

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tuesday, March 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 (V), McCrank, Zelinski, Ashbeck, Dunphy, Thiel, Vorpapel, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Lyskawa, Lemke, Meunier, Wickham, Dorava, Cummings, Simon, and Hartwig (V) **(19)**. Excused: Bishop and Miller **(2)**. Absent: Woellner **(1)**.
4. **Announcements - None**
5. **Appointments - None**
6. **Awards - None**
7. **Recognitions**
 - a. **25 Year Service:** Shelley Cohrs, Health Department. Chair Boyd congratulated and thanked Shelley Cohrs for her service to our community, specifically commending her tenure.
8. **Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. **February 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
M/S Meunier/Dorava to approve the February 17, 2026 Minutes as written. Motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.
9. **Letters and Memorials - None**
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. No specific concerns or questions were raised about the year-to-date budget report.
11. **Public Comment** – Josh Oxborrow offered comment and opinion on Item 12(b) Resolution 2026-03-11.
12. **Resolutions**
 - a. **Res 2026-03-10 Adoption of Public Participation Plan for Farmland Preservation Planning Purposes**
WHEREAS, State statute 91.10(1) requires Lincoln County to prepare and adopt a Farmland Preservation Plan; and
WHEREAS, State statute 91.10(3) requires the creation of a Public Participation Plan for Farmland Preservation Planning purposes; and
WHEREAS, it is necessary for the County Board of Supervisors to approve a plan to involve the public in the planning process; and
WHEREAS, public participation is critical for the development of a sound plan; and
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors does approve and authorize the Public Participation Plan as presented.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Land Services Department shall execute the Public Participation Plan in cooperation with the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
M/S Wickham/DePasse to approve Resolution 2026-03-10. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.
 - b. **Res 2026-03-11 Res 2026-03-11 Requesting Wisconsin Counties Association Lobby State Legislature and Governor on Legislation for Greater Local Control for WI Counties (Wind/Solar Projects).**

WHEREAS, local governments in Wisconsin are closest to the people they serve and are best positioned to understand and address the unique needs, priorities, and challenges of their communities; and,

WHEREAS, public meetings and hearings held by local units of government allow for significantly more opportunity for public input than meetings and hearings held by the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin, in Madison; and

WHEREAS, preserving local control is essential to maintaining accountability, transparency, and public trust in government, as well as ensuring that decisions reflect local values and conditions; and,

WHEREAS, statewide, one size fits all regulations do not always appropriately address the issues and needs of every Wisconsin community; and,

WHEREAS, a series of mandates and other agency actions have continuously shifted powers from the local to the state level; and,

WHEREAS, the geographic, environmental, and demographic diversity across Wisconsin counties necessitates localized approaches to governance that reflect each county's unique characteristics; and,

WHEREAS, state legislators have been making attempts to return local control to cities, villages and towns over large scale wind, and solar projects in several bills; and

WHEREAS, such attempts should also be applied to counties and county boards who are democratically elected bodies that directly represent the interests and values of their constituents; and

WHEREAS, significant negative impacts on environmental habitats, public health, road infrastructure, and property values and taxes due to large-scale wind and solar projects in those areas where they exist are well established and documented; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County's Vision Statement states "the Lincoln County Board will preserve our unique characteristics and resources that make Lincoln County an exceptional place to live, work, and play; we will work together, holding ourselves and each other accountable, to weave the fabric of community and provide opportunity to our citizens.": and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County's Strategic Plan directs the county board to take action to be the Healthiest, Safest, and most Prosperous county in the state; and

WHEREAS, large scale wind, and solar projects approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin that disregard local control do not meet our Vision Statement, nor our Comprehensive and Strategic Plans.

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Wisconsin Towns Association, all local and state legislators who represent citizens across Lincoln County, the Governor, and all county boards in Wisconsin for consideration, support, and action.~~

~~**WHEREAS**, large-scale wind and solar projects approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin that disregard local control do not meet our Vision Statement, nor our Comprehensive and Strategic Plans.~~

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors hereby requests the Wisconsin Counties Association consider this issue and/or adopt this resolution and lobby the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor to support any and all efforts and legislation that would give local elected bodies greater control in regulating large scale wind, and solar, projects to in the best interest of their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Wisconsin Towns Association, all local and state legislators who represent citizens across Lincoln County, the Governor, and all county boards in Wisconsin for consideration, support, and action.

M/S Wickham/DePasse to approve Resolution 2026-03-11. **M/S** Wickham/Cummings to amend the resolution by moving the final WHEREAS paragraph to the top of page two and the BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED paragraph to the last paragraph position. The motion to amend was carried by a voice vote. **M/S** McCrank/Vorpapel to amend the resolution by changing the word ~~control~~ to input and by adding data center projects to the resolution. **M/S** Wickham/Vorpapel to split the question by addressing the word control first and then the inclusion of data center projects. Prior to voting on McCrank's motion, the following motion was seconded and debate could not occur. **M/S** Simon/Dunphy to lay over the resolution, to the next session, so the new board can take this up when more information is available on the intent of this resolution. The Motion to lay over the resolution was approved by a voice vote.

c. Res 2026-03-12 Resolution Supporting a Sustainable Transportation Funding Model

WHEREAS, local units of government in Wisconsin own and maintain approximately 90% of the public road miles in the state, including county highways, town roads, and city and village streets; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's economy—rooted in agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism—relies on a safe, reliable, and well-maintained transportation network; and

WHEREAS, local governments greatly appreciate the one-time infusions of General Purpose Revenue, primarily sales and income taxes, and other revenue provided in recent state budgets, which have enabled the initiation and continuation of the successful and popular Local Roads Improvement Program Supplemental (LRIP-S) and Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP); and

WHEREAS, despite modest increases from the state over the years, transportation aids to local governments remain insufficient to keep pace with inflation and rising construction costs, leaving many communities funded below 2000 levels in real dollars; and

WHEREAS, local governments throughout Wisconsin continue to struggle to perform even routine maintenance, pavement preservation, and safety improvements, resulting in deteriorating roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, the inaugural inventory and assessment of small bridges between 6 to 20 feet found about 10% of the nearly 17,000 structures to be in poor or severe condition; and

WHEREAS, levy limits and other fiscal constraints prevent local governments from independently filling the funding gap created by inadequate state transportation aids; and

WHEREAS, absent sustainable state funding, many communities have been forced to address their shortfalls by significantly increasing borrowing, deferring essential projects, or imposing local vehicle registration ("wheel") taxes; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin motorists currently pay among the lowest transportation user fees in the Midwest, while neighboring states and dozens of others nationwide have enacted long-term revenue measures to keep their transportation systems competitive; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is increasingly relying on General Purpose Revenues to make needed investments, potentially pitting transportation against other vital services, such as education; and

WHEREAS, continued lack of growing, dedicated, and predictable revenue places Wisconsin at a growing economic disadvantage by threatening the efficiency of freight movement, the safety of travelers, and the attractiveness of our state to businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, both Wisconsin's aging Interstate highway system—largely constructed in the 1950s and 1960s—and our extensive network of state and local roads require predictable, adequate, and sustainable funding to meet current and future needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Governor of Wisconsin and the State Legislature to enact a comprehensive, sustainable transportation funding solution that:

1. Provides adequate and reliable revenue growth for the efficient long-term planning and execution of state and local transportation programs;

2. Includes responsible and prudent use of General Purpose Revenue and bonding;

3. Adjusts any new and existing transportation user fees and other revenue mechanisms to sustain purchasing power in order to maintain and improve Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure; and

4. Ensures transportation continues to deliver for Wisconsin by adequately funding reconstruction, preservation, and safety investments on the state and local systems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor's office, all members of the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly representing districts within Lincoln County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

M/S Detert/Vorpapel to approve Resolution 2026-03-12. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

d. Res 2026-03-13 Resolution Accepting Donation from Tomahawk Community Thrift Shop.

WHEREAS, the Annual Community Baby Shower in Tomahawk is an established public health outreach event designed to support pregnant individuals and families with young children by promoting maternal and child health and connecting participants to essential community resources and preventive services; and

WHEREAS, the event addresses social determinants of health by reducing barriers to care, increasing access to health education, and supporting healthy pregnancy and early childhood development outcomes; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Tomahawk Community Thrift Shop Grant will be used to offset costs associated with the purchase and distribution of care packages for participating families, supporting preventive health efforts and strengthening community-based support systems;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approves the acceptance of \$650 from the Tomahawk Community Thrift Shop Grant to support the Annual Community Baby Shower in Tomahawk.

M/S DePasse/Zelinski to approve Resolution 2026-03-13. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

e. Res 2026-03-14 Resolution Establishing "The Bierman Family Foundation Inc." as a Local Grant Resource and Setting Parameter for Applications

WHEREAS, the Bierman Family Foundation Inc. is a private local philanthropic organization established in 1990 by Jane and Carl Bierman; and

WHEREAS, the Bierman Family Foundation Inc. (hereinafter "the Foundation") supports local education, public safety and disaster management, community infrastructure projects, and human services; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation's principal purpose is to support charitable organizations and causes in the Merrill, WI and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation operates as a private foundation and typically does not accept unsolicited grant applications, but has an formal process in place to screen potential projects and provide an application for projects that may qualify; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation has historically generously supported one-time County projects that improved life safety measures and community amenities; and

WHEREAS, under Wisconsin State Statute §59.52(19), Wisconsin county boards of supervisors are expressly authorized to accept gifts, grants, and donations for public governmental purposes. These donations must be accepted by the county board itself, rather than by individual departments; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Ordinance 1.05, Receipt of Gifts and Gratuities, states: RESTRICTED. No County employee or official shall receive or offer to receive, either directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity or other thing of value which he is not authorized to receive from any person who: (a) Has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with the County or County Board. (b) Conducts operations or activities, which are regulated by the County or County Board. (c) Has interests which may be substantially affected by the County or County Board; and,

WHEREAS, Lincoln County departments seek funding through various local, state, and federal grants as routine efforts to offset the tax burden for mandated services; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation is another grant resource for one-time expenses that are not otherwise able to be funded through tax levy appropriations, and the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recognizes the valuation contributions that the Foundation provides to Lincoln County communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Department Heads will pre-screen potential projects with the Board Chair and Administrative Coordinator who will determine authorization for the Department Head to take necessary steps to seek funding with final approval of the full Lincoln County Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that individual Lincoln County Board Supervisors will not independently solicit funding through the Bierman Family Foundation Inc., will not apply for funding to cover critical operational expenses and will instead work collectively with Department Heads to seek funding that supports the principal purpose of the Foundation.

M/S Cummings/Dunphy to approve Resolution 2026-03-14. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

f. Res 2026-03-15 Resolution Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of "The Lawrence Welk Show"

WHEREAS, July 2nd, 2025 marked the beginning of the 70th Anniversary of the national debut of "The Lawrence Welk Show" on television; a show which aimed at family friendly variety in acts and music which spanned numerous genres such as Country, Jazz, Pop, Polka, and Patriotic; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Welk, a native of Strasburg, North Dakota took to the national stage values and love for music that started like crops in North Dakota soil and the harvest benefited generations of Americans during times of war and peace, prosperity and difficulty allowing an opportunity for Americans across regions and backgrounds to come together for an hour for a common shared experience; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Welk and Myron Floren were each the sons of Midwestern farmers, and as first generation Americans with sincere gratitude and love of country, took advantage of the opportunities America offers and in so

doing have made it a better place through sharing their gifts. The success stories of Lawrence Welk and Myron Floren are among the examples of how far Americans from anywhere in America can go with hard work and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin made important contributions to Lawrence Welk's career on his pre-show rise, two members of the show were born and raised in Wisconsin "The Lawrence Welk Show" is still aired regularly across America in a number of states decades after its last episode; and

WHEREAS, his aim at family friendly entertainment is an example of a worthy goal in any generation as is the idea of bringing together quality from the past and present.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, We, the Lincoln County, Wisconsin Board of Supervisors do hereby extend a heartfelt congratulations on the 70th Anniversary of "The Lawrence Welk Show's national debut, as we celebrate our country's 250 year history, we proudly support Scott Wheeler's efforts in Wisconsin and nationwide to keep his legacy alive for future generations to enjoy, including raising awareness of the 70th Anniversary, the positive contributions to American culture of Lawrence Welk, Myron Floren, and the cast and staff of "The Lawrence Welk Show" who made positive contributions, including the goal of congressional (House and Senate) resolutions to this effect..

M/S Bialecki/Vorpapel to approve Resolution 2026-03-15. **M/S** McCrank/DePasse to postpone the question. The motion to postpone was defeated by a voice vote. The original motion to approve the resolution was carried by a roll call vote as follows: **Ayes:** Bialecki, Anderson-Malm, Zelinski, Ashbeck, Vorpapel, Boyd, Detert, Lyskawa, Lemke, Meunier, Wickham, Cummings, and Hartwig **(13)** **Nays:** McCrank, Dunphy, Thiel, DePasse, Dorava, and Simon **(6)**.

g. Res 2026-03-16 Ratification, Alteration, Modification, Extension, or Repeal of Declaration of Local State of Emergency

WHEREAS; on March 15, 2026, Lincoln County Board of Supervisors' Chair, Jesse Boyd, declared that a local state of emergency exists throughout Lincoln County, due to an actual and ongoing blizzard and winter storm emergency; and

WHEREAS; the Declaration of Local State of Emergency was made upon the recommendation of the Director of Emergency Management based on verified information provided through county departments and partner agencies; and

WHEREAS; the declaration recites that blizzard-like conditions, hazardous travel, reduced visibility, drifting snow, possible impassable roads, threats to life safety and public safety, potential utility disruption, and strain on countywide emergency coordination created emergency conditions requiring immediate action; and

WHEREAS; due to emergency conditions existing on March 15, 2026, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors was unable to meet promptly, and pursuant to Lincoln County Ordinance 6.07(1)(b)2 and Wis. Stat. §323.14(4)(b)2, the Chair was authorized to issue a proclamation declaring a local state of emergency, subject to subsequent ratification by the County Board; and

WHEREAS; pursuant to Lincoln County Ordinance 6.07(1)(b)2 and Wis. Stat. §323.14(4)(b)2, such proclamation is subject to ratification, alteration, modification, extension, or repeal by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors as soon as the body can meet, and subsequent action by the Board does not affect the prior validity of the proclamation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors, that the Declaration of Local State of Emergency issued on March 15, 2026, by Lincoln County Board of Supervisors' Chair, Jesse Boyd, is hereby ratified and confirmed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the March 15, 2026 Declaration of Local State of Emergency shall remain in effect through the response and recovery phase, but in no event shall such period exceed 60 days, in accordance with Wis. Stat. §323.14(4)(b)2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken pursuant to the March 15, 2026 Declaration of Local State of Emergency are hereby ratified and confirmed, and that this Resolution shall not affect the prior validity of the proclamation.

M/S DePasse/Wickham to approve Resolution 2026-03-16. **M/S** Wickham/Zelinski to amend to include the following final paragraph: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors Chair will submit a declaration terminating the state of emergency at the conclusion of the response and recovery phase. The motion to amend was approved by a voice vote. The original motion to approve was carried as amended by a voice vote.

13. Ordinances

a. Ordinance 2026-03-794 -Rezoning as a Result of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Rezoning Petition

by ERGO Development LLC (Keith Gehrke) for Property in the Town of Russell

The County Board of Supervisors of Lincoln County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain:

Chapter 17.1.12, Lincoln County Code and the Planned Land Use Map of the Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan shall be amended to change the planned land use category for a property located in Section 31, T32N-R7E, in the Town of Merrill, tax pin# 01432073139991, from Rural/Environmental (Rural Lands) to Non-Residential (Crossroads Mixed Use).

AND

Chapter 17.2.03, Lincoln County Code, is amended such that a property located in Section 31, T32N-R7E, in the Town of Merrill, tax pin# 01432073139991, will be rezoned from Rural Lands (RL4) to Crossroads Mixed Use (CMU).

Any areas designated as Wetlands on the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory Map will not be rezoned to upland.

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting.

M/S McCrank/Bialecki to approve Ordinance 2026-03-794. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

b. Ordinance 2026-03-795 Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 1-General Government to create Section 1.07 Hours of Business

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

That Chapter 1, Section 1.07, be created as indicated in the attachment.

1.07 HOURS OF BUSINESS.

(1) **PURPOSE.** Section 1.07 is intended to establish a uniform policy governing the hours of business for Lincoln County government facilities to ensure optimum public access to services.

(2) **DEFINITIONS.** In this Section 1.07:

(a) "Facilities" means all structures, real property, buildings, and offices owned, operated or leased by the County of Lincoln.

(b) "Legal holidays" means the days designated to observe the following: New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve Day.

(c) "Offices" means all buildings which are open to the public and where a particular kind of business is transacted or a service is supplied, such as a place in which the functions of a public office are performed, a major administrative unit of government is located, or a subdivision of some government departments is located.

(3) HOURS OF BUSINESS.

(a) All Lincoln County facilities, inclusive of elective and appointive offices, agencies and departments, shall be open for business to the general public during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week with the express exceptions of legal holidays or as authorized otherwise in Section 1.07(3)(b) through (e).

(b) The following facilities shall have the hours of business hereunder specified with the express exceptions of legal holidays and as authorized in Sections 1.07(c) through (e) unless otherwise noted:

1. The Lincoln County Highway Department hours of business shall be from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday of each week.
2. Solid Waste facility hours of business shall be as designated by the committee having oversight jurisdiction for those activities.
3. The Lincoln County Coroner shall establish hours of business for the public for activities under the Coroner's jurisdiction.
4. The Lincoln County Sheriff shall set hours of visitation for the Lincoln County Jail to include legal holidays.
5. Facilities, such as maintenance shops and garages that do not provide services to the general public are excluded from the requirement to be continually accessible to the general public during hours of business.
6. Hours of operation, including legal holidays, for Lincoln County campgrounds, parks, beaches, and other recreation facilities or locations shall be as designated by Lincoln County ordinance or the committee having oversight jurisdiction for those activities, as applicable.

(c) The respective oversight committee may temporarily modify hours of business for departments and facilities under the jurisdiction of the committee for special occasions such as staff training, facility construction, special observances or similar circumstances.

(d) The Administrative and Legislative Committee shall promulgate written authority and procedures for modifying hours of business or closing facilities or offices for periods not to exceed three (3) consecutive business days

in response to emergencies such as severe weather, natural or man-made disasters, electrical or utility outages, or other threats to life and safety.

(e) For any emergency for which closure may be warranted pursuant to the authority and procedures identified under sub. (3)(d) herein, the County Board must authorize all periods of closure or modification to hours of business that would extend beyond three (3) consecutive business days.

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting.

M/S DePasse/Lyskawa to approve Ordinance 2026-03-795. After discussion and debate, **M/S** McCrank/Dunphy to postpone the ordinance to a date specific, June Board meeting. The motion to postpone was defeated by a voice vote. The original motion to approve was carried by a voice vote. After the ordinance was approved there was question to when it would take effect. **M/S** DePasse/Dorava that the hours of operation would take effect on the following day (March 18, 2026). The motion was approved by a voice vote.

c. Ord 2026-03-796 An Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Chapter 2 of the General Code of the County of Lincoln and Creating Section 2A-Appendix.

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

That Chapter 2 (General Government) be repealed and recreated in its entirety as Chapter 2 (Rules of Board) with the recreated text as indicated in the attachment.

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting.

M/S DePasse/Dorava to approve Ordinance 2026-03-796. **M/S** Dunphy/McCrank to amend Section 2.20 of the proposed Chapter Two to read: The ~~Board Chair~~ Corporation Counsel shall serve as parliamentarian for all meetings of the County Board. The proposed amendment to 2.20 was defeated by a roll call vote as follows: **Ayes:** McCrank, Dunphy, and Vorpapel (3). **Nays:** Bialecki, Anderson-Malm, Zelinski, Ashbeck, Thiel, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Lyskawa, Lemke, Meunier, Wickham, Dorava, Cummings, Simon, and Hartwig (16). **M/S** Cummings/Lemke to amend the proposed Chapter Two to include the following changes: **Sec. 2.02(2)(a)1:** ~~Be sworn in by the County Clerk~~, **Sec. 2.02(2)(c)1:** ~~1. The month of December, the County Board shall meet on the second Tuesday of the month.~~ (2) The months of February and August when a Primary Election is being held, the County Board shall meet the Monday preceding the third Tuesday of the month., **Sec. 2.06(3)(d):** In the event a vacancy on an Appointive Committee that occurs, **Sec. 2.07(1):** the ~~County Clerk and Board Chair~~ applicable Department Head(s), **Sec. 2.07(2):** (2) The ~~County Clerk~~ applicable Department Head(s), **Sec. 2.07(6):** Committee Chair and applicable Department Head(s) no later than, **Sec. 2.07(7):** The ~~County Clerk~~ agenda and meeting packet shall be distributed ~~shall distribute the agenda and meeting packet to all Committee Members~~, **Sec. 2.09(2):** any Committee to appoint a ~~secretary designee~~, **Sec. 2.16(g):** Section 1.05 (~~Gifts and Gratuities~~) 1.06 (Election Administration Donations, Gifts, and Integrity) and Section, 1.05 NEED TO UPDATE AFTER CORPORATION COUNSEL DRAFTS NEW CHAPTER 1 1.08 (Policy Statement). ~~on conduct for all Lincoln County officials and employees~~), **Sec. 2.26(2)(b):** Add this sentence: A commenter is entitled to speak during each segment when a public hearing is conducted in conjunction with a Board or Committee meeting., and **Sec. 2.28(1):** suspended during a meeting in progress by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present provided any such suspension. The motion to amend the proposed Chapter Two to include the above changes was approved by a voice vote. **M/S** McCrank/Ashbeck to amend the proposed chapter two to include the following changes: **Sec. 2.26(2)(a):** (a) Any person who wishes to address the County Board during the "Public Comment" portion of the agenda must sign in and provide their name ~~and the item they wish to address from the agenda prior to the meeting being called to order.~~ **Sec. 2.26(2)(c):** ~~(c) All comments must be germane to an item on the meeting agenda.~~ The **Motion to amend Section 2.26 was defeated** by a roll call vote as follows: **Ayes:** McCrank, Ashbeck, Dunphy, Vorpapel, and Wickham (5). **Nays:** Bialecki, Anderson-Malm, Zelinski, Thiel, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Lyskawa, Lemke, Meunier, Dorava, Cummings, Simon, and Hartwig (14). **M/S** Wickham/Lemke to amend Appendix 2-A by including the following changes to the Appendix: **Strike the entire Section 2A.01 (2) including (a),(b),and (c):** (2) SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE., **Re-number Sec. 2A.01(3)(2)**, **Sec. 2A.02(2)(c)(7):** 7. Have jurisdiction over all tax title property, ~~as well as all County-owned property, with the exclusion of any lands administered by other County committees.~~ Maintenance of such properties shall be as outlined at Property, **Sec. 2A.02(5)(a):** (1) citizen member who is the ~~chairperson (or the chairperson's designee) of the county farm service agency committee~~ a person engaged in an agricultural use as defined under §91.01(2)(a)1-7. ~~The farm service agency agricultural use designee, and~~ **The addition of Sec. 2A.02 (6)(c)(2):** 2. Have jurisdiction over all County-owned property except tax title property which falls under the jurisdiction of the Forestry, Land and Parks Committee. The motion to amend Appendix 2-A was approved by a voice vote. **The**

original motion to approve Ordinance 2026-03-796 was carried, with amendments to the proposed Chapter Two – Rules of the Board and to Appendix 2-A Committees, Other Boards, and Commissions, by a roll call vote: Ayes: Bialecki, Anderson-Malm, McCrank, Zelinski, Ashbeck, Dunphy, Thiel, Vorpapel, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Lyskawa, Lemke, Meunier, Wickham, Dorava, Cummings, Simon, and Hartwig (19). Nays: (0).

*Chapter Two Rules of the Board and Appendix 2-A Committees, Boards, and Commissions, in their entirety and as amended, are included in the final pages of the minutes.

d. Ordinance 2026-03-797 Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 1- General Government that Chapter 1, Section 1.28 be created by renumbering and amending proposed Ordinance Section 2A.01(02) (former Ordinance 2.08(2)) to rename the Social Service Committee to the Social Services Board and to correct internal statutory citations, as indicated in the attachment.

(2) SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD COMMITTEE.

- (a) Membership. This ~~Committee Board~~ shall consist of five (5) supervisors. It shall be organized under the provisions of §46.22(1m) ~~(1)(m)~~, Wis. Stats.
- (b) Oversight. The ~~Committee Board~~ shall act as the policy and oversight ~~committee board~~ of the Social Services Department, Child Support and UW-Extension.
- (c) Responsibilities. This ~~Committee Board~~ shall:
 - 1. Assume the duties and responsibilities as described in §46.22(2) ~~(1)(b)~~, Wis. Stats.
 - 2. Appoint the director for the Social Services Department.

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting

M/S Dorava/Meunier to approve Ordinance 2026-03-797. M/S McCrank/Wickham to amend the proposed changes to include the striking of ~~committee~~ and addition of board in all references to the Social Services Committee. The motion to amend was approved by a voice vote. The motion to approve the ordinance was carried by a voice vote.

e. Ordinance 2026-03-798 Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 1 — General Government, Section 1.18 (Citizen Appointment to Committees) be amended as indicated in the attachment.

Chair Boyd explained that this resolution should not have come straight to the board and should be presented at the next A&L Meeting. M/S Simon/Bialecki to send Ordinance 2026-03-798 back to the A&L Committee. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

f. Ordinance 2026-03-799 Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 1- General Government that Chapter 2, Section 2.13 (Legal Representation) be renumbered as Section 1.14 (Corporation Counsel) and amended as indicated in the attachment.

2.13 LEGAL REPRESENTATION. 1.14 CORPORATION COUNSEL. (Cr. #2005-08-454)

- (1) ~~[CORPORATION COUNCIL TO PROVIDE.]~~ Subject to the exceptions set forth below, the Corporation Counsel shall provide legal advice and representation to the County Board, its committees, boards, commissions, departments, and staff pursuant to §1.14 of this Code and §59.42, Wis. Stats.
- (a) Emergency or Conflict of Interest. In the event of an emergency, a conflict of interest or an appearance of a conflict of interest which may require the retainer of outside legal counsel, the chairperson of the County Board, the chairperson of the Finance Committee and the chairperson of the committee of jurisdiction, or in the absence of any chairperson, the vice-chairperson, shall immediately meet with the Corporation Counsel, ~~or in his/her absence, the Assistant Corporation Counsel,~~ to determine whether an emergency exists requiring the immediate retainer of independent legal counsel. If such a determination is made, the County Board Chair is authorized to make such retainer. The Chair shall thereafter inform the members of the County Board in writing. The retainer shall remain in effect until it is reviewed and approved at the next meeting of the County Board.
- (b) Interest/Grievance Mediation and Arbitration. After consulting with the ~~Personnel~~ Administrative and Legislative Committee and the Corporation Counsel, ~~or in his/her absence, the Assistant Corporation Counsel,~~ the Administrative Coordinator may retain independent legal counsel to assist in collective bargaining under §§111.70 and 111.77, Wis. Stats., and in workers compensation and employment discrimination matters.

- (c) Budgeted Amounts. The Administrative Coordinator and Corporation Counsel will be allowed to consult with outside legal counsel on County related issues subject to budgeted amounts and shall report the activity to their respective oversight committee.
- (d) Board of Adjustment. The Corporation Counsel shall represent the Board of Adjustment except when there is a conflict of interest resulting from his/her representation of the County in a matter before the Board. In such event, the Board of Adjustment may retain independent legal counsel upon approval of the Finance Committee.
- (2) RETAINING AN ATTORNEY. The County Board may retain an attorney to perform the duties of the Corporation Counsel as the need arises pursuant to §59.42(3), Wis. Stats. In the event a determination is made under subsection (1) above to retain outside legal counsel, consideration shall be given to the availability of qualified counsel approved by the County's insurance carrier through any existing legal expense coverage endorsement to the County's liability policy.

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting

M/S Cummings/Lyskawa to approve Ordinance 2026-03-799. **M/S Cummings/DePasse** to amend the proposed ordinance changes to include the following change: **2.13(1) (a)**: Strike the words: ~~or in his/her absence, the Assistant Corporation Counsel~~. The motion to amend was carried by a voice vote. The motion to approve Ordinance 2026-03-799 was also carried by a voice vote.

g. Ord 2026-03-800 An Ordinance Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 3 (Finance and Taxation), Section 3.01 to include Dog Claims being renumbered from Section 2.10(2).

3.01 CLAIMS PROCEDURE.

~~See §2.10 of this Code of Ordinances.~~

- (1) COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS. See Sections 2.08 and 3.02 of this Code of Ordinances.
- (2) DOG CLAIMS. Dog claims shall be audited and approved by the Finance and Insurance Committee.

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting

M/S Simon/Zelinski to approve Ordinance 2026-03-800. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

h. Ord 2026-03-801 An Ordinance Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 3 (Finance and Taxation), Section 3.02.

3.02 MILEAGE AND PER DIEM. (Am. #291-96)

- (1) COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS. ~~See §2.10(1) of this Code of Ordinances.~~
 - (a) Per Diem. County Board Supervisors shall be paid a per diem in accordance with §2.08(1) of this Code of Ordinances.
 - (b) Mileage. County Board Supervisors shall be reimbursed mileage at the current IRS rate, taking into account the provisions of §2.08(1)(c) of this Code of Ordinances.
- (2) COUNTY HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE. Citizen members of the County Highway Traffic Safety Committee shall receive the same per diem payments as provided for County Board Supervisors in ~~§2.10(1)~~ 2.08(1) of this Code of Ordinances.
- (3) TOWNSHIP TREASURERS. Township Treasurers shall receive the same mileage reimbursement as provided for County Board Supervisors in ~~§2.10(1) subsection (1)(b) of this Ordinance.~~ ~~of this Code of Ordinances.~~
- (4) COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASS. (Cr. #2012-05-588; Am. #2023-05-739) In addition to mileage reimbursement, County Board of Canvass members shall receive \$35 for each day up to 4 hours; \$70 for each day up to 8 hours; or \$105 for each day over 8 hours, for conducting the Board of Canvass and/or the Recount process.
- (5) JURORS. (Cr. #300-97; Am. #317-98; #2005-12-462) Jurors shall receive \$15 per one-half day and \$27 per full day of service. Mileage reimbursement shall be paid in accordance with §756.25(1), Wis. Stats.
- (6) WITNESS FEES. (Cr. #300-97) Witnesses eligible for statutory fees shall be reimbursed for mileage at a rate of 22¢ per mile.
- (7) COMMISSIONER OF CONDEMNATION. (Cr. #2014-05-607) Consistent with §32.08, Wis. Stats., duly appointed commissioners of condemnation shall be paid an hourly rate of \$15.00/hour for time spent in hearings of the commission. The chairperson of the commission is entitled to pay at the hourly rate, approved by the circuit judge having jurisdiction over the hearing, for his/her administrative work in selecting and notifying the commissioners to serve in the condemnation hearing. All commissioners are entitled to mileage at the IRS rate.

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting

M/S Lemke/Dorava to approve Ordinance 2026-03-801. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.

i. Ord 2026-03-802 An Ordinance Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 1 (General Government), Renumbering Section 2.11 as Section 1.08 and Renumbering Section 2.14 as Section 1.03

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

That the following Sections in Chapter 2 be Renumbered and inserted in Chapter 1 as follows:

- Section 2.11 (Policy Statement) Renumbered to Section 1.08 (Policy Statement)
- Section 2.14 (Election Administration – Donations, Gifts and Integrity) Renumbered to Section 1.06
- (Election Administration – Donations, Gifts and Integrity)

No text changes are being made/proposed as a part of the renumbering of these Ordinance sections.

This ordinance shall take effect following its passage and posting.

~~2.11~~ 1.08 POLICY STATEMENT. (Am. #350-2000)

The members of the County Board recognizing their responsibilities to the people, desiring to inspire public confidence and respect for government and believing that honesty, integrity, loyalty, justice and courtesy form the basis of ethical conduct, hereby proclaim that all officials and employees of the County shall ~~adhere~~ adhere to the following standards:

- (1) The words "official" or "employee" and any variation thereof shall include any person elected or appointed to, employed or retained by any public office or public body of the municipality, whether paid or unpaid, part-time or full-time.
- (2) Officials and employees shall recognize that policy decisions are the responsibility of the peoples' elected representative and that identification and communication of technical and administrative alternatives and recommendations as a basis for decision making, and the efficient and effective implementation of adopted policy are the responsibility of professional and administrative officials.
- (3) Officials and employees recognize that government service is a public trust and imposes responsibilities to conserve public resources, funds and materials. Therefore, no official or employee shall request, use or permit the use of County-owned vehicles, equipment, materials or property for other than their authorized purposes.
- (4) No official or employee shall engage in supplemental employment, business or professional activity which would tend to impair the efficiency of his/her services; or while employed by the County shall become involved in work which normally comes before the County for review or consideration except as provided by ordinance or resolution.
- (5) No official or employee shall, without proper legal authorization, disclose confidential information concerning the property, government or affairs of the County, nor shall he/she use such information to advance the financial or private interest of himself/herself or others.
- (6) No official or employee shall accept any gift, favor or other consideration that may reasonably tend to influence him/her in the discharge of his/her duties or grant in the discharge of his/her duties any assistance, service or other consideration not accorded to all others similarly situated.
- (7) Any official or employee who has a financial or personal interest in any proposed legislative action of the County Board and who gives an official opinion or recommendation to the County Board shall disclose in the records of the Board the nature and extent of such interest.
- (8) Every official and employee shall put public interest above individual, group or special interests and shall consider his/her position an opportunity to serve his/her community.

~~2.14~~ 1.06 ELECTION ADMINISTRATION: DONATIONS, GRANTS AND INTEGRITY. (Cr. #2022-07-723)

- (1) **PURPOSE.** Voters need to be able to trust their elected officials are acting in a non-partisan capacity and not under the influence of private resources that may impact how an election is administered.
- (2) **DONATIONS.** No donation shall be accepted from any person or nongovernmental entity for the purpose of elections administration, including but not limited to, collection of ballots or voter registration.

- (3) **GRANTS.** No grant shall be accepted from any person or nongovernmental entity for the purpose of elections administration, including but not limited to, collection of ballots or voter registration.
- (4) **INTEGRITY.** Election officials are prohibited from soliciting or using private funds, technology or services from special interest groups, people or private entities for the purpose of administering elections and referendums.

M/S Thiel/Meunier to approve Ordinance 2026-03-802. **M/S McCrank/DePasse** to amend the first sentence in ~~2-11~~ **1.08 POLICY STATEMENT** as follows: The members of the County Board recognizing their responsibilities to the people, desiring to inspire public confidence and respect for government and believing that honesty, integrity, loyalty, justice and courtesy form the basis of ethical conduct, hereby proclaim that all officials and employees of the County shall ~~ascribe~~ adhere to the following standards:. The motion to amend the ordinance was approved by a voice vote. The motion to approve Ordinance 2026-03-80 was then carried, as amended, by a voice vote.

j. Ord 2026-03-803 An Ordinance Amending the General Code of the County of Lincoln Chapter 1 (General Government) - Section 1.18

Chair Boyd clarified that this agenda item is a duplicate of item number 13(e) – Ordinance 2026-03-798. Boyd then, without objection asked for **unanimous consent to strike Agenda Item 13(j).** The Number 803 will be reserved for our next ordinance.

14. Report of Claims – None

15. Approval of Mileage and Per Diem for Board Meeting

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

16. Next County Board Meeting: 2026-2028 Organizational Meeting – 9:00am on Tuesday, April 17, 2026. Meeting Location: Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N Sales Street, Room 255/258 (Assembly Conference).

17. Adjourn – Prior to adjourning Chair Boyd thanked the board for the opportunity to be their chair and thanked the outgoing members for their service. Boyd then adjourned the meeting at **8:30pm**

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

Christopher J Marlowe, County Clerk