

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 - 9:00 AM

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Clerk Marlowe called the roll with the following members in attendance: Bialecki, Anderson-Malm, McCrank, Zelinski, Ashbeck, Dunphy, Thiel, Vorpapel, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Lyskawa, Bishop, Miller, Lemke, Meunier, Wickham, Dorava, Cummings, and Hartwig **(20)**. Excused: Simon **(1)**. Absent: Woellner **(1)**.

4. Announcements

a. Notice of the Spring Election — April 7, 2026

Chair Boyd announced the upcoming election in April. Clerk Marlowe added nomination signature gathering can begin on December 1st, with a due date of January 6th. Supervisors not intending to run again are reminded to submit a declaration of non-candidacy by the due date of December 26th.

b. Health Department National Re-Accreditation

Chair Boyd announced the health department's reaccreditation, prompting Supervisor Miller (Board of Health Chair) to speak. Miller commended our Director of Public Health, Shelley Hersil, and her team for the accomplishment. Hersil acknowledged the reaccreditation as a major achievement for the department, confirming that it signifies the provision of standard health services and upholding quality standards, and extended her appreciation to her staff and the Board of Health.

c. **"The Heart of Wisconsin Mushing"**, a Discover Mediaworks' Uniquely Wisconsin episode that was produced in partnership with Lincoln County, won the Chicago / Midwest Emmy® Award in the category of "Outstanding Achievement for Nostalgia/Historical — Short and Long Form Content."

Josh Ostermann, from Discover Media Works, was in attendance to present the Emmy award, officially known as the 2024-2025 Chicago Midwest Regional AM Awards Outstanding Achievement for Human Interest and Short Form Content for "The Heart of Wisconsin Mushing". Josh highlighted the three main goals of their campaigns: viewership, approval, and impact. The three stories produced for Lincoln County have generated approximately 400,000 views and 3,200 engagements. The success is further reflected in the 2024 economic impact report from the Department of Tourism, showing that Lincoln County's direct visitor spend increased by 4.1%, outpacing the state average of 3.5%, demonstrating a \$7 million increase in visitor spending over the last two years. Chair Boyd expressed his gratitude for the collaboration and acknowledged the county board's difficult, yet successful, decisions regarding the community investment.

5. Recess to Public Hearing

M/S Thiel/Bialecki to recess to the 2026 Budget Hearing. The motion to recess was carried by a voice vote. The board recessed the meeting to begin the 2026 Lincoln County Budget Hearing at **9:17am**.

a. 2026 Lincoln County Budget Hearing Notice

b. 2026 Budget Book Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PsEFtUwZEdy6IHrl8hs5eFd1r20WfXGR/view?usp=sharing>

6. Reconvene to Regular Meeting

M/S Bialecki/DePasse to reconvene to the regular meeting. The motion to recess was carried by a voice vote. The board reconvened at **9:26am**.

7. Appointments

a. Appointment of Laurie Thiel to the North Central Community Services Program Board (NCCSP)

Term: January 1, 2026–December 31, 2028

M/S Thiel/McCrank to approve the appointment. Motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

b. Appointment of Jessi Rumsey to the North Central Community Services Program Board (NCCSP) Term:

January 1, 2026–December 31, 2028

M/S Thiel/McCrank to approve the appointment. Motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

8. Awards - None

9. Recognitions - None

10. Approval of the Minutes

a. October 21, 2025, County Board Meeting

M/S DePasse/Zelinski to approve the September 16 Minutes. **M/S Cummings/DePasse to amend the October Minutes** to reflect the correct meeting minute's date of the minutes approved at the October Meeting and to record the correct motion and second approving those minutes. Corrections are as follows:

a. September 19 16, 2025, County Board Special Meeting

M/S Cummings/Lyskawa Dunphy/Bialecki to approve the ~~July 23~~ September 16, 2025 County Board Meeting Minutes. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

~~**b. September 19, 2025, County Board Meeting**~~

~~M/S Detert/Dorava to approve the August 19 County Board Meeting Minutes. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.~~

Motion to amend the October Minutes was carried by a voice vote. The original **motion** to approve also carried by a voice with the approved amendments.

11. Letters and Memorials - None

12. Reports of Standing & Special Committees

a. Finance & Insurance Committee: 2025 Year-to-Date Budget Report – Finance Director (Heather Marheine)

Marheine presented the October 2025 expenditure budget reporting that YTD the county is at 91.4% of the overall budget. She then fielded questions from the floor. The report will remain on the record.

b. Ad Hoc Facilities Committee: Presentation on Lincoln County Ad Hoc Facilities 2025 Comprehensive Plan — Administrative Coordinator (Renee Krueger)

Krueger presented the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee's 2025 Comprehensive Plan explaining the plan heavily relied on previous studies and information from committees like Public Property and Highway, and addressed key areas including facility needs, usage, consolidation, and shared resources. Krueger continued by citing highway department needs, funding strategies, the need for architectural design work and the costs associated, the highway facilities project scope and funding, project timelines, and the possibility of having grant funding available. Krueger touched on the service center renovations plan explaining each of the three phases. Phase three includes our courthouse security considerations. Many concerns were expressed from the floor. Krueger recommended the continuation of the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee in hopes of maintaining a unified approach, transparency, and accountability for the multiple projects underway. The comprehensive plan will remain as part of the record and is available in the county clerk's office.

13. Public Comment

There were no comments offered.

14. Resolutions

a. Res 2025-11-68 Approving the 2026 Budget and Providing for Tax Levy

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Finance and Insurance Committee, after careful review, does hereby present the 2026 budget recommended for adoption;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors that the 2026 budget be adopted as presented (per the summary Budget Report submitted);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following sums of money be raised for the ensuing year:

Health \$604,543.00, **Veterans Relief** \$4,900.00, **Libraries** \$731,895.00, **EMS Service** \$1,242,949.00,

Debt Service \$1,821,682.00, **Town Culvert Aid** \$83,000.00, **State Special Charges** \$0.00

Other County Taxes \$12,725,994.00, **TOTAL COUNTY TAXES** \$17,214,963.00

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk shall enter in the Tax Apportionment as authorized legal taxes against the respective districts to the County.

Dated: November 12, 2025. **Authored by:** Julie DePasse (District 12 Supervisor) **Co-Sponsored by:** Norbert

Ashbeck (District 6 Supervisor)

Committee: Finance & Insurance

Committee Vote: Carried by a voice vote

Date Passed: October 31, 2025

Fiscal Impact: \$17,214,963.00

Drafted by: Heather Marheine, Finance

Director

M/S Cummings/DePasse to approve Resolution 2025-11-68. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

b. Res 2025-11-69 Ordering the County Clerk to Issue Tax Deeds of the 2022 Sale

WHEREAS, sec 3.19, Lincoln County Code (Lincoln County Policy for Screening of Tax Delinquent Property for Possible Acquisition) requires the Property Evaluation Team inspect tax delinquent properties and report to the Finance & Insurance Committee its' recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Finance & Insurance Committee has approved the issuance of tax deeds for parcels (as reflected on the attachment hereto) whose owner has not paid the delinquent taxes as of 11/12/2025 or whose owner does not now/hereafter comply with their County Clerk Payment Agreement terms; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, subject to the above payment provisions, that the County Clerk be and is hereby ordered to issue tax deeds from the tax delinquent properties itemized on the attachment hereto on the unredeemed tax certificates of the 2022 sale and also those of prior years, which have not been deeded to Lincoln County, pursuant to sec. 75.14, Wis. Stats., excepting that no tax deed will be issued for any description upon which the county already holds a good tax deed.

Dated: November 12, 2025. **Authored by:** Angie Cummings (District 20 Supervisor) **Co-Sponsored by:** Eugene

Simon (District 21 Supervisor)

Committee: Finance & Insurance Committee

Committee Vote: Carried by a

voice vote

Date Passed: October 31, 2025

Fiscal Impact: (\$50,433.87) (With potential recovery from county

land sale) **Drafted by:** Chris Marlowe, County Clerk

M/S Cummings/Dunphy to approve Resolution 2025-11-69. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

c. Res 2025-11-70 Amendment to Resolution 2025-07-32 Resolution to Form an AD HOC Board Rules Committee under Lincoln County Ordinance 2.07(7)

WHEREAS, Lincoln County has established General Rules of the Board under Lincoln County Ordinance 2.05; and **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) has provided recent guidance and encouragement for all counties to review their board rules; and

WHEREAS, there is expressed interest by board supervisors to strengthen our board governance through clarification and expansion of local rules.

WHEREAS, the AD HOC Board Rules Committee discovered during review and comparison of Lincoln County Ordinance 2.05 and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) template that the two documents are fundamentally different in format and organization and specificity of content and reconciliation of information from the WCA template to only Ordinance 2.05 would not achieve the intent of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the AD HOC Board Rules Committee believes there would be great benefit to the County Board and the public for the committee to review all of Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances contrasted to the WCA template and provide recommendations that will promote more orderly and efficient rules of governance for the County Board and all county-related bodies; and

WHEREAS, the AD HOC Board Rules Committee requests the deadline for completing the review and submitting recommendations be extended to ~~December 2025~~**February 2026** to allow for the increase in scope and complexity of the committee's assignment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors does create an AD HOC Rules Committee for the purpose of developing recommendation to the County Board pursuant to Lincoln County Code Section 2.07(7). The scope and duties of the committee shall be as follows: 1) Review the current Chapter 2 of the Lincoln County Code of Ordinances; 2) Review the template as provided by WCA and 3) Provide recommendations to Lincoln County Board of Supervisors for consideration for amendment to Lincoln County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board Rules Committee will meet at the call of the chair after the April 2025 County Board meeting, will provide monthly updates to the County Board thereafter and will conclude its business no later than the ~~December 2025~~**February 2026** County Board meeting. The committee will consist of 5 board members through an election process. The County Clerk, Corporation Counsel, and the department heads shall be ex officio (non-voting) members and shall attend and participate on an as needed basis as determined by the Committee Chair. The Committee Chair will be voted on by the committee. Any expenses of the Board Rules Committee will be paid from the County Board budget.

Dated: November 12, 2025 **Authored by:** Angela Cummings, Supervisor, District 20

Co-Sponsored by: Kenneth L. Wickham, Supervisor, District 18 **Committee:** AD HOC Board Rules Committee

Committee Vote: Carried by a Voice Vote **Date Passed:** October 29, 2025 **Fiscal Impact:** As expensed by supervisors' attendance **Drafted by:** Kenneth L. Wickham, Supervisor, District 18

M/S Dunphy/Detert to approve Resolution 2025-11-70. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

d. Res 2025-11-71 Approving the Priority Projects for Pine Crest Nursing Home and Health and Human Services Building Sale Proceeds

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approved the remaining funds from the Pine Crest Nursing Home and Health and Human Services Building Sale cover expenses related to the building, remodeling or maintenance of the County's buildings and infrastructure and all interest generated (Resolution 2025-09-48); and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the resolution included that the Ad Hoc Facilities and the Public Property Committees shall prepare and submit to the county board, no later than the December 2025 Board Meeting, a proposed priority listing of capital improvement projects for which these funds should be used; and

WHEREAS, the funds from the proceeds need to be expensed by 08.01.2027; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee has prepared a comprehensive plan and recommends the funds to be prioritized as follows until exhausted and may be adjusted based on project timelines or other funding availability:

- Architectural Design for the Service Center (base cost \$40,165 + additional expenses).
- Service Center Roof (\$310,000).
- Proceed with Phase 1 & Phase 2 of the Lincoln County Ad Hoc Facilities Comprehensive Plan 2025, moving services from the Health and Human Services Building to the Service Center, which include building offices and conference room modifications on the first floor and ground floor.
- Jail Roof Replacement (\$350,000) and Jail Boiler Replacement (\$210,000)
- Proceed with Phase 3 of the Lincoln County Ad Hoc Facilities Comprehensive Plan 2025, relocating the Forestry Department and making renovations for additional water labs and drug testing bathrooms to accommodate the Health Department moving to the Service Center.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recognizes the above proposal as part of a comprehensive plan for Lincoln County facilities and accepts the proposed use of the proceeds from the Sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home and Health and Human Services Building as outlined.

Dated: November 12, 2025 **Authored by:** Greg Hartwig, Supervisor, District 22 **Co-Sponsored by:** Norbert Ashbeck, Supervisor, District 6 **Committee:** Ad Hoc Facilities **Committee Vote:** Carried by a Voice Vote

Date Passed: 10.30.2025 **Committee:** Public Property **Committee Vote:** Carried by a Voice Vote

Date Passed: 11.12.2025 **Fiscal Impact:** \$1.8 million (proceeds to be used on capital improvements prior to (08/01/27) **Drafted by:** Renee Krueger, Administrative Coordinator

M/S Detert/Dorava to approve Resolution 2025-11-71. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

e. Res 2015-11-72 Supporting Highway Facilities Architectural and Engineering Design Services and Construction Management Services

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Board of Supervisors created the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee (Resolution 2025-02-02) for the purpose of developing recommendations to the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the scope and duties of the committee were to 1) review the existing facilities structural needs 2) review the existing facilities usage 3) review possible consolidation and/or shared resource opportunities and 4) provide recommendations to the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors for consideration, detailing areas for Lincoln County's overall position concerning long term facility planning; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee was able to provide a comprehensive plan with recommendations for long term planning that identified significant needs with the Highway Facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that building new facilities will require general obligation debt bonding and the least impact to taxpayers would be to time the expiration of that bond which expires October 1, 2028 with the issuance of a new bond to fund the highway facilities; and

WHEREAS, prior to the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors adopting the comprehensive plan preliminary Architectural and Engineering design services and construction management services for a main site in Merrill and a secondary site in Tomahawk would need to be completed to get an estimated project cost; and

WHEREAS, since 2023, the Highway Department has been allocating a percentage of equipment rates to be used for future building projects and could cover the design services and construction management services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors supports seeking funds from the Highway Committee to proceed with contracting services to complete the Architectural and Engineering design services and construction management services for a main site in Merrill and a secondary site in Tomahawk.

Dated: November 12, 2025 **Authored by:** Greg Hartwig, Supervisor, District 22 **Co-Sponsored by:** Marty Lemke, Supervisor, District 15 **Committee:** Ad Hoc Facilities **Committee Vote:** Carried by a Voice Vote

Date Passed: 10.30.2025 **Drafted by:** Renee Krueger, Administrative Coordinator

Fiscal Impact: Estimated \$179,112 for Architectural and Engineering Design Services; Estimated Construction Management Services pending RFP

M/S Bialecki/McCrank to approve Resolution 2025-11-72. Discussion occurred and concerns were raised. Enough members felt it was pertinent to have the highway committee's support prior to the resolution's passage by the county board. **M/S Detert/Wickham to postpone Resolution 2025-11-72 to a date certain, December 16, 2025.** The motion to postpone carried by a roll call vote as follows: **Ayes:** Anderson-Malm, Zelinski, Dunphy, Thiel, Vorpapel, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Lyskawa, Bishop, Miller, Meunier, Wickham, Dorava, Cummings, and Hartwig **(16) Nays:** Bialecki, McCrank, Ashbeck, and Lemke **(4) (16-4).**

f. Res 2025-11-73 Approve the Appointment of the County Forestry Administrator

WHEREAS, the Forestry, Land and Parks Committee designated a hiring team who advertised for candidates and interviewed finalists for the County Forestry Administrator position; and

WHEREAS, the Forestry, Land and Parks Committee, based upon the recommendation from the designated hiring team, recommends the appointment of Lucas Williams as the Lincoln County Forest Administrator.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 12th day of November, 2025, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approves the appointment of Lucas Williams as Lincoln County Forest Administrator effective December 15th, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appointee will be placed at Step 5, Grade M (\$82,305) of the 2025 pay scale.

Dated: November 12, 2025 **Authored by:** Greg Hartwig, Supervisor, District 22 **Co-Sponsored by:** Norbert Ashbeck, Supervisor, District 6 **Committee:** Forestry, Land and Parks **Committee Vote:** Carried by a Voice Vote

Date Passed: 11.10.25 **Fiscal Impact:** \$82,305 + fringe **Drafted by:** Renee Krueger

M/S Hartwig/Wickham to approve Resolution 2025-11-73. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

15. **Ordinances - None**

16. **Reports Of Claims - None**

17. Approval for Mileage and Per Diem for Board Meeting

M/S Bialecki/Dorava to approve mileage and per diem for today's meeting. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

18. Next County Board Meeting Date and Location

a. Tuesday December 16, 2025 at 6:00pm. Meeting Location: Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N Sales Street, 2nd Floor Assembly Conference Room, Merrill, WI 54452

19. Adjourn

Chair Boyd adjourned the meeting at **11:05am**

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

) SS

COUNTY OF LINCOLN)

I, Christopher J Marlowe, County Clerk in and for said Lincoln County, Wisconsin do hereby certify the within and foregoing is a true and accurate recital of all proceedings by and before the Board of Supervisors at their regular November meeting held on Wednesday **November 12, 2025.**

Christopher J Marlowe, County Clerk