

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – 6:00PM

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** Chair Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
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, Lyskawa, Bishop, Miller, Lemke, Meunier, Wickham, Dorava, Cummings, Simon, and Hartwig (20). Excused: DePasse. Absent: Woellner (2).
4. **Announcements - None**
5. **Appointments**
 - a. Appointment of Monte Lamer as an alternate position for the Board of Adjustment (term expiring 06-30-2028)
M/S Lemke/Ashbeck to approve the appointment. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.
 - b. Appointment of the 2026 Lincoln County Fire Wardens
 - 1) James Charles - Kracker Barrell, N11790 County Road L., Tomahawk, WI 54887
 - 2) Robert Kressell - North States Tool and Cutter, N5333 Hwy 17, Gleason 54435
 - 3) Mike Grunenwald - Beacon Bar, N1297 Fairview Road, Merrill, WI 54452M/S Dunphy/Detert to approve the above appointments. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.
6. **Awards - None**
7. **Recognitions** – Chair Boyd Congratulated and commended the following for their years of service.
 - a. 10 Year Service: Vicky Rice, Health Department
 - b. Retirement: 40 years of Service - Kris Reichelt (2/1986–2/2026) Highway Department
 - c. Retirement: 9 years of Service - Michael Tuley (1/2017-2/2026) Sheriff Office
8. **Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. **January 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
M/S Cummings/Lemke to approve the January 20, 2026 Minutes as written. Motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.
 - b. **January 12, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting**
M/S Bialecki/Dorava to approve the January 12, 2026 Committee of the Whole Minutes as written. M/S Thiel/Vorpapel to amend the minutes to reflect the following roll call: Bialecki, Anderson-Malm, McCrank, ~~Zelinski (V)~~, Ashbeck, Dunphy, ~~Vorpapel~~, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Lyskawa, Lemke, Wickham, Dorava, Simon, and Hartwig (14). Excused: Woellner, Zelinski, Thiel, Vorpapel, Bishop, Miller, ~~and~~ Meunier, and Cummings (8). Motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.
9. **Letters and Memorials**
 - a. Public Service Commission - American Transmission Company's application for construction of a new power line in Lincoln County.
A discussion was held regarding the new transmission line being proposed. Concerns were expressed that the lines might be placed on privately held properties along the Wisconsin River near Merrill, potentially leading to an eminent domain issue.
10. **Reports of Standing & Special Committees**
 - a. **Finance & Insurance Committee: January YTD Budget Report Budget** — Heather Marheine, Finance Director.
Marheine presented the January expense report from the Finance and Insurance Committee, noting that it was very early in the budget period. No specific concerns or questions were raised about the year-to-date budget report.

b. Ad Hoc Rules Committee: Document Draft and Expected Timeline — Angela Cummings, Ad Hoc Rules Committee Chair

Cummings reported that the committee had met 17 times to incorporate Lincoln County Chapter 2 into the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) proposed template, resulting in three documents for review: a summary of changes, the new chapter two, and an appendix. The board is asked to review these documents before the next county board meeting when a vote will be held to pass the new rules. They also discussed ensuring candidates for the next county board election are advised of and receive a copy of the proposed rules changes.

11. **Public Comment** – Scott Wheeler was granted three minutes to present a request for a letter of support for their project to honor the 70th anniversary of the Lawrence Welk Show's national debut. Wheeler noted the show's relevance due to its long run, its connection to genres like polka, which is rooted in our immigration history, and Wisconsin natives who were part of the cast. The end goal is to encourage Congress to approve a symbolic resolution recognizing the show's positive contributions to American culture, and they are not requesting any money.

12. Resolutions

a. Res 2029-02-06 Resolution Accepting Donation for Community Health Improvement Plan

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Health Department and Aspirus Health are required by state and federal law to complete regular Community Health Assessments and corresponding Community Health Improvement Plans to identify and address key health priorities within Lincoln County; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes Chapters 250 and 251, and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter DHS 140.04, require local health departments to complete a Community Health Assessment and Plan every five years; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(r)(3), requires non-profit hospitals such as Aspirus Health to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment and implementation strategy every three years; and

WHEREAS, Aspirus Health has demonstrated continued community leadership by providing funding and support for health priorities identified in both the Lincoln County Community Health Improvement Plan and the Aspirus Health Community Health Plan, including support for the Healthy Minds of Lincoln County Coalition and the Lincoln County Healthy Lifestyles Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the following donation has been requested to offset the costs to implement the following Mental Health Prevention and Healthy Lifestyle strategies in 2026:

Mental Health

- **Suicide Prevention:** Increase awareness of the 988 Lifeline, provide trainings, and distribute gunlocks.
 - **Poverty & Mental Health:** Host Poverty Simulation Events to educate community partners on the mental health impacts of poverty.
 - **Social Connection:** Engage the public in community challenges to promote mental health through social connection.
 - **Parent/Caregiver Support:** Offer programs to enhance awareness, coping skills, and emotional well-being for families.
 - **Resource Awareness:** Distribute guides on local mental health and substance use services, including crisis support to build awareness and improve navigation.
- Healthy Lifestyles
- **Healthy Eating Engagement:** Promote healthy eating and lifestyle benefits through community challenges and interactive activities.
 - **Resource Awareness:** Distribute local nutrition resource guides to increase community access to healthy options.
 - **Nutrition Education:** Offer healthy snack education and taste-testing at community events to encourage better dietary choices
 - **Community Input:** Conduct focus groups to capture lived experiences and inform CHIP initiatives.
 - **Resource Awareness:** Distribute local transportation resources to increase community access and navigation to transportation options.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors accept the \$12,900 from Aspirus Health, Inc.

M/S Miller/Dunphy to approve Resolution 2026-02-06. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

b. Res 2026-02-07 Resolution Accepting \$4,500 State Opioid Response Funding

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Health Department, as lead agency facilitator and collaborator for the Opioid Task Force, continues to provide leadership to the implementation plan for the use of the Opioid Settlement dollars that will support the Lincoln County residents to combat the current opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Health Department is eligible to receive up to \$4,500 from the State Opioid Response Funding from the Northwoods Coalition to implement the following prevention project:

- **Drug Security and Disposal** – Provide drug deactivation units, drug lock boxes and drug lock bags to the community;
- NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approve the acceptance of the State Opioid Response Funding of \$4,500.

M/S Cummings/Zelinski to approve Resolution 2026-02-07. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

c. Res 2026-02-08 NexGen 911 GIS Grant Program - Wis. Stats. 256.35 (3s) (br)

WHEREAS, Lincoln County recognizes it must migrate its current Addressing workflows, GIS Tools, and GIS Geodatabases to meet NexGen 911 standards; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County recognizes that GIS Addressing data is the basis for 911 Dispatching Applications used by Sheriff, Police, Fire, Ambulance, and First Responders; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County recognizes that GIS Addressing data is the basis for other programs essential to the County such as Voting, Permitting, and a requirement for acquisition for services to a property; and

WHEREAS, Section 59.52(19) Wis. Stats. empowers the County Board to accept donations, gifts, or grants of money for any public governmental purpose within the powers of the County; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County's Land Information Officer will apply for GIS Grant funding, NexGen GIS Grant Program - Wis. Stats. [256.35 \(3s\) \(br\)](#) when applications are available, for the Lincoln County Land Information Office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors authorizes application and acceptance for NexGen GIS Grant Program funding- Wis. Stats. [256.35 \(3s\) \(br\)](#)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Land Information Program Manager is authorized to execute the agreement between Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) under Department of Military Affairs and Lincoln County, subject to oversight by the Land Services Committee.

M/S Bialecki/Simon to approve Resolution 2026-02-08. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

d. Res 2026-02-09 SETTING ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS (Clerk of Courts, Sheriff, Coroner) January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2030.

WHEREAS, pursuant to sec. 59.22 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, the County Board must establish the total annual compensation to be paid to county elected officials (other than supervisors and circuit judges) prior to the earliest time of filling nomination papers for the county elective office; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish the total annual compensation for the county elected officials, which is separate and distinct from the fringe benefits offered by the County to elected officials, and which fringe benefits are subject to increase or decrease during the officer's term at the discretion of the Board and in accordance with state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, for each month served, \$150 is contributed to the post employment health plan (PEHP) of each county elected official; and

WHEREAS, as part of the County's fringe benefit programs, county elected officials may participate in fringe benefits in accordance with state law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the total annual compensation for county elected officials of Clerk of Courts, Sheriff, and Coroner under sec. 59.22(1) Wis. Stats, shall be as follows, effective on the first day of the term of office that begins after the date of this resolution:

ELECTED OFFICE	2027	2028	2029	2030
Clerk of Courts	\$75,777.66	\$78,050.99	\$80,392.52	\$82,804.29
Sheriff	\$98,424.89	\$101,377.64	\$104,418.97	\$107,551.54
Coroner (1040 hours)	\$33,143.90	\$34,138.21	\$35,162.36	\$36,217.

This compensation shall be in lieu of any fee for service or any other payments of any kind, with the exception of standard reimbursement of business expenses set forth in the Lincoln County Personnel Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as and for fringe benefits, the aforementioned county elected officials are entitled to (a) participate in Wisconsin Retirement System in accordance with law and the County shall pay only its share of the contributions required by law; and (b) are eligible to participate in the County's health insurance program subject to the terms and conditions of the program, which may be modified from time to time, under the same terms and conditions as the plan and coverage offered to non-represented managerial county employees who are not law enforcement managerial employees or no-represented managerial employees described in sec. 111.70(1)(mm2) Wis. Stat.

M/S Hartwig/McCrank to approve Resolution 2026-02-09. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

13. Ordinances

a. Ord 2026-02-792 An Ordinance Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 3 – Finance and Taxation

The County Board of Supervisors of Lincoln County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain that Chapter 3, Section 3.25, be amended as indicated in the attachment.

3.25 CORONER; FEES. (Cr. #2007-09-513; Am. #2012-02-582; #2024-05-762)

Except in situations involving indigents, ~~\$103~~ **105** shall be collected for the issuance of a cremation permit in accordance with §59.36, Wis. Stats.; ~~\$77~~ **79** as the fee for signing death certificates; ~~\$77~~ **79** for issuing a disinterment and reinterment permit pursuant to §69.18, Wis. Stats.; \$45 for any body bag provided by the Coroner office; **and a fee of \$25 per day for refrigerated storage of a body exceeding 48 hours, pursuant to Wis. Stats. §59.36.** The Finance Department shall bill the appropriate funeral home or responsible party directly for these fees.

M/S Miller/Thiel to approve Ordinance 2026-02-792. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

b. Ord 2026-02-793 An Ordinance Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 25 – Construction and Effect of Ordinances

The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Lincoln, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

That Chapter 25, Section 25.04(d), be amended to add penalty provisions for the newly enacted Lincoln County Ordinances 9.06 and 9.07, and to remove penalty provisions for Section 9.02 which ordinance was previously repealed, as reflected in the attachment (Pages 1-7).

Shown below are only the changes:

First Offense										Second Offense							
Ord. No.	Offense	Deposit	CC	PA	JA	CLDA	CSF	JIF	Total	Deposit	CC	PA	JA	CLDA	CSF	JIF	Total
5.03	E911 Misuse (WS 256.35(10)(a), (b))	See Bond Book								See Bond Book							
6.10	Obstructing Emergency Government	150.00	25.00	39.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	326.50	300.00	25.00	78.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	515.50
7.03	Rules of Road (WS 110, 340—350, 30.50—30.77,	See Bond Book								See Bond Book							
9.943.13	Trespass to Land	50.00	25.00	13.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	200.50	75.00	25.00	19.50	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	232.00
9.943.24	Issuance of Worthless	100.00	25.00	26.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	263.50	150.00	25.00	39.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	326.50
9.946.41	Resisting or Obstructing	100.00	25.00	26.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	263.50	150.00	25.00	39.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	326.50
9.947.01	Disorderly Conduct	150.00	25.00	39.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	326.50	250.00	25.00	65.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	452.50
9.01	Regulating Use/Display of Lights at Night	10.00	25.00	2.60	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	150.10	20.00	25.00	5.20	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	162.70
9.02	Possession of Firearms in Public	50.00	25.00	13.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	200.50	100.00	25.00	26.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	263.50
9.03	Alcohol Beverage Offenses	See Bond Book								See Bond Book							
9.04	Smoking - County Property	10.00	25.00	2.60	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	150.10	10.00	25.00	2.60	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	150.10
9.05	Truancy/Contributing	50.00	25.00	13.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	200.50	150.00 within 12 month	25.00	39.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	326.50
9.06	Possession of Marijuana	150.00	25.00	39.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	326.50	300.00	25.00	78.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	515.50
		100.00		26.00					263.50	150.00		39.00					326.50

9.07	Possession of Drug	450.00	25.00	39.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	326.50	300.00	25.00	78.00	10.00	13.00	68.00	21.50	545.50
	Paraphernalia	100.00		26.00					263.50	150.00		39.00					326.50

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting.

M/S Dunphy/Anderson-Malm to approve Ordinance 2026-02-793. **M/S Lyskawa/Wickham** to amend the Schedule of Cash Deposit by adjusting the first offense deposit to \$100.00, the second offense deposit to \$150.00, and to adjust the appropriate figures that would be affected by this change including the total forfeitures. Without objection to approving as amended the original motion to approve Ordinance 2026-02-793 was carried by a voice vote.

14. Report of Claims – None

15. Approval of Mileage and Per Diem for Board Meeting

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

16. Next County Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 2026, 6:00pm. Meeting Location: Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N Sales Street, Room 257, Merrill, WI 54452

17. Adjourn Chair Boyd announced that Al Bishop would be excused for the April Meeting noting that this would be his last meeting. Boyd thanked Bishop for his service and then adjourned the meeting, without objection, at **6:43pm**

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 February meeting held on Tuesday **February 17, 2026.**

Christopher J Marlowe, County Clerk