



IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2026

Approved

1. Meeting called to order:

Youngs called the meeting to order at 6:00pm in the Board room.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

The pledge was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Present: Hiller, Wolff, Mullard, Francis, Youngs, Thomas, Krall, Erickson, Boes, Lauer, Lutgen.

4. Acknowledge that the meeting was properly noticed and posted:

The clerk certified the meeting was properly posted.

5. Approve Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda made by Mullard, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.

6. Approve minutes of December 10, 2025:

Motion to approve the minutes as presented made by Francis, seconded by Hiller. All yes, carried.

7. Communications:

None.

8. Committee and Chairman's Report:

Recycling: Mullard noted they hired a new person for recycling.

Airport: Mullard noted that they elected a chair and Vice Chair; complaints about time changes.

Memorial Building: Francis noted that the Veterans event catered by Scotty and he donated food; furnace issues resolved; planning spring fundraiser and bingo; events booked through 2026–2027.

Forestry: Erickson noted that we Closed 2025 stumpage up 26% (\$423,903); 2026 off to strong start; Saxon Harbor dredging request in progress; snowmobile trails in excellent condition; flowage property closed with \$4.1M reimbursement received.

Conservation: Krall noted received 37 applications for specialist position; poster contest winners advancing to state.

Human Services: Lauer noted budget (93% revenue, 77% expenses); placement costs down; \$200K set aside for unexpected costs; ADRC job posting open; senior centers rebranding; meal program served 24,898 meals in 2025; mini-block grant received.

Extension & 4-H: Lutgen noted they ended year under budget; planning summer camp; strong ski team performance; entrepreneur boot camp held.

Finance: Wolff noted cash increased from \$5M to \$7M due to carbon credits, stumpage, reduced placement costs, land sale, and interest income; approved three resolutions:

Purchase Saxon Communication Tower, establish \$250K reserve for Human Services, and pay down Saxon Harbor loan by \$250K.

Department Updates: Youngs noted Veteran Service Officer Eric Nassi retired; Gerard Randall introduced as new Veterans Officer. Register of Deeds office facing staffing challenges after two resignations: interim solutions being explored



IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2026

Approved

9. County Manager's Report:

RT vision live for Forestry, still working on Highway. Budget automation in progress for 2027; payroll/timecard system improvements being researched.

10. Public comment pursuant to Resolution #2341:

None

11. Discuss taking back property by Tax Deed:

Discussed that the clerk and treasurer will start the process next month with the assistance of Counsel. Reviewed checklist.

12. Discuss/Action Tax Lister Position:

Discussion on tax lister duties—potential move to Forestry Department.

13. Discuss/Action Resolution 2026-4053 Purchase of Saxon Communication Tower.

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the critical importance of reliable communication systems for public safety agencies, including law enforcement, fire protection, and other emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the existing communication infrastructure within the County (Saxon Communication Tower at fire number 9797W Upper Road, Saxon, WI) is offered for sale for \$30,000 from Northway Communications, Inc., which includes approximately 6.4 acres of land, the communications tower, and an outbuilding; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that the purchase of the existing Saxon Communication Tower represents the most effective and cost-efficient solution to maintain our necessary communication system; and

WHEREAS, funding for this project was allocated from the Capital Projects Fund, and procurement will comply with all applicable state and local purchasing regulations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Iron County Board of Supervisors, through its County Manager and County Treasurer, authorizes purchase of the Saxon Tower to support public safety communication systems.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-4053 made by Hiller, seconded by Erickson. All yes, carried.

14. Discuss/Action Resolution 2026-4054 Establishing a Budgetary Funding Reserve for Human Services.

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes §65.90 authorizes counties to include contingency or reserve accounts in the annual budget to address unanticipated expenditures or emergencies; and

WHEREAS, placement costs incurred through the Human Services budget can fluctuate significantly from year to year;

WHEREAS, at year end Iron County has historically transferred all excess or carryover funds from the Human Services Fund to the General Fund;

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has concluded it would be beneficial to retain a dollar amount in the Human Services Fund to manage future placement cost fluctuations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

A. Effective for calendar year 2025, the Human Services Fund shall retain up to \$250,000 to manage future placement cost fluctuations.



IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2026

Approved

B. Any excess or carryover funds in the Human Services fund above \$250,000 shall be transferred to the General Fund at year end.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-4054 made by Lauer, seconded by Lutgen. All yes, carried.

15. Discuss/Action Resolution 2026-4056 Approving the 2026 to 2030 Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

WHEREAS, Recreation has the 2nd largest industry output in Iron County behind only the forest products industry; and

WHEREAS, Iron County is required to produce and maintain a 5-Year recreation plan per Wisconsin State Statute 23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP); and

WHEREAS, a current 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan is a requirement for many state and federal grant applications; and

WHEREAS, Iron County's current 5-Year Rec plan expired at the end of 2025; and

WHEREAS, the updated 2026 – 2030 Iron County Rec Plan was developed with input from local Cities, Towns, clubs, organizations, and individual public comments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iron County Board of Supervisors, hereby approves the 2026 – 2030 Iron County Outdoor Recreation Plan and its use in the submittal of grant applications for outdoor recreation projects in Iron County.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-4056 made by Thomas, seconded by Mullard. All yes, carried.

16. Discuss/Action Resolution 2026-4057 Approving a Road Use Permit to McCutchin Living Trust, Bill Muccutchin, Trustee.

WHEREAS, Iron County owns certain lands located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 9, T42N, R3E, Town of Mercer, Iron County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the McCutchin Living Trust, Bill McCutchin, Trustee owns certain lands located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 16, T42N, R3E, Town of Mercer, Iron County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the McCutchin Living Trust, Bill McCutchin, Trustee is desirous of obtaining a road use permit from Iron County for road right of way, upon, across, and over the above-described Iron County Lands, on an existing forest road, for purposes of obtaining access to the land owned by the McCutchin Living Trust, Bill McCutchin, Trustee; and

WHEREAS, the Iron County Forestry Committee has reviewed the request, and approved the issuance of a road use permit to William Wilde that is not in conflict with the Iron County Forestry Department's 15-year plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Iron County, through its Forest Administrator, shall issue a road use permit to the McCutchin Living Trust, Bill McCutchin, Trustee pursuant to which Iron County shall grant unto the McCutchin Living Trust, Bill McCutchin, Trustee a temporary license over and upon the woods road in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 9, T42N, R3E, Town of Mercer, Iron County, Wisconsin. The permit shall contain the standard provisions as approved by the Iron County Corporation Counsel. Said road shall be open to the public at all times. No gates or other means of restricting the public from access over and above said road will be allowed.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-4057 made by Lutgen, seconded by Francis. All yes, carried.

17. Discuss/Action Resolution 2026-4058 In Support of Requesting Emergency Dredging at Saxon Harbor.

WHEREAS, Iron County owns and operates the Saxon Harbor Marina on Lake Superior; and



IRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meeting Minutes for January 27, 2026

Approved

WHEREAS, Saxon Harbor is formally listed as a Safe Harbor of Refuge for Lake Superior boaters to provide a safe location for vessels in the event of an emergency, be it weather related or mechanical; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are responsible for the maintenance and accessibility for the main channel and the north basin within the marina as part of the Safe Harbor of Refuge designation; and

WHEREAS, the marina and channel were dredged in 2018 following the federally declared disasters of 2016 & 2018 the main channel has experienced significant sedimentation through littoral drift in Lake Superior; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 the sedimentation made ingress and egress from Saxon Harbor impossible for sailboats and challenging for motorboats, especially boaters that were not familiar with the facility; and

WHEREAS, the sedimentation within the main channel impedes access for users of the Saxon Harbor facility causing loss of revenue to Iron County and a potentially dangerous situation for vessels wanting to utilize the Safe Harbor of Refuge in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a survey and sediment sampling of the main channel in the spring of 2025 but funding for dredging has not been allocated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Iron County Board of Supervisors, hereby requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be authorized to utilize emergency funding to complete dredging of the main channel and other areas under their authority within the Saxon Harbor Marina to allow for safe ingress and egress to the Safe Harbor of Refuge and users of the Saxon Harbor Marina; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution will be sent to Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson & Senator Tammy Baldwin, Representative Tom Tiffany, local state legislators, and the office of the Governor of Wisconsin.

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-4058 made by Thomas, seconded by Mullard. All yes, carried.

18. Discuss/Action Approve Emergency Fire Warden Organization List for the Department of Natural Resources per State Statute 26.12 (3) and 26.14 (3).

Motion to approve the Emergency Fire Warden List made by Thomas, seconded by Hiller. All yes, carried.

19. Next Meeting Date: February 24, 2026.

20. Adjournment:

Youngs adjourned the meeting at 6:39pm.

Approved: February 24, 2026

Respectfully Submitted.
Christan Brandt, Iron County Clerk