

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – 6:00PM

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** – Chair Friske called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call** – Deputy Clerk Hurley called the roll with the following members in attendance: Bialecki, Doerr, McCrank, Pergolski (V), Zelinski, Ashbeck, Dunphy, Thiel, Friske, Boyd, Detert, DePasse, Bishop, Lyskawa, Lemke, Miller, Nelson, Tomaszewski, Dorava, Cummings, Simon, and Hartwig **(22)**.
4. **Announcements** - None
5. **Appointments** - None
6. **Awards** - None
7. **Recognitions** - None
8. **Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. **July 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

M/S Bialecki/Dorava to approve the July 21, 2026 Minutes as written. The motion to approve was carried by a voice vote.
9. **Letters and Memorials** - None
10. **Reports of Standing & Special Committees**
 - a. **Finance & Insurance Committee:** Lincoln County Year-to-Date Budget (Committee Chair, Julie DePasse)

Supervisor DePasse had nothing outstanding to report then fielded questions. DePasse clarified the Non-Departmental Revenue line and why it is at 300% of what was budgeted, stating that this account is used as a temporary revenue account. DePasse further explained that much of this revenue is then allocated to the appropriate accounts at the end of the budget year.
11. **Public Comment** – No public comment was offered.
12. **Resolutions**
 - a. **Res 2026-08-42 Enrollment of PIN 02634071319999 into County Forest Law**

WHEREAS, Lincoln County has acquired the parcel identified as PIN 02634071319999 through a land exchange; and
WHEREAS, the parcel is entirely surrounded by Lincoln County Forest and is appropriate for long-term forest management; and
WHEREAS, the Forestry, Land and Parks Committee has reviewed the parcel and determined that it meets the criteria for inclusion in the Lincoln County Forest under County Forest Law; and
WHEREAS, enrollment will ensure the parcel is managed in accordance with the Lincoln County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021–2035 and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources County Forest Program; and
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors authorizes enrolling PIN 02634071319999 into County Forest Law.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forestry, Land and Parks Department is directed to complete all required documentation and filings with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the County Clerk to finalize enrollment, including attaching the legal description of the parcel as Exhibit A.

M/S Cummings/Nelson to approve Resolution 2026-08-42. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.
 - b. **Res 2026-08-43 Application for Sustainable Forestry Grant for Forest Road Improvements**

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department manages forest roads needed for timber access and forest operations; and

WHEREAS, an existing forest access road off Armstrong Creek Road in the Town of Tomahawk has deteriorated and no longer provides reliable access for forest management activities; and

WHEREAS, these conditions limit the County's ability to complete planned harvests and conduct routine forest management; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will improve drainage and road structure consistent with Wisconsin Best Management Practices; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Forestry Grant Program provides financial assistance for eligible forest management and infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the project meets program eligibility and supports the Lincoln County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approves submitting an application to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for a Sustainable Forestry Grant to improve an existing forest access road off Armstrong Creek Road in the Town of Tomahawk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sustainable Forestry Grant Program does not require a county match, and eligible project costs will be reimbursed in accordance with program requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department is authorized to submit all required materials and administer the grant if awarded.

M/S Nelson/Zelinski to approve Resolution 2026-08-43. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.

c. Res 2026-08-44 Conveyance of Real Estate

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 18th day of August, 2026 that the following conveyance of real estate be made by the County Clerk on behalf of Lincoln County, be and same are hereby ratified, confirmed, and approved:

<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Psalm 23 Family Trust	The Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SW1/4 SE1/4), Section Five (5), Township Thirty-three (33) North, Range Seven (7) East, Town of Birch, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. EXCEPTING lands conveyed in Volume 138 of Deeds, Page 313 as Document 136485. (Vacant Land- Chase Hill Drive) P.I.N. 00233070549995 - 2 acres	\$22,364.00
B & M Solutions	Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), Four (4), Five (5), Six (6) of Block Ten (10) of the Mathews & Cotters Addition to the City of Merrill, Lincoln County, Wisconsin. (Vacant Land, S. Foster Street) P.I.N. 25131061510072	\$ 36,000.00
Shannon Peterson	A parcel of land located in and described as being the South .875 acres of the North half (N ½) of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼ SW ¼) of Section Thirty-Five (35), Township Thirty-Two (32) North, Range Six (6) East, Town of Merrill, Lincoln, County, Wisconsin. (Vacant Land – Champagne Drive) P.I.N. 01432063539996 - 0.875 acres	\$ 1,500.00
The Tom and Becky Hofacker Family Trust	The following described property located in Government Lot Five (5), Section Sixteen(16), Township Thirty-three (33) North, Range Six (6) East, Town of Rock Falls, Lincoln County, Wisconsin; Commencing at the intersection of the West line of said Section 16 with the North line of State Trunk Highway 107; thence East along the North line of State Trunk Highway 107, 662 feet to an iron stake, the place of beginning; thence North 26° West 331.3 feet to an iron stake on the shore of the Wisconsin River (this line is the same line as the East line of Lot Five (5) of the unrecorded plat of Bushar's Pine Garden Lots); thence Northeasterly in a straight line along the high water mark of the Wisconsin River 100 feet to an iron stake; thence South 26° East to an iron stake located on the North line of state Trunk Highway 107; thence Westerly along the North line of State Trunk Highway 107, 100 feet to the place of	\$197,650.00

beginning. Excepting any and all matters relating to flooding or flowage. Said land being in the Town of Rock Falls, Lincoln County, Wisconsin.
(N6315 State Road 107, Tomahawk)
P.I.N. 01833061639983 – 0.75 acres

Joshua M. Muenchow

\$ 46,001.00

A one acre parcel of land situated in the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4 NE1/4), Section One (1), Township Thirty-two (32) North, Range Seven (7) East, Town of Schley, Lincoln County, Wisconsin, described as follows: Commencing at the Corner Stone of the Northeast Corner of the NE1/4 NE1/4. Section 1, as above described and thence running South 16 Rods; thence West 10 Rods; thence North 16 Rods; thence East 10 Rods to the place of beginning.
(N4895 Prairie Drive, Gleason, Wisconsin, 54435)
P.I.N. 02232070119998- 1 acre

ADT Holdings, LLC

\$ 160,010.00

The Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4 NE1/4), Section Twenty-seven (27), Township Thirty-five (35) North, Range Six (6) East, City of Tomahawk, Lincoln County, Wisconsin.
(900 County Road A, Tomahawk)
P.I.N. 28635062710001 - 40 acres

M/S Cummings/Bialecki to approve Resolution 2026-08-44. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.

d. Res 2026-08-45 Resolution Accepting FY2025 Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG) Reimbursement Funding

WHEREAS; the Lincoln County Emergency Management Department is responsible for coordinating the County's efforts to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS; the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides Emergency Management Performance Grant funding to assist state, local, and tribal governments in building and sustaining comprehensive emergency management capabilities; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin Emergency Management administers this funding within the State of Wisconsin and establishes annual performance requirements for participating jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS; during the January 1 through December 31, 2025 performance period, Lincoln County Emergency Management completed the required planning, training, exercise, public outreach, and intergovernmental coordination activities within Lincoln County and in collaboration with local, regional, and state partners; and

WHEREAS; this work included maintaining and updating county emergency plans, establishing preparedness priorities, advancing emergency management training and exercises, educating the public, and strengthening coordination with government officials and whole-community partners; and

WHEREAS; these activities enhanced Lincoln County's operational readiness, public information capabilities, intergovernmental coordination, and overall capacity to protect residents, visitors, property, and critical infrastructure during emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS; following completion of the FY2025 performance requirements, Wisconsin Emergency Management issued Lincoln County a final reimbursement payment of \$33,955.79 on July 20, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors hereby accepts the final FY2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant reimbursement of \$33,955.79 from Wisconsin Emergency Management on behalf of the Lincoln County Emergency Management Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the appropriate County officials are authorized to receive, deposit, and account for the reimbursement in accordance with applicable federal, state, and County requirements; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED; that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recognizes the work performed by Lincoln County Emergency Management and its partners to fulfill the FY2025 program requirements and strengthen emergency preparedness throughout Lincoln County.

M/S Dunphy/McCrank to approve Resolution 2026-08-45. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.

e. Res 2026-08-46 Resolution Accepting FY2025 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Grant Reimbursement Funding

WHEREAS; the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of emergency planning and the ongoing support of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents; and **WHEREAS;** Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), a division of the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, provides Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Planning Grant funding to county emergency management programs for LEPC administration, hazardous materials planning, community preparedness, and public outreach; and

WHEREAS; during the FY2025 performance period of January 1 through December 31, 2025, Lincoln County Emergency Management maintained LEPC operations and records, managed Tier II and planning-facility information, supported public access to EPCRA information, and maintained required compliance documentation and by-laws; and

WHEREAS; Lincoln County Emergency Management annually revised the Countywide Hazardous Materials Strategic Plan and completed eleven (11) active planning-facility off-site plans, exceeding the required target of ten (10) plans and ensuring responders have current facility and hazard information; and

WHEREAS; Lincoln County Emergency Management completed required EPCRA outreach initiatives through brochure distribution, a National Preparedness Month campaign, and publication of a Community Right-to-Know article to increase public awareness, access, and transparency; and

WHEREAS; EPCRA grant funds reimbursed eligible personnel costs necessary to sustain these planning, coordination, compliance, and outreach activities, and WEM approved Lincoln County's final program report following completion of all required work products and performance measures; and

WHEREAS; WEM issued Lincoln County Emergency Management a final reimbursement payment of \$7,982.12, with no de-obligation, and confirmed that all grant conditions were met; and

WHEREAS; these activities fulfill responsibilities established under 42 U.S.C. Chapter 116 and Wisconsin Statutes §59.54(8)(a), §323.60, and §323.61 while strengthening hazardous materials preparedness, public right-to-know, and coordinated emergency response throughout Lincoln County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors hereby formally accepts and directs the receipt and deposit of \$7,982.12 from Wisconsin Emergency Management as final reimbursement for Lincoln County Emergency Management's successful completion of the FY2025 EPCRA Planning Grant requirements.

M/S Thiel/Bishop to approve Resolution 2026-08-46. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.

f. Res 2026-08-47 Resolution Accepting 2025 Computer and Hazardous Materials Response Equipment Grant (CHREG) Redistribution Funding

WHEREAS; Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), through the Department of Military Affairs, administers the Computer and Hazardous Materials Response Equipment Grant (CHREG) pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes § 323.60 and § 323.61 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter WEM 5; and

WHEREAS; CHREG supplements local funding for authorized computer equipment supporting county emergency management programs and hazardous materials response equipment used to maintain or increase local capability to respond to hazardous substance releases; and

WHEREAS; during the 2025 grant period, Lincoln County Emergency Management and the Local Emergency Planning Committee completed the approved project by purchasing authorized equipment to support the County's emergency management program and strengthen hazardous materials response capability; and

WHEREAS; Lincoln County documented its eligible expenditures and required twenty percent (20%) local contribution and submitted the final program and fiscal reports, invoices, proof of payment, and reimbursement documentation required by WEM; and

WHEREAS; after verifying the completed activities and expenses, WEM issued Lincoln County an initial closeout reimbursement of \$5,220.36, with no de-obligation, as the final award payment under the County's 2025 CHREG award; and

WHEREAS; WEM subsequently redistributed unused 2025 CHREG allocations and issued Lincoln County an additional reimbursement of \$350.22 based on the County's eligible expenses, increasing total reimbursement for the completed project to \$5,570.58; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors hereby accepts and authorizes the deposit of the additional \$350.22 in 2025 Computer and Hazardous Materials Response Equipment Grant redistribution funding from Wisconsin Emergency Management on behalf of the Lincoln County Emergency Management Department, bringing total 2025 CHREG reimbursement revenue to \$5,570.58.

M/S Ashbeck/Hartwig to approve Resolution 2026-08-47. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.

g. Res 2026-08-48 Resolution to Accept Funding for Sheriff's Office K-9 Program from Bierman Family Foundation

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office re-established a K-9 program in 2014 through funds that were secured from the Bierman Family Foundation, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, both K-9 Poncho and K-9 Nina, who were purchased with the funds from this grant, and provided many years of service to the Citizens of Lincoln County, have now retired; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Schneider, in recognizing the significant benefits that a K-9 program has, both to our office and the citizens of Lincoln County, sent a letter to the Bierman Family Foundation, requesting funding for two K-9's and the requisite training; and

WHEREAS, the Bierman Family Foundation responded the request with a grant award of \$35,315, which will allow the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office K-9 program to continue with no additional tax levy funds; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Lincoln County accepts funding from the Bierman Family Foundation in the amount of \$35,315 to be used for the purchase of two K-9's and handler training and equipment costs for a new K-9 deputy.

M/S McCrank/Dorava to approve Resolution 2026-08-48. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.

h. Res 2026-08-49 Resolution Determining the Existence of an Emergency Related to the County Trunk Highway M Bridge's Critical Need for Repairs to Protect the Public Health and Welfare and to Bypass the Competitive Bidding Requirements

WHEREAS, County Highway M Bridge (B350079) was inspected on July 10, 2026 and subsequently posted with a 10-Ton Weight Limit on July 11, 2026. According to the inspector, the bridge has had significant deterioration since its last inspection and critically needs repair; and

WHEREAS, the bridge cannot be safely maintained for winter use with a 10-ton posting, and it is likely that, if left unrepaired, the bridge will close within the next 3-4 months because of the posting and for safety reasons; and

WHEREAS, if the bridge were to close, the closure would significantly limit access to a portion of the County, both for residents needing to travel and for other services in reaching said area of the County, including snowplowing, law enforcement and ambulance services, as the only means of travel/access would be by gravel town roads; and

WHEREAS, because of the location of the bridge in relation to the Copper River, and the necessity that work be performed in the stream bed, there is a deadline of September 15 for completion under Wisconsin DNR rules because the Copper River is trout waters, which makes the competitive bidding process even more challenging to complete; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute §59.52(29)(a)1. requires all public work over the bidding threshold amount to be competitively bid with the contract awarded to the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute §59.52(29)(b) provides that the provisions of subparagraph (a) are not mandatory for "the repair or reconstruction of public facilities when damage or threatened damage thereto creates an emergency, as determined by resolution of the board, in which the public health or welfare of the county is endangered"; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute §66.0617(1)(f) defines "public facilities" to include "Highways as defined in s. 340.01 (22), and other transportation facilities, traffic control devices...." Wisconsin Statute §340.01(22) defines "Highway" as "all public ways and thoroughfares and bridges on the same"; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total cost of repairing the steel piles of the bridge is \$325,000.00, and the Highway Department has funding to cover the cost of design and the associated professional services, which is estimated at \$58,000.00.

WHEREAS, the Finance and Insurance Committee approved the funding request for the remaining amount of \$267,000.00 from the general fund at its August 7, 2026 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Highway Commissioner is requesting the County Board determine that under these circumstances an emergency exists which endangers the public health and welfare, such that the competitive bidding process is not required to solicit bids for the bridge repair.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County Board of Supervisors hereby determines that the damage to and imminent risk of closure of Lincoln County Highway M Bridge (B350079) creates an emergency, which endangers the public health and welfare, given the likely impact on access and transportation to a portion of the County, and the impact on other services such as snowplowing, law enforcement and ambulance access. The County Board of Supervisors further determines that such emergency shall cease to exist upon completion of the Highway M Bridge repair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Highway Commissioner shall solicit bids from three (3) contractors for the work and shall contract with the individual or entity who submits the lowest bid while still meeting all work requirements. Lincoln County Highway Commissioner shall also follow all rules and obtain any required permits necessary for completion of the work.

M/S Boyd/DePasse to approve Resolution 2026-08-49. The motion to approve carried by a voice vote.

i. **Res 2026-08-50 Resolution Supporting the Development of Plans for the Replacement of the Lincoln County Highway and Forestry Facilities Using the Existing Merrill and Tomahawk Highway Department Property Sites**

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Highway Committee is responsible for developing and overseeing policies for the efficient operation of the County Highway Department; and,

WHEREAS, the Highway committee reviewed the report prepared by the Ad Hoc Facility Committee and agreed with their conclusion that the Highway Department Facilities, which include the existing building in Tomahawk and Merrill, are the highest priority county facilities currently in need of renovation; and,

WHEREAS, the Highway Committee also reviewed the Lincoln County Board of Supervisor's Ad Hoc Facility Committee's report and presentations that reviewed whether the Highway Facilities should be renovated or repaired, reconstructed or replaced on site or at a new site, or combined into a single facility. The Highway Committee agreed with the Ad Hoc Facility's Committee that the best approach was to build new highway buildings on each of the two existing sites to provide better service to County Highways and County Highway Customers such as WisDOT and local municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, the Highway Committee also independently reviewed the two existing highway facilities and reviewed the capacity of the existing buildings to be renovated to meet current and future needs. Furthermore the Highway Committee examined the costs associated with constructing new buildings on the existing sites, on a new site near each existing facility or building a larger combined facility at a new site. Based on the estimated costs to buy land with suitable utilities, the costs to replace existing support structures such as fueling stations, scales, salt and sand storage buildings, the response time to adequately serve existing Highway Department customers and the potential impact to employee recruitment and retention if the existing facilities were combined or relocated, the Highway Committee also independently determined that the preferred option was to construct new buildings at the existing Tomahawk and Merrill sites; and,

WHEREAS, the Highway Committee also reviewed the potential to combine the Forestry Department with a new highway facility to help reduce county expenses for buildings, land and equipment, and in doing this review met with the County Forester. Although a plan to combine these Departments into new Highway Buildings was not fully developed we believe there are potential savings available with such a plan and suggest additional review.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors support the Highway Committee's conclusion and belief that new Highway Buildings are necessary to meet the Highway Departments current and future needs for equipment storage and maintenance. These new buildings shall be constructed at the existing highway department sites in Tomahawk and Merrill, because the overall cost will be lower, existing highway department customers will be more easily served, and employee retention and recruitment will be enhanced. In addition, the county may save additional costs by combining Forestry staff into the new highway department buildings. ~~by sharing equipment among these two county departments, and potentially selling the Forestry Department land and buildings in Irma; and~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Highway Committee recognizes that the Public Property Committee is the appropriate committee and shall assume responsibility for the advancement of this project to the County Board and will have primary oversight including any eventual contractors and vendors engaged as part of the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisor's authorizes the allocation of up to \$175,000 from the Highway Department Building Fund be used to begin surveying, site planning, and cost estimating for the two sites.

M/S Cummings/Nelson to approve Resolution 2026-08-50. M/S Dorava/Bialecki to amend the resolution by adding another paragraph as follows: "**Be it Further Resolved** that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisor's authorizes the allocation of \$150,000 from the Highway Department Building Fund to be used by the Public Property Committee to initiate the process of site surveying, site planning, and cost estimating for both the Merrill and Tomahawk sites."

Discussion ensued regarding the estimated costs. Supervisor McCrank questioned whether \$150,000 would be adequate. Chair Friske was granted unanimous consent for a 5-minute recess to review the original cost estimates provided to the Ad Hoc Facility Committee with Administrative Coordinator Krueger. Upon reconvening, it was noted that the initial estimate exceeded \$150,000. Supervisor McCrank proposed an amendment to increase the allocation of the amendment to "up to \$175,000." With the approval of Bialecki, whom seconded the original motion, Dorava was granted unanimous consent to modify his pending amendment to read "**up to \$175,000.**" The motion to amend was then carried by a voice vote. M/S Boyd/Hartwig to further amend the resolution by striking the last part of the final sentence in the Now Therefore Be it Resolved paragraph as follows: "~~by sharing equipment among these two county departments, and potentially selling the Forestry Department land and buildings in Irma~~". The additional amendment

