policies and strategies for the placement and resettlement of refugees within the United States" (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1522(2)(C)(ii) that the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement will "provide for a mechanism whereby representatives of local affiliates of voluntary agencies regularly (not less often than quarterly) meet with representatives of State and local governments to plan and coordinate in advance of their arrival the appropriate placement of refugees among the various States and localities, (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the overall quality of life for Washburn County residents will be adversely impaired by excessive demands on local resources by the primary resettlement of refugees in Washburn County, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Washburn County recommends a moratorium on the placement of refugees through primary resettlement until World Relief demonstrates the following: (1) they are in full compliance with the aforementioned federal statutes; (2) an objective independent economic impact study detailing all costs to taxpayers for refugees has been completed and reviewed by the County Board; and (3) Washburn County is informed how the capacity of primary resettlement of refugees is determined and what matrix is being used to determine resettlement allocations. This moratorium allows time for budget considerations necessary for any primary resettlement of refugees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washburn County Clerk provide copies of this resolution to World Relief, the clerks of all municipalities in Washburn County, and all federal, state, and locally elected representatives representing citizens in Washburn County.

Recommended for Approval by the Executive Committee this 14th day of February, 2024 and approved by the Washburn County Board of Supervisors this 20th Day of February 2024.

David Wilson, Chair

Linda Featherly, 1st Vice Chair

Tim Kessler, 2nd Vice Chair

Hank Graber, Member

Lolita Olson, Member

Resolution # _____

**RESOLUTION FOR A MORATORIUM ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT WITHIN
WASHBURN COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1522(1)(A)(iii) "local voluntary agency activities should be conducted in close cooperation and advance consultation with State and local governments (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1522(2)(A): "The Director and the Federal agency administering subsection (b)(1), shall consult regularly (not less often than quarterly) with State and local governments and private nonprofit voluntary agencies concerning the sponsorship process and the intended distribution of refugees among the States and localities before their placement in those States and localities" (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1522 (2)(B): "The Director shall develop and implement, in consultation with representatives of voluntary agencies and State and local governments, policies and strategies for the placement and resettlement of refugees within the United States" (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1522 (2)(C)(ii) that the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement will "provide for a mechanism whereby representatives of local affiliates of voluntary agencies regularly (not less often than quarterly) meet with representatives of State and local governments to plan and coordinate in advance of their arrival the appropriate placement of refugees among the various States and localities, (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the Refugee Act of 1980 states in 8 U.S.C. 1522 (2)(C)(iii)(II) requires "the availability of employment opportunities, affordable housing, and public and private resources (including educational, health care, and mental health services) for refugees in the area" be taken into account before the placement and resettlement of refugees; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Washburn County currently face shortages of employment opportunities, affordable housing, health care services, mental health services, and public transportation in Washburn County; and

WHEREAS, World Relief, a Christian Humanitarian organization, provides intense services for a period of ninety (90) days, and for up to five (5) years to refugees placed and resettled into an area; and

WHEREAS, after the aforementioned period of ninety (90) days that World Relief provides intense services, local government and community partners will be responsible for providing ongoing services to refugees placed and resettled into an area, thus impacting the local government and community partners budgets; and

WHEREAS, Washburn County residents would be adversely impaired by demands on local resources by the primary resettlement of refugees in Washburn County without proper planning; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Washburn County recommends a moratorium on the placement of refugees through primary resettlement until World Relief demonstrates the following: (1) they are in full compliance with the aforementioned federal statutes; (2) an objective independent economic impact study detailing all costs to taxpayers for refugees has been completed and reviewed by the County Board; and (3) Washburn County is informed how the capacity of primary resettlement of refugees is determined and what matrix is being used to determine resettlement allocations. This moratorium allows time for budget considerations necessary for any primary resettlement of refugees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washburn County Clerk provide copies of this resolution to World Relief, the clerks of all municipalities in Washburn County, and all federal, state, and locally elected representatives representing citizens in Washburn County.

Recommended for Approval by the Executive Committee this 14th day of February, 2024 and approved by the Washburn County Board of Supervisors this 19th Day of March 2024.

David Wilson, Chair

Linda Featherly, 1st Vice Chair

Tim Kessler, 2nd Vice Chair

Hank Graber, Member

Lolita Olson, Member