

**PROCEEDINGS – (THURSDAY) DECEMBER 18, 2025 – 9:00 A.M.
OCONTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

County Board Chair, Al Sleeter, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. the County Board Room #3041, located at the Oconto County Courthouse, 301 Washington St., Oconto, WI by stating “This is an open meeting of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours prior to the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the newspapers and to all news media who have requested the same, as well as by posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the office of the County Clerk.” County Clerk, Kim Pytleski, recorded the attendance, with 28 members present: Supervisors Barkhaus, Bartels, Behrend, Beyer, Bitters, Christianson, Cole, Dhuey, Gooding, Heise, Holman, Kaczrowski, Kobylarczyk, Kroll, Lavarda, Matravers, Ondik, Parmentier, Pillsbury, Ragen, Scanlan, Schindel, Schneider, Schreiber, Sleeter, Winkler, Wittkopf, Wolf; 2 absent: Meier, Willems; 1 vacancy: District 29

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Invocation was given by Supervisor Heise

4. Statement of Oconto County Mission and Vision

Richard Heath, County Administrator, recited the Oconto County Mission and Vision statement.

5. Presentation of Awards and Recognition

Jon and Laurie Rakowski, foster parents licensed in Oconto County, were presented with the 2025 Governor's Outstanding Families Award. This honor was bestowed by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families at the Governor's Outstanding Families Awards ceremony. The Rakowski's were one of 10 families in Wisconsin selected for their compassionate, trauma-informed foster care and unwavering advocacy for children, teens, and families.

6. Presentation of Communications and Petition

There were 2 communications:

- Richard Heath, County Administrator, reminded supervisors to complete the CESA #8 Strategic Planning Survey by December 31, 2025; treated as information to the board.
- 2025 Bridge Aid Payments: Petition for Town of Morgan, Valentine Road (emergency replacement), for a total cost of \$10,485.09 and payment \$5,242.54 in accordance with WI State Stat. §81.38; treated as information to the board.

7. Consent Agenda

7.1. Removal of Items from Consent Agenda

Supervisor Parmentier requests Item #7.2.4. R2025-12-01 Approval to Purchase North Bay Shore Campground Utility Vehicle be removed from the consent agenda.

7.2. Approval of Consent Agenda

- 7.2.1. A2025-12-01 Zoning Change – Town of Abrams (Herzog) – L&W Resources Com.
- 7.2.2. A2025-12-02 Zoning Change – Town of Abrams (Stueber) – L&W Resources Com.
- 7.2.3. A2025-12-03 Zoning Change – Town of Little River (Van Den Bogart), Town of Little River (Dumke), Town of Stiles (Potter) and Town of Stiles (Spaulding)
- 7.2.4. ~~R2025-12-01 Approval to Purchase North Bay Shore Campground Utility Vehicle – L&WR Com.~~
- 7.2.5. R2025-12-02 Approve 2026 Forestry Work Plan – L&W Resources Com.
- 7.2.6. R2025-12-03 Support of Oconto County for the 2026-2030 Snowmobile Friendly Community Program – L&W Resources Com.
- 7.2.7. R2025-12-04 Approval of Opioid Remediation Funded Initiative – Admin. Com.
- 7.2.8. Appointment – Gillett Library Board County Representative (McQuillan) – Co. Admin.
- 7.2.9. Appointment – Opioid Abatement Ad-Hoc Steering Committee – Co. Admin.
- 7.2.10. Re-Appointment – Broadband Taskforce for the BEAD Planning Grant – Co. Admin.
- 7.2.11. Re-Appointment – Oconto County Library Services Board (Sleeter) – Co. Admin.

Motion by Schneider/Wolf to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion to approve carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

8. Regular Agenda

8.1. Change in Sequence – None.

8.2. Removal of Items – None.

8.3. Approval of Regular Agenda

Motion by Scanlan/Dhuey to approve agenda as amended. The motion was voted on and carried.

9. Approval of Previous Meeting Proceedings

Motion by Winkler/Cole to approve the proceedings from the 11/20/2025 meeting. The motion was voted on and carried.

10. Committee and Departmental Reports

10.1. Report – Health & Human Services

Scott Shackelford, Health & Human Services Director, presented the Health & Human Services report. Discussion followed.

10.2. Report – Human Resources

Shelly Schultz, Human Resource Director, presented the Human Resources report.

10.3. Report – TEDCOR (Tourism & Economic Development Corporation of the Oconto Region)

Jayme Sellen, TEDCOR Director, presented the Tourism & Economic Development Corporation of the Oconto Region report.

10.4. Report – Land Sale Bid Acceptance Report

Nikki Tolzman, Treasurer, presented the Land Sale Bid Acceptance Report.

10.5. Report – Highway Facilities Update – Kurt Berner – Samuel's Group, Jeff Belongia-Huntington Securities, Inc.

Brandon Hytinen, Highway Commissioner; Kurt Berner, Samuel's Group; Jeff Belongia, Huntington Securities, Inc.; and Richard Heath, County Administrator, presented the Highway Facilities Update report. Discussion followed.

11. R2025-12-01 Approval to Purchase North Bay Shore Campground Utility Vehicle – L&W Resources Com

Motion by Parmentier/Lavarda to adopt R2025-12-01 Approval to Purchase North Bay Shore Campground Utility Vehicle. Following an explanation by Chris Firgens, Forest, Park & Rec Administrator, motion by Barkhaus/Parmentier to amend lines 16 and 17 to read "WHEREAS, the fiscal impact of this project is less than \$25,000 which will be paid out of ~~excess sales tax~~ funds in account 100-36-57620-58260, and". The motion to amend was voted on and carried. The motion to adopt R2025-12-01, as amended, carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

12. R2025-12-05 Approval of Revisions to Public Facilities Handbook – Property & Technology Com.

Motion by Pillsbury/Winkler to adopt R2025-12-05 Approval of Revisions to Public Facilities Handbook. Following an explanation by Scott Krueger, Maintenance Engineer, and discussion, motion by Barkhaus/Cole to amend the Facility Handbook and strike the line on page 13, Section IX.D.3., that reads "No food or beverages in County Board room with the exception of water.". Following discussion, the motion to amend carried on an electronic vote 24 ayes, 4 nays (Bitters, Kobylarczyk, Pillsbury, Wittkopf). The motion to adopt, as amended, carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

13. R2025-12-06 Approval to Proceed to Phase II of New Highway Facility – Highway Com. & Admin. Com.

Motion by Matravers/Lavarda to adopt R2025-12-06 Approval to Proceed to Phase II of New Highway Facility. Following an explanation by Brandon Hytinen, Highway Commission, and discussion, the motion to adopt carried by an electronic vote 27 ayes, 1 nay (Dhuey).

14. R2025-12-07 Contract Award and County Sales Tax – County Highway Road Improvement Project – Administration Com. & Highway Com.

Motion by Behrend/Schneider to adopt R2025-12-07 Contract Award and County Sales Tax – County Highway Road Improvement Project. Following an explanation by Brandon Hytinen, Highway Commission, the motion to adopt carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

Recess called at 10:28 a.m. – 10:46 a.m.

15. CLOSED SESSION: The Board will convene into closed session, pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.85(1)(e) to discuss the terms of Sheriff Deputies Union contract.

Motion by Lavarda/Winkler to go into closed session at 10:47 a.m. with the following in attendance 28 County Board members, Richard Heath, County Administrator; Beth Ellingson, Corporation Counsel; Kim Pytleski, County Clerk; Kathy Goldschmidt, Chief Deputy Clerk; Shelly Schultz, Human Resources Director; Betty Bickel, Finance Director; Todd Skarban, Sheriff. The motion was voted on and carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

Chair Sleeter announced Sheriff's Deputies would monitor the doors.

16. OPEN SESSION: The Board will return to open session, pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.85(2) to conduct further legal business, if any.

Motion by Gooding/Kobylarczyk to enter into open session at 11:14 a.m. The motion was voted on and carried.

17. R2025-12-08 Approval of Sheriff Deputies Union Working Agreement 2025-2028 – Admin. Com. (42)

Motion by Winkler/Schneider to adopt R2025-12-08 Approval of Sheriff Deputies Union Working Agreement 2025-2028. The motion to adopt carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

18. CLOSED SESSION: The Board will convene into closed session, pursuant to §§19.85(1)(d), (e), (f) & (g), Wis. Stats. to discuss confidential (offender and other) information and any appropriate residential option(s) related to the pending case per Sec. 980.08, Wis. Stats.

Motion by Bitters/Schindel to go into closed session at 11:18 a.m. with the following in attendance 28 County Board members, Richard Heath, County Administrator; Beth Ellingson, Corporation Counsel; Scott Shackelford, Health & Human Services Director; Brandon Daul, Deputy HHS Director; Todd Skarban, Sheriff; Pat Virtues, Zoning Administrator; Kim Pytleski, County Clerk; Kathy Goldschmidt, Chief Deputy Clerk. The motion was voted on and carried by a unanimous electronic vote.

Chair Sleeter instructed supervisors to monitor the doors.

19. OPEN SESSION: The Board will return to open session, to discuss further legal business, if any.

Motion by Schindel/Kobylarczyk to enter into open session at 12:54 p.m. The motion was voted on and carried.

Motion by Barkhaus/Behrend to refer R2025-12-09 back to the Health & Human Services Board. The motion was voted on and carried by an electronic vote 26 ayes, 2 nays (Bitters/Matravers).

20. R2025-12-09 Development of Residential Option(s) for Sexually Violent Persons on Supervised Release Per 980 Wis. Stats. – Health and Human Services Board – Referred back to the HHS Board.

21. Announcements/General Information (No Action to be taken)

- Supervisors not seeking reelection are reminded non-candidacy forms are due by 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 26, 2025.
- Candidate filings for the April 7, 2026 election are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

22. Adjournment

Chair Sleeter declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors will be on January 22, 2026.

Proceedings of County Board meeting may be viewed in its entirety at www.ocontocountywi.gov

Kim Pytleski, Oconto County Clerk

kp/Date Posted: 12/29/2025