CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
February 17th, 2026

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the Crawford County Administration Building in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026.

The Board was called to order by Chairman Tom Cornford. Roll was called with all members present, except Bruce Strnad who was excused by the Chair and Harrison Heilman whom appeared via Zoom.

The Chairman led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under opening remarks, the Chairman announced that he is calling for a "special" County Board meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:00 a.m. in which the County Board members will consider the Resolution Awarding the final sale ($4,000,000) of the Jail Project GO Promissory Notes.

The Chairman also announced that April 21st is the Organizational County Board meeting where all the elected supervisors will be sworn in and the Highway Committee members will be elected.

The meeting was verified as being properly posted.

Motion by Munson, second by Koch to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Director of Outreach and Member Engagement at the Wisconsin Counties Association, stood before the county board today to discuss some financial issues and concerns that have arisen over the past few years within the Workforce Development Area 9. This area includes Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties. The workforce development area serves as the jurisdiction for the administration of workforce development activities, and the execution of Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth funds allocated by DWD-DET.

There are eleven workforce development areas in the state of Wisconsin. Each local area is required to have several governance agreements in place. One of those agreements is the Chief Elected Officials Consortium Agreement, which outlines how the eight counties in the area are going to work together. Each county designates one Local Elected Official (LEO) to represent that county in the area. The LEOs from all counties within the Workforce Development Area then elect one individual to serve as the Area Chief Elected Official (CEO), who is statutorily liable for all federal grant funds that are allocated to that area.

Over the last several years, the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (WWWDB) has experienced significant instability and competency gaps in key administrative and fiscal positions. This has led to several disallowed costs in the federal grant funding in WDA 9. The disallowed costs become the liability of the counties that are members of the consortium.

For PY 22, the final invoice for disallowed costs totals $33,821.84. For PY23, WWWDB staff are still working with DWD to resolve the costs questioned. However, given the issues stated regarding financial statements and records it is likely that $200,000+ of the costs questioned will not be resolved and will become the fiscal responsibility of the counties.

One of the requirements the state placed on the LEOs in order to grant additional time to secure an appropriate fiscal agent is that all government agreements within WDA 9 be reviewed and updated. The most recent Consortium Agreement for WDA 9 was signed in 2015, although these agreements are required to be updated every two years.

The revised Consortium Agreement also includes new language outlining how any disallowed costs would be allocated among the counties. If repayment to the state is required, the total amount would be distributed based on each county's proportion of the total population within the eight-county area. Based on the most recent population data, Crawford County represents 5.21% of the total population. Therefore, Crawford County would be responsible for 5.21% of any disallowed costs that must be repaid to the state.

Sarah asked the Chair if there are any questions, she would be happy to try to answer them. Supervisor Mark Gilberts asked if there were any consequences to the individuals who were involved in the "misuse of funds". The answer was that the individuals are no longer associated with the organization, and that was all the information she could provide.

Chairman Cornford stated we will now take up the matter of the Resolution Approving the Chief Elected Officials Consortium Agreement of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-2026

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE "CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT OF THE WESTERN WISCONSIN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA"

WHEREAS, pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA), federal funds are provided to states to provide job skills education and training and to help individuals find employment; **and**,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin receives such funds through 11 Workforce Development Areas, and Crawford County is in Workforce Development Area (WDA) 9 with seven other counties; **and**,

WHEREAS, the federal WIOA requires that each region create a consortium formed by the counties contained within each region and that each consortium establish certain operating procedures, duties and responsibilities; **and**,

WHEREAS, the consortium is required to appoint and oversee a Workforce Development Board (which oversees job centers and employment and training programs, etc.) and be responsible for program planning and oversight, including financial oversight; **and**,

WHEREAS, the last consortium agreement was approved by the counties in 2015; **and**,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development is requiring a review/update of all governance documents in Workforce Development Area 9; **and**,

WHEREAS, the attached agreement forms the Western Wisconsin Counties Consortium (WWCC) and contains the operating procedures, duties and responsibilities of the WWCC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the county's WWCC board appointee to sign the attached "Chief Elected Officials Consortium Agreement of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area."

Passed and approved this 17^{the} day of February 2026.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Kuhn, second by Munson to adopt the Resolution Approving the Chief Elected Officials Consortium Agreement of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area. The motion carried with all members voting AYE, except Supervisor Gilberts who voted NAYE.

Chairman Cornford stated next up on the agenda is Carol Wirth, WPFP, LLC to present Phase III Financing Details.

Today, the County Board will consider the approval of the Resolution Providing for the Sale of $4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes. This resolution begins by referencing the Initial Resolution adopted by the County Board on June 18, 2024, providing the authority to issue not to exceed $35 million for the jail replacement project and mobile command center (the "Project"). It also references the completed first and second phase financings of $13,000,000, dated September 9, 2024, and $18,000,000, dated March 24, 2025.

This is the third and final phase financing $4,000,000 of General Obligation Promissory notes that will be sold at public (competitive) sale, at a future date (March 9, 2026). It also describes for County Board consideration of bids received (at a special meeting to be held on March 10, 2026).

This resolution directs the County Clerk to work with WPFP, LLC in preparing and distributing an Official Notice of Sale, advertising the sale of the Notes to prospective bidders, and also preparing and distributing an Official Statement, which is required by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

According to the timeline presented today, Phase III funds will be wired to the County on March 26th, 2026. Carol Wirth asked for any questions from the County Board regarding the information she presented today.

The Chair asked for a motion to allow the Clerk to read the following Resolution in Title Only. **Motion by Munson, second by Kuhn to read the Resolution Providing for the Sale of $4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes in Title Only. The motion carried unanimously, and the Clerk read the following in title only.**

RESOLUTION NO. 3-2026

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF $4,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PROMISSORY NOTES

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2024, the County Board of Supervisors for Crawford County, Wisconsin (the "County") adopted an initial resolution (the "Initial Resolution") authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds or promissory notes in an amount not to exceed $35,000,000 for public purposes, including financing (a) the jail replacement project, consisting of a renovated Sheriff's Office and the construction of a new Jail built on the County's downtown campus and (b) the procurement and implementation of a new, advanced mobile command center (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the County has determined that it is necessary and desirable to finance the Project, as authorized by the Initial Resolution, in phases; and

WHEREAS, the first phase was previously financed by the $13,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, dated September 9, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the second phase was previously financed by the $18,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, dated March 24, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined to it is necessary and desirable to finance the third phase through the issuance of not to exceed $4,000,000 general obligation promissory notes (the "Notes"), pursuant to Chapter 67, Wisconsin Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Supervisors of the County that:

Section 1. Issuance of the Notes. The County shall issue its Notes in an amount not to exceed $4,000,000 for the purpose of financing the third phase of the Project.

Section 2. Sale of the Notes. The County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs that the Notes be offered for public sale. At a subsequent meeting, the County Board of Supervisors shall consider such bids for the Notes as may have been received and take action thereon.

Section 3. Notice of Sale. The County Clerk (in consultation with Wisconsin Public Finance Professionals, LLC ("WPFP")) be and hereby is directed to cause notice of the sale of the Notes to be disseminated in such manner and at such times as the County Clerk may determine and to cause copies of a complete Official Notice of Sale and other pertinent data to be forwarded to interested bidders as the County Clerk may determine.

Section 4. Official Statement. The County Clerk (in consultation with WPFP) shall cause an Official Statement to be prepared and distributed. The appropriate County officials shall determine when the Official Statement is final for purposes of Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12 and shall certify said Official Statement, such certification to constitute full authorization of such Official Statement under this resolution.

Adopted, approved and recorded February 17, 2026.

Thomas Cornford
Chairperson

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Koch, second by Krachey to adopt the Resolution Providing for the Sale of $4,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes. The motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2026

RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCOUNTS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2026

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has recommended that the following 2025 accounts be carried forward into 2026:

Carried Forward Accounts by Budget Journal Entry:	**Account Numbers:**
Employee Recognition	100.01.51110.336
Coroner-Inquest & Autopsies	100.10.51270.256
Coroner-Burial Fund	100.10.51270.322
Information Technology – Technology/Contingency	100.11.51330.408
Data Processing Copy Machines	100.12.51440.313
Surveyor -Setting Corners	100.16.51731.113
Subdivision Ordinance	100.17.51733.319

Subdivision Ordinance (Revenue)	100.00.44138
Corporate Counsel – Labr/Emp Negotiations/Legal	100.25.51611.257
Law Enforcement – Uniform Allowance	100.40.52111.346
Veteran's Grant	100.52.53821.355
County Tax for Need Vets	100.53.53811.319
State Aid Veterans Services Grant (Revenue)	100.00.42781
County Fair – Co Fair/Capital Improvements	100.57.55141.208
Extension Postage	100.60.55621.349
Jail Building & Repair	100.94.61183.319
Circuit Court Jail Assessment (Revenue)	100.00.44137

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors approve the carryovers of the aforementioned accounts.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Gary Koch, Chairman **Gerald Krachey**
Greg Russell **Wayne Jerrett**
Bruce Strnad

Motion by Koch; second by Steiner to adopt the Resolution Approving Accounts to be Carried Forward into 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-2026

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR 2023-2026 TERMS OF OFFICE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee of the Crawford County Board of Supervisors has been charged with the task of establishing salaries for the Constitutional Officers of Crawford County prior to April 15th, 2026, for the term of office commencing January 1st, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors do ordain as follows:

To announce the following salaries for elected officials with the intent to provide these positions with the same percentage of increase as other department heads for the remaining terms of their office.

OFFICE	CURRENT SALARY
Clerk of Court	$ 84,537.70
Sheriff	$ 98,019.11
Coroner	$ 26,812.05

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will follow the provisions of Section 59.22(1)(a).

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Brad Steiner, Chairman **Mark Gilberts**
Carl Orr **Wayne Jerrett, Jr.**
Owen DuCharme

After the Clerk read the foregoing Resolution to the County Board Members, Supervisor Craig Anderson pointed out that the dates listed as 2023-2026 were incorrect. The Clerk acknowledged the error and will revise the Resolution and present it to full County Board on March 10th for approval and adoption.

Chairman Cornford asked David Troester, Land Conservationist, to speak on the next Resolution Regarding Potential 765 kV Transmission Line Development by Dairyland Power Cooperative.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Dairyland Power Cooperative have announced intentions for a 765kV transmission line to pass, in part, through Vernon, Crawford, Richland, Sauk and Columbia Counties and in Vernon, Crawford and Richland Counties with an additional, double-circuit, 161kV transmission line.

This Resolution is essentially requesting that Dairyland Power Cooperative provide more extensive information regarding this transmission line either in written, electronic format or through an in-person presentation before our Board before March 15, 2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-2026

RESOLUTION REGARDING POTENTIAL 765kV TRANSMISSION LINE DEVELOPMENT BY DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

WHEREAS, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and Dairyland Power Cooperative have announced intentions for a 765kV transmission line known as, "LRTP Project #26, North Rochester – Columbia;" that is designated to pass, in part, through Vernon, Crawford, Richland, Sauk and Columbia Counties and in Vernon, Crawford and Richland Counties with an additional, double-circuit, 161kV transmission line; **and,**

WHEREAS, LRTP Project #26 proposed to pass through our area would be part of a 765kV transmission "backbone" system continuing from Columbia (Portage, WI) to another regional electricity market that serves Chicago and points east; **and**

WHEREAS, a transmission line of this size and characteristics has never been considered or constructed in Wisconsin, to date; **and,**

WHEREAS, the cost of Project 26 that would be assumed by ratepayers has been estimated at $10.6 billion; **and,**

WHEREAS, within MISO's most recent FAQ, the regional utility interests' estimate of costs and benefits from the Tranche 2.1 expansion lines (including a potential 765kV project through our area) would lead to an expense of about $13.50 per month for an electric customer using 1,000 kWh per month; **and,**

WHEREAS, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin staff engineers have found that upgrades of existing transmission lines can provide the same benefits at much less expense to ratepayers; **and**

WHEREAS, the official, Independent Monitor of the MISO wholesale electricity market and MISO transmission planning, Potomac Economics, has found that MISO's Tranche 2.1 transmission lines, including the Project:

- Assume a view of the future that is "extremely unlikely".
- Forecast potential benefits to the customer that are "overstated" or "invalid" in five of eight key categories.
- Would lead to "uneconomic investment (that) will raise costs and undermine investment in resources, storage and other alternatives to transmission."
- The MISO Board should "postpone approval of Tranche 2.1 transmission lines;", **and,**

WHEREAS, MISO's Tranche 2.1 transmission expansion planning requires a very large buildout of wind and solar facilities which, traditionally, have relied on very substantial federal tax credit incentives that are now scheduled for elimination in 2028 as determined in the July, 2025 Federal Reconciliation Budget Bill; **and,**

WHEREAS, use of electricity and summer peak demand in Wisconsin have been statistically flat over the last 10 years; **and,**

WHEREAS, An Environmental Impact Statement jointly authored by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources found that even smaller 345kV transmission lines "may result in negative affects to property values, tax credits, and heritage tourism": and mentions studies showing devaluations from 10 to 45% depending on the proximity, visibility, size of parcel and whether sited in an industrial or natural setting; **and,**

WHEREAS, Crawford County's Comprehensive Plan and Land and Water Resource Management Plan both reflect the inherent and economic value of natural resources and farmland of the County; **and,**

WHEREAS, the karst geology of the region is unstable for extremely heavy development such as the transmission towers, and vulnerable to potential ground water pollution during construction; **and,**

WHEREAS, LRTP Project #26, North Rochester-Columbia as designed would add hazardous obstacles for migrating and resident raptors, waterfowl and songbirds that routinely utilize the Mississippi River Flyway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that Dairyland Power Cooperative and/or its assigns provide the following information either in written, electronic format or through an in-person presentation before our Board before March 15th, 2026:

1. A map of eligible, existing transmission line routes for the considered 765kV/161kV transmission line Project through Vernon, Crawford and Richland Counties.
2. Images of the types of towers that might be used for the transmission line Project in Vernon, Crawford and Richland Counties.
3. The range of the heights of these 765kV/161kV transmission towers, in feet.
4. The range in total easement widths that these 765kV/161kV transmission towers would require, in feet.
5. The name(s) of the entity or entities that would be the owner(s) of the Vernon, Crawford and Richland County sited portions of the 765kV/161kV transmission line.
6. Estimated date that the 765kV/161kV transmission line is expected to be proposed to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
7. Estimated total cost of *Project #26, North Rochester-Columbia transmission line that includes* the 765kV/161kV segment in Vernon, Crawford, Richland, Sauk and Columbia Counties.
8. Estimated total cost of regional generation additions in the Electric Generation Expansion Analysis System (EGEAS) for MISO's Long Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) Tranche 2.1.
9. If the costs of Project #26 would be shared with electric customers in other states, provide a list of those states.
10. Estimated capital cost per month per customer in Vernon and Crawford Counties over 20 years for the Project #26.
11. Give documentation of the acreage of additional land used for the right of way of Project 26 in Crawford County. List acreage of forested land lost.
12. Give documentation of how Dairyland has mitigated the issue of the cracked and unstable karst geology in other 765kV lines. If that's not ever been done, give thorough analysis of how 200' towers will be stabilized and built on karst geology. Give documentation on how surface and ground water will be protected during construction.
13. Give documentation of the acreage amount of wildlife habitat that will be lost, how birds, raptors and waterfowl will be impacted in the Mississippi River Flyway, and how the bird impact will be mitigated.

14. Documentation from MISO that accounts for considering the use of carbon composite conductors when alternatively rebuilding the avoided transmission facilities, and "reliability issues" in long range transmission planning.
15. A list of the "significant economic development benefits" that the Project would deliver to the local economies adjacent to the proposed project through Vernon, Crawford, and Richland Counties.
16. Documentation explaining MISO's calculation of a net monetary benefit for Wisconsin residential electric customers if the estimated cost of the Project is around $27.50 per month, while returning only $10 to $14 per month to ratepayers.
17. Documentation from MISO planning that estimates of the percentage of electrical power assumed to be provided from distributed solar and distributed storage resources in years 1, 10, and 20.
18. A list of prior, combination 161kV and 765kV transmission projects the expected developers of the Project have installed, with their locations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the case that a transmission developer(s) other than Dairyland Power Cooperative/GridLiance-Heartland is considering siting a 765kV transmission line on any land in Crawford County, we ask that this request for detailed map information be submitted to that developer within 30 days after this condition is known to Dairyland Power Cooperative/GridLiance-Heartland and that Crawford County receives a copy of the conveyance of our request to the other developer along with updated contact information.

Submitted this 10th day of February 2026.

Gary Koch, Chairman
Mary Kuhn
Owen DuCharme
Kate Krachey
Chad Sime

Passed and approved this 17th day of February 2026.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Kuhn, second by Koch to adopt the Resolution Regarding Potential 765 kV Transmission Line Development by Dairyland Power Cooperative. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

Dave Troester, Land Conservationist, explained the next Resolution to Adopt Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM) for Submission to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to the county board members today.

To remain eligible for Soil and Water Resource Management grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the county is required to adopt and update a Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plan every ten years.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-2026

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (LWRM) FOR SUBMISSION TO THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)

WHEREAS, through 1997 Wisconsin Act 27, Chapter 92 of the Wisconsin Statutes was amended, requiring counties to develop Land and Water Resource Management Plans, and this statutory amendment provided Crawford County with the opportunity to assess our resource conditions and needs and to decide how we can best meet our goals; **and,**

WHEREAS, the intent of this change was to develop a locally led process that would utilize local, state, and federal funds to protect our land and water resources; **and,**

WHEREAS, Crawford County brought a diverse group of stakeholders together including local government officials and staff, special interest groups, and citizens, to assist in the development of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan; **and,**

WHEREAS, Crawford County held a public hearing on November 11, 2025 to accept comments on the County Land and Water Resource Management Plan; **and,**

WHEREAS, counties that want to be eligible to receive soil and water resource management grant funds from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) must submit a plan and funding request based upon an approved Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Crawford County Board of Supervisors approves the ten-year Land and Water Resource Management Plan presented by the Land & Water Conservation Committee,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution and a copy of the plan be provided to DATCP for State approval.

Submitted this 10th day of February 2026

Gary Koch, Chairman
Mary Kuhn
Owen DuCharme
Kate Krachey
Chad Sime

Passed and approved this 17th day of February 2026.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Kuhn, second by Orr to approve the Resolution to Adopt Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRM) for Submission to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

The next two Resolutions Authorizing Corporation Counsel to Submit Notices of Disallowance for two separate claims filed against the county by Michael Strait and Jacob Sell. Both Resolutions provide that no action may be brought against any defendant fire company, corporation, subdivision, or agency—or against any defendant officer, official, agent, or employee—more than six months after the date of this Notice of Disallowance is served.

RESOLUTION NO. 6-2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CORPORATION COUNSEL TO SUBMIT NOTICE OF DISALLOWANCE OF CLAIM

WHEREAS, the County (specifically including the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department) has received a "Claim" against it pursuant to Sec. 893.80 of the Wisconsin Statutes on behalf of Michael Strait, which claim the County contests and denies; and

WHEREAS, said statutory Section requires response thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs that the County Corporation Counsel submit a Notice of Disallowance of said Claim in conformity with said Section 893.80, Wis. Stats.

Adopted by the Crawford County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of February 2026.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

Passed and approved this 17th day of February, 2026.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Krachey; second by Orr to adopt the Resolution No. 6-2026 Authorizing Corporation Counsel to Submit Notice of Disallowance of Claim re: Michael Strait. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-2026
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CORPORATION COUNSEL TO SUBMIT NOTICE OF DISALLOWANCE OF CLAIM

WHEREAS, the County (specifically including the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff's Department) has received a "Claim" against it pursuant to Sec. 893.80 of the Wisconsin Statutes on behalf of Jacob Sell, which claim the County contests and denies; and

WHEREAS, said statutory Section requires response thereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs that the County Corporation Counsel submit a Notice of Disallowance of said Claim in conformity with said Section 893.80, Wis. Stats.

Adopted by the Crawford County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of February 2026.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

Passed and approved this 17th day of February, 2026.

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Motion by Kuhn, second by Munson to adopt the Resolution No. 7-2026 Authorizing Corporation Counsel to submit Notice of Disallowance of Claim re: Jacob Sell. The motion carried unanimously.

Becky Nagel, Zoning Administrator, presented information on the next Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Chapter 15 of the Crawford County Ordinances Regarding Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) and Non-Plumbing Sanitary Systems. Essentially, the ordinance is being amended to align with established standards and improve clarity and consistency in environmental standards.

Chairman Cornford asked for a motion to allow the Clerk to read the Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Chapter 15 of the Crawford County Ordinances Regarding Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) and Non-Plumbing Sanitary Systems in title only.

Motion by Koch, second by Munson to allow the Clerk to read the first reading of the ordinance in title only. The motion carried unanimously and the Clerk read the title.

Chairman Cornford asked for any questions or appearances? There being none, the Chairman asked for a motion to allow the Clerk give the second reading in title only.

Motion by Krachey, second by Munson to allow the Clerk to give the second reading in title only. The motion carried unanimously and the Clerk gave the second reading in title only.

Chairman Cornford stated the ordinance having been read multiple times the question is, "Shall the ordinance pass?".

ORDINANCE NO. 264-2026

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND RECREATING CHAPTER 15 OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS AND NON-PLUMBING SANITARY SYSTEMS

The Crawford County Board of Supervisors do ordain as follows:

Section I: Chapter 15 of the Crawford County Code of Ordinances is hereby repealed in its entirety and recreated to read as follows:

CHAPTER 15 - PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS (POWTS) ORDINANCE

15.01 – ADOPTION AND STATUTORY AUTHORITY

(1) Pursuant to §59.70(5) & (1) Wis. Stats., the County Board hereby adopts this private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) ordinance.

(2) This chapter shall be subject to the provisions of Ch. 145 Wis. Stats., and all subsequent rules and regulations promulgated thereunder regarding sanitary systems including without limitation and

incorporating by reference the State Plumbing Code and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapters SPS 381-387 and SPS 391 and Department of Natural Resources Administrative Code Chapters NR 113, 114, 116 and 140 and all amendments thereto.

15.02 – PURPOSE. This chapter is adopted to promote and protect the public health, safety, prosperity, and general welfare of the people and communities within the County. The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the siting, location, design, construction, installation, alteration, inspection, use, and management of private onsite wastewater treatment systems and non-plumbing sanitation systems. These regulations are intended to ensure safe and healthful conditions; to protect the health of residents and transients; to prevent disease and nuisance; to provide for the timely repair or replacement of failing systems; and to protect groundwater and surface water resources.

15.03- APPLICABILITY. The requirements of this article shall apply to all areas of the county not served by a public sewer approved by the Department of Natural Resources.

15.04- SEVERABILITY AND LIABILITY. Should any section, clause, provision or portion of this ordinance be adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby. This ordinance shall not create a liability on the part of or a cause of action against the County or any employee thereof for any private onsite wastewater treatment system which may not function as designed. There shall be no liability or warranty for any site which is approved or denied. The issuance of a sanitary permit and the final inspection of such a system does not warrant the system's function, nor is there a guarantee that the system is free of defects or that all aspects of the system comply to Wisconsin Statute or Administrative Code requirements.

15.05 – INTERPRETATIONS. The provisions of this ordinance shall be held to be minimum requirements and shall be liberally construed in favor of the County and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other power granted by the Wisconsin Statutes and related administrative codes.

15.06 – DEFINITIONS. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

BUILDING. See the definition of the term “structure” in this section.

COMPOSTING TOILET SYSTEM. A method that collects, stores and converts by bacterial digestion nonliquid-carried human wastes or organic kitchen wastes, or both, into humus.

COUNTY SANITARY PERMIT. A permit issued by the Department for the reconnection or repair of a private sewage system or the installation of a non-plumbing sanitation system, pursuant to Wis. Stats. §§ 59.70 and 145.04 and Chapters SPS 381-387 and SPS 391, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

DEPARTMENT. The Crawford County Sanitation & Zoning Department.

DOMESTIC WASTEWATER. The type of wastewater, not including stormwater,

normally discharged from or similar to that discharged from plumbing fixtures, appliances and devices, including, but not limited to, sanitary, bath, laundry, dishwashing, garbage disposal and cleaning wastewater.

FAILING PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEM. has the following meanings:

(1) Those specified under Wis. Stats. § 145.01(4m)

(a) The discharge of sewage into surface water or groundwater.

(b) The introduction of sewage into zones of saturation that adversely affects the operation of a private on-site wastewater treatment system.

(c) The discharge of sewage to a drain tile or into zones of bedrock.

(d) The discharge of sewage to the surface of the ground.

(e) The failure to accept sewage discharges and back up of sewage into the structure served by the private on-site wastewater treatment system.

(2) A holding tank which discharges sewage to the ground surface, including intentional discharges and discharges caused by neglect.

(3) A POWTS system that has less than the minimum of in-situ soil between the infiltrative surface of the POWTS or privy and high groundwater, a limiting layer that may adversely affect the operation of a POWTS system or bedrock pursuant to SPS 383.03(2)(b), Wisconsin Administrative Code.

HUMAN HABITATION. The act of occupying a structure as a dwelling or sleeping place, whether intermittently or as a principal residence, or act of occupying a structure as a place of employment or business.

INCINERATING TOILET. A self-contained device for the treatment of nonliquid carried wastes that deposits the wastes directly into a combustion chamber, reduces the solid portion to ash and evaporates the liquid portion.

ISSUING AGENT. The County office, department, committee, board, commission, position or employee assigned the duties of administering this POWTS ordinance by the County Board.

MINOR REPAIRS. A minor repair to a private onsite wastewater treatment system includes the replacement or repair of any of the following:

(a) manhole covers;
(b) manhole risers;
(c) septic tank baffles;
(d) effluent pumps and related controls or wiring;
(e) other components as determined by the Department;

NON-PLUMBING SANITARY SYSTEM. Alternatives to water-carried waste plumbing fixtures and drain systems regulated by Ch. SPS 391, Wis. Admin. Code, including

composting or incinerating toilets and privies.

OCCUPANCY. Pertains to, and is the purpose for which, a building is used or intended to be used. A change in occupancy is not intended to include a change of tenants or proprietors, but is intended to apply when the number of employees or occupants is increased

OCCUPANCY, **SEASONAL**. Pertains to the human habitation or occupancy of a structure for less than six months in any year and for periodic use such as a recreational cabin or cottage.

OWNER. The owner of the property served by a POWTS. In cases where a POWTS is located on a property with ownership different than the property which it serves, or in which multiple properties and/or structures are served by a single POWTS, the legal document which specifies the agreements of ownership and responsibility shall extend in application to this chapter.

PLUMBER. A person licensed by the state department of safety and professional services as a master plumber or master plumber-restricted services.

PORTABLE RESTROOM. A self-contained portable unit that includes fixtures, incorporating holding tank facilities, designed to contain human excrement.

PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (POWTS). A sewage treatment and disposal system serving a single structure with a septic tank and soil absorption field located on the same parcel as the structure; an alternative sewage system approved by the Department, including a substitute for the septic tank or soil absorption field, a holding tank, a system serving more than one structure or a system located on a different parcel than the structure. A POWTS may be owned by the property owner or by a special purpose district.

PRIVY. An enclosed non-portable toilet into which non-water carried human wastes are deposited.

REBUILT OR REBUILDING. The construction which takes place after a structure is demolished or damaged by fire, wind or other natural disaster.

SANITARY PERMIT. A county sanitary permit or a state sanitary permit, or both.

SEPTIC TANK. An anaerobic treatment tank.

SERVICING. Removing the liquid, scum, sludge, or other wastes from a private sewage system such as septic or holding tanks, dosing chambers, grease interceptors, seepage beds, seepage pits, seepage trenches, privies, or portable restrooms and properly disposing or recycling of the contents as provided per §NR 113.03(57), Wis. Admin. Code.

STATE. The state department of safety and professional services.

STATE SANITARY PERMIT. A permit issued by the department for the installation or

modification of a private sewage system, pursuant to Wis. Stats. §§ 145.135 and 145.19.

STRUCTURE. Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires a location in or on the premises, or any other attachment to something having a permanent location on the ground, which includes, but is not limited to, objects such as buildings, factories, sheds, cabins, mobile homes, gas or liquid storage tanks, bridges, culverts, decks, satellite dishes or swimming pools. Also included are items of personal property that may have been designed as transportable or as a vehicle, but stand in a seasonal or permanent location for storage or intermittent human habitation. Such incidental structures may include, but are not limited to, truck campers, travel trailers, park or model units, buses and motor homes.

VAULT PRIVY. An enclosed nonportable toilet into which nonwater-carried human wastes are deposited to a subsurface storage chamber that is watertight.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR. A person appointed by the county zoning committee to administer and enforce this article.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

15.07- COMPLIANCE.

(1) All structures or premises in the county that are permanently or intermittently intended for human habitation or occupancy, which are not serviced by a public sewer, and for which water is supplied or wastewater is collected and conveyed, shall be served by a Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) for the holding, treatment, and dispersal of sewage and wastewater, and such system shall comply with the provisions of this article.

(2) The private onsite wastewater treatment system or non-plumbing sanitation system for newly constructed structures or structures requiring a reconnection permit shall be approved and installed and may be inspected before the structure may be occupied.

15.08– LIMITATIONS.

(1) All domestic wastewater shall enter a private onsite wastewater treatment system unless otherwise exempted by the State or this ordinance.

(2) A non-plumbing sanitation system may be permitted only when the structure or premises served by the non-plumbing sanitation system is not provided with an indoor plumbing system. If plumbing is installed in the structure or running water is supplied to the structure an acceptable method of sewage disposal other than, or in addition to, a non- plumbing sanitation system must be provided (see §15.10 for other limitations).

(3) Vault privy. Only vaulted-type privies are allowed pursuant to this chapter, and require an approved, Crawford County non-plumbing sanitation system permit prior to placement or construction on a parcel. The pumping, transportation and disposal of the contents of a vault privy shall be in accordance with Ch. NR 113, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and shall be maintained

pursuant to this chapter. Pit privies are not permitted in Crawford County.

(4) Any private onsite wastewater treatment system, or portion(s) thereof, installed within a floodplain shall comply with all applicable requirements of NR 116, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and the Floodplain Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances for Crawford County.

(5) Installation of a holding tank is prohibited if any other type of private onsite wastewater treatment system permitted by SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, can be used and may only be allowed when SPS 383 determines the site is unsuitable for conventional systems such as in-ground, mound, at-grade, or pressure systems. A sanitary permit for the installation of a holding tank, or which designates a holding tank as a replacement system, shall not be issued unless a Soil and Site Evaluation determines that the property is unsuitable for conventional/in-ground soil absorption system, at-grade system, or mound system, except as provided in (a) (b) (c) or (d) below.

(a) A holding tank may be installed to serve a use with a design wastewater flow of less than or equal to 150 gallons per day. In addition to items required in section §15-12, an application for a sanitary permit to install a holding tank to serve a seasonal use one bedroom structure with less than or equal to 150 gallons per day shall include a written statement from the property owner, agreeing to install another type of system if any change of occupancy or use occurs which results in a design wastewater flow which exceeds 150 gallons per day.

(b) A temporary holding tank may be installed if a public sewer, approved by the Department of Natural Resources, will be installed to serve the property within 2 years of the date of sanitary permit issuance. In addition to items required in §15.13, an application for a sanitary permit to install a temporary holding tank shall include written statements from:

(1) The municipality or sanitary district, verifying the date that public sewer will be installed and available to serve the property;

(2) The Department of Natural Resources, verifying approval of the public sewer; and

(3) The property owner, agreeing to connect to public sewer when it becomes available and to abandon the temporary holding tank. If public sewer does not become available within 2 years of the date of sanitary permit issuance, the holding tank must be replaced with another type of system recognized by SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(c) A temporary treatment/holding tank may be installed in cases of emergency due to inclement weather conditions, tank collapses, and other unforeseen circumstances. A sanitary permit application for the entire proposed system shall be submitted to the Department as required in §15.13, prior to installation of the temporary tank(s). All components of the system shall be completed as soon as conditions permit. Time limits may be established at the discretion of the Department.

(d) A holding tank may be installed to collect industrial, nondomestic, or high-strength wastewater only if conventional POWTS are not feasible or approved by DNR.

(6) When a failing private onsite wastewater treatment system is identified, it shall be brought into compliance with current code requirements, replaced with a code compliant system or its use discontinued within that period of time required by Department order. Unlawfully modified private onsite wastewater treatment systems, a private onsite wastewater treatment system that has sewage bypassing the system, or a holding tank which is discharging sewage into the ground, onto the ground's surface, or into surface waters may be ordered by the Department to be corrected or replaced with a code compliant system.

15.09– ABANDONMENT OF PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS.

(1) When public sewers approved by the Department of Natural Resources become available to the structure or premises served, the private onsite wastewater treatment system shall be disconnected within one year and a connection made to the public sewer with the following exception: Abandonment of the disconnected private onsite wastewater treatment system done in accordance with the provisions of SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(2) The components of an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system that are not part of the approved sanitary permit for a replacement system shall be abandoned at the time of the installation of the replacement system by the plumber installing the system. The abandonment shall comply with SPS 383.33, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

15.10 – NON-PLUMBING SANITATION SYSTEMS.

(1) A vault privy, composting toilet system, incinerating toilet, or portable restroom are allowed only when the building served by the non-plumbing system is not provided with plumbing and/or a code compliant soil absorption system or holding tank exists, and a valid sanitary permit to install such a system has been issued by the Crawford County Sanitation & Zoning Department. A building or structure that has internal piping or has been "roughed in" with piping shall be considered to have plumbing.

(2) Composting toilet system, incinerating toilet, or portable restroom shall conform to the standards set out in SPS 391.12 Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(3) Location of vault privies shall not be erected within:

(a) Minimum Fifty feet of any well, or surface water;

(b) Minimum Ten feet of a door or window of any building;

(c) Minimum Ten feet from any road right-of-way;

(d) Minimum Twenty-five feet of any property line; and

(e) Meet the shoreland setback of Wis. Admin. Code NR115.

(4) Vault requirements:

(a) Vaults used for privies shall be an approved sewage/treatment tank as listed in the most current department of safety and professional services product approval register.

(b) No privy shall be permitted that has a capacity of less than 200 gallons.

(c) Vault Privy shall conform to the standards set out in SPS 391.12 Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(5) Permit, fee, and agreement:

(a) Prior to the installation of a non-plumbing sanitation system, a property owner shall obtain a county sanitary permit for the non-plumbing sanitation system and pay the applicable fee.

(b) Prior to the issuance of a sanitary permit, the property owner must sign a non-plumbing sanitary system agreement and have it recorded in the register of deeds' office.

PERMITS AND APPLICATIONS

15.11 – SOIL AND SITE EVALUATION.

(1) Soil and site evaluations shall comply with SPS 383, SPS 385 and SPS 391, Wisconsin Administrative Code and this chapter.

(2) The department shall attempt to inspect all soil tests performed in the county, dependent on schedules and weather.

(3) All soil testers shall contact the department at least 48 hours prior to any requested inspections.

(4) Soil test pits shall be constructed which allow adequate visual observation of the soil profile in place. A minimum of three soil pits shall be observed except where soil and site conditions are not uniform, more borings may be required. Sufficient suitable area shall be identified. Observation is best accomplished by the excavation of backhoe pits.

(5) A certified soil tester may request department verification of a soil and site evaluation report before a complete sanitary permit application is submitted. An application for such verification shall include, on forms provided by the department, all information required in section 15.13(1)(a)-(e), the original copy of the soil and site evaluation report and as many copies as are required by the department.

15.12 – SANITARY PERMITS.

(1) Every private onsite wastewater treatment system shall require a separate application and sanitary permit.

(2) A sanitary permit shall be obtained by the property owner, his agent or contractor, in the name of the property owner, prior to the installation, establishment or construction of any structure which requires a private onsite wastewater treatment system or non-plumbing sanitation system. Any property owner, his agent or contractor, who starts construction prior to obtaining a sanitary permit is in violation and may be subject to the penalties provided in this ordinance. No person shall sell a septic tank or holding tank for installation as specified in this chapter, unless the purchaser holds a valid sanitary permit.

(3) A sanitary permit shall be obtained by the property owner, his agent or contractor, before any private onsite wastewater treatment system or part thereof may be installed, replaced, repaired, reconnected or modified. A sanitary permit is not required for the addition of manhole risers or for minor repairs.

(4) A County Sanitary Permit shall be obtained prior to constructing or installing a non-plumbing sanitation system.

(5) If any part of a private onsite wastewater treatment system has failed or requires replacement or modification, the entire system shall be evaluated to determine if it is compliant with applicable codes prior to sanitary permit issuance. This shall include a soil and site evaluation for those components that utilize in situ soil for treatment or dispersal, unless a valid report is already on file with the Department. If any part of the system is found to be defective, the sanitary permit application shall include specifications for the repair, renovation, replacement or removal of that part.

15.13 − APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(1) A sanitary permit application shall include the following information which shall be furnished by the applicant on forms required by the State and/or the Department along with all applicable fees:

(a) Names and addresses of the applicant (owner of the site) and the plumber employed (when applicable).

(b) Legal description of the subject site and the parcel identification or parcel number.

(c) All lot dimensions.

(d) Driving directions to the site.

(e) Building use (single family, duplex, etc.).

(f) Soil and Site Evaluation report.

(g) System plans (see §15.14).

(h) Appropriate agreements, contracts, and a management plan for the proposed design describing monitoring, maintenance, and servicing agreements.

(i) Verification that any existing private onsite wastewater treatment systems on the same parcel of land are not failing private onsite wastewater treatment systems.

(j) Copies of any documents required in §15.13(3) and verification that they have been recorded.

(k) Any other information required by the Department, including verification of compliance with §15.32(10) of this ordinance.

(2) When any official State action is required prior to the issuance of a sanitary permit, a copy of the official action shall accompany the application.

(3) The following documents must be recorded with the Crawford County Register of Deeds prior to sanitary permit issuance:

(a) Maintenance agreements, notification of servicing requirements, or notification of system limitations, if recording is required by, SPS 383 Wisconsin Administrative Code, or §15.32 of this ordinance.

(b) If a private on-site wastewater treatment system serves more than one structure under different ownership, a document identifying all parties that have ownership rights and are responsible for the operation and maintenance.

(c) If a private onsite wastewater treatment system is owned by a party other than the owner of the parcel on which it is installed, a document identifying the owner of the system, the structures to be served by the system and the party responsible for operation and maintenance must be recorded.

(d) If the design wastewater flow of a private onsite wastewater treatment system for a dwelling is not based upon the number of bedrooms within the dwelling, a deed restriction limiting occupancy to that used in the design must be recorded.

(4) The Department reserves the right to require Floodplain zoning verification prior to sanitary permit issuance. The Department may require elevations on plans to be tied to floodplain elevation datum.

(5) The Department reserves the right to refuse incomplete or incorrect permit applications or to delay permit issuance until corrected or completed applications are received.

15.14 - PLANS. System plans shall be submitted for approval to the Department or to the State in accordance with, SPS 383 Wisconsin Administrative Code. Plans shall comply with the requirements of, SPS 383 Wisconsin Administrative Code, and this ordinance.

(1) Plans submitted to the Department shall include the original and as many copies as are required by the Department.

(2) If plans are reviewed and approved by the State, at least one set of the plans submitted to the Department shall bear an State approval stamp or seal.

(3) Plans submitted shall be clear, legible and permanent copies.

(4) Plans submitted shall comply with, SPS 383,Wisconsin Administrative Code, and include the following:

(a) The name of the property owner and the legal description of the site;

(b) Estimated daily wastewater flow and design wastewater flow.

(c) A detailed plot plan (site plan), dimensioned or drawn to scale, on paper no smaller than 8½ inches by 11 inches in size. The plot plan shall delineate the lot size and the location of all existing and proposed: private onsite wastewater treatment system components; building sewers; private interceptor main sewers; wells; water mains or water services; buildings; lot lines; swimming pools; navigable waters; and the benchmark established on the Soil and Site Evaluation Report. Adjoining properties shall be checked to insure that the horizontal setback parameters in, SPS 383.43, Wisconsin Administrative Code, are complied with. All separating distances and dimensions shall be clearly shown on the plot plan.

(d) Details and configuration layouts depicting how the system is to be constructed.

(e) Sufficient supporting information to determine whether the proposed design, installation and management of the proposed private onsite wastewater treatment system or modification to an existing system complies with this ordinance.

(5) Plans shall be signed or sealed as specified in, SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(6) A copy of the approved plans shall be maintained at the construction site until the private onsite wastewater treatment system installation is completed and inspected. The plans shall be made available to the Department or the State upon request.

(7) A modification to the design of a private onsite wastewater treatment system which has been previously approved shall be submitted to the Department or the State as specified in, SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Plan revisions must be approved prior to system installation. A fee may be charged when submitting revised plans according to §15.23.

15.15 − PERMIT CARDS.

(1) The permit card issued by the Zoning Administrator to the property owner or his agent shall serve as the sanitary permit.

(2) The permit card shall contain all the information required by §145.19, Wisconsin Statutes.

(3) The permit card shall be displayed at the site in such a manner that it will be visible from a road abutting the lot during all construction phases.

(4) The permit card may not be removed until the private onsite wastewater treatment system has been installed and inspected by the Zoning Administrator.

(5) Failure to display the permit card shall be considered a violation of this section and may subject the property owner, his agent or contractor, to penalty provisions of this ordinance.

15.16 – PERMIT EXPIRATION.

(1) A sanitary permit for a private onsite wastewater treatment system or non-plumbing sanitation system which has not been installed, replaced, repaired, modified or reconnected and approved shall expire two years after the date of issuance unless renewed. Permits may be renewed by the property owner, his agent or plumber, prior to the expiration date of the original permit.

(2) Prior to the expiration of the sanitary permit, the licensed plumber shall submit the applicable form for the renewal along with the appropriate fee. A new permit card shall be issued when the permit is renewed.

(3) The renewal shall be based on Wisconsin Administrative Code, Statute, and ordinance requirements in force at the time of renewal. Changed Wisconsin Administrative Code, Statute, or ordinance may impede renewal and a new permit may be required.

(4) A sanitary permit which has been renewed shall expire two years from the date of renewal.

(5) A new sanitary permit shall be obtained by the owner or his agent prior to beginning construction if a sanitary permit has expired.

15.17 – CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP.

(1) Change of ownership of a property for which a valid sanitary permit exists shall be subject to the following:

(a) The property owner or plumber shall submit the applicable form to the Department with the change of owner section completed and signed along with the applicable fee.

(b) Change of ownership shall not affect the expiration date or renewal requirements.

15.18– CHANGE OF PLUMBERS.

(1) When an owner wishes to change plumbers, it will be necessary for the owner to submit the applicable form to the Department with the change of plumber section completed and signed by the new plumber along with the applicable fee.

(2) The change of plumbers shall be approved by the department prior to the installation of the private onsite wastewater treatment system.

(3) Sanitary permits for systems requiring State plan approval shall not be approved by the Department unless the plan bears the stamp of an architect, engineer, or plumbing designer, or a State level approval is obtained by the new plumber.

15.19 – PERMIT DENIAL. When applicable provisions of Wisconsin Statutes, Wisconsin Administrative Code or this Ordinance have not been complied with when applying for a sanitary permit, the permit shall be denied. Written notice of the right to appeal along with the procedures for the appeal shall be given to the plumber pursuant to SPS 383.21(3)(d)2.b Reasons for the denial shall be forwarded to the plumber, landowner and when appropriate, the Corporation Counsel.

15.20 − RECONNECTION.

(1) A county sanitary permit for a reconnection of an existing system shall be obtained prior to:

(a) Construction of a structure to be connected to an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system;

(b) Disconnection of a structure from an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system and connection of another structure to the system except as permitted in §15.20(4); or

(c) Rebuilding a structure that is reconnected to a private onsite wastewater treatment system.

(d) A modification of or addition to an existing building which includes a new building sewer and/or new connection to an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system.

(2) Prior to issuing a reconnection sanitary permit, the existing private onsite wastewater treatment system shall be examined to:

(a) Determine if it is functioning properly or whether it is a failing system.

(b) Determine if it will be capable of handling the proposed wastewater flow and contaminant load from the building to be served.

(c) Determine that all minimum setback requirements of, SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code will be maintained.

(3) Application for a County reconnection permit shall include the following:

(a) All items in §15.13(1)(a - e) and §15.13(1)(i-k);

(b) An Existing POWTS Evaluation Report, as specified in §15.22.

(c) Complete plans, as specified in §15.14.

(d) If required, a updated holding tank agreement which meets the requirements of this ordinance for reconnections to existing holding tanks.

(e) If required, a copy of an affidavit which has been recorded in the Register of Deeds office.

(4) Replacing a structure with a new or different structure within two years of the date of permit issuance will only require a statement that the system has not been altered, a statement that a modification in wastewater flow or contaminant load will not occur, and a plot plan that documents

all setbacks between the structure and system components.

(5) All systems shall be inspected at the time of reconnection at the discretion of the Department, prior to backfilling, to insure that proper materials and methods are being used.

(6) Reconnection to an undersized system is not permitted.

15.21 - CONSTRUCTION AFFECTING WASTEWATER FLOW OR CONTAMINATION LOAD. Prior to commencing the construction of an addition to or modification of a structure which will affect the wastewater flow and/or contaminant load to an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system, the owner(s) of the property shall:

(1) Possess a sanitary permit to construct a new private onsite wastewater treatment system or modify an existing private onsite wastewater treatment system to accommodate the modification of wastewater flow or contaminant load; or

(2) Provide the following to the Department:

(a) Documentation that a private onsite wastewater treatment system of adequate capability and capacity to accommodate the wastewater flow and contaminant load already exists to serve the structure, as specified in SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code;

(b) Documentation showing that the location of the proposed structure conforms to the applicable setback distances to all the existing private onsite wastewater treatment system components; and,

(c) An Existing POWTS Evaluation Report, as specified in §15.22.

(3) If a previously permitted existing POWTS is known to be incorrectly sized by the existing or proposed wastewater load, the continued use of the existing POWTS may be allowed upon completion of an affidavit limiting use of the structure based upon a per capita occupancy as per SPS 383.43(3). When replacement is required the system shall be sized based on the number of bedrooms.

(4) Any installation, addition or modification of a system must be completed and accepted before the addition or modified area of the structure may be occupied.

(5) Prior to commencing construction of any structure or addition to a structure on a site where there exists a private onsite wastewater treatment system the owner or his agent shall determine that the proposed structure conforms with applicable setback limitations of SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Documentation shall be submitted as required in, SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

15.22 – EXISTING POWTS EVALUATION REPORTS.

(1) When an evaluation of an existing POWTS is required by this ordinance, an Existing POWTS Evaluation Report shall be completed and submitted to the Department. Existing POWTS Evaluation Reports must be on forms provided by the Department.

Each Evaluation Report shall include all of the following:

(a) A Soil and Site Evaluation Report verifying that the vertical separation distance between the Infiltrative surface of the existing treatment or dispersal component and estimated high groundwater and/or bedrock along with identifying a replacement area that complies with SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Submittal of a Soil and Site Evaluation Report will not be required if:

(1) The existing POWTS is a code compliant holding tank;

(2) An adequate Soil and Site Evaluation Report is on file which was submitted and approved by the Department after July 1, 1994. The Department may accept Soil and Site Evaluation Reports on a case by case basis.

(b) A report provided by a plumber, certified septage servicing operator, certified POWTS inspector or other person(s) authorized to do so by SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, relative to the condition, capacities, and code compliance of any existing treatment or holding tanks;

(c) A report provided by a plumber, certified POWTS inspector, or other person(s) authorized to do so by SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, relative to the condition, capacities, and code compliance of all other system components;

(d) A plot plan prepared by a plumber, certified soil tester, certified POWTS inspector, or other person(s) authorized to do so by SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, including information specified in §15.14(4)(c), unless an accurate plot plan is on file with the Department;

(e) An evaluation of the use and wastewater flow of the structure(s) served relative to the capacity of the existing POWTS.

(f) Verification that all domestic wastewater from the structure discharges into the POWTS and that no outfall pipe(s) or connection(s) to drain tile exist.

(2) Existing POWTS Evaluation Reports must be signed by the licensed or certified person(s) performing the evaluation(s).

(3) Existing POWTS Evaluation Reports must be submitted to the Department within thirty (30) days of the evaluation.

15.23- FEES.

(1) The schedule of fees for all types of sanitary permits and related services shall be set by a motion of the Land Conservation, Planning & Zoning Committee & adjusted from time to time in the same manner. The schedule of fees shall be kept in the office of the issuing agent and provided upon request.

(2) After the sanitary permit has been issued, the fees may not be refunded.

(3) Penalty fees will be charged for all after-the-fact permit applications. Fees shall be multiplied according to the schedule of fees for work commenced prior to permit issuance.

INSPECTIONS

15.24– INSPECTION; GENERAL.

(1) Notice for final inspection shall be given to the Department for all private onsite wastewater treatment systems installed, replaced, repaired, modified or reconnected. Unless otherwise noted, notification for final inspection shall be given in accordance with the requirements of Wis. Admin. Code SPS 383.

(2) These private onsite wastewater treatment systems shall be inspected by the Department for compliance with, SPS 382, SPS 383 and SPS 384 Wisconsin Administrative Code, other appropriate Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Codes and this ordinance.

(3) The installing plumber whose name appears on the sanitary permit shall allow the Department to make a field inspection of the POWTS installation, modification or reconnection after construction, but before backfilling, no later than the end of the next work day after which such work was completed on the system and the Department was notified, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays,. The installing plumber will be held in violation of this section when any POWTS is backfilled and covered before it has been inspected and approved by the Department, unless the inspection requirements of SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, are not met by the County.

(4) The entire system shall be left completely open until it has been inspected and accepted, unless the requirements of SPS 383,Wisconsin Administrative Code, are not met by the Department.

(5) When a private onsite wastewater treatment system is ready for inspection, the plumber in charge shall make arrangements to enable the inspector to inspect all parts of the system. The plumber shall provide the proper apparatus, equipment and necessary assistance to make a proper inspection.

(6) Private onsite wastewater treatment systems may be inspected periodically, after the initial installation inspection(s) and/or after the system is operative, as deemed necessary by the Zoning Administrator.

15.25- INSPECTIONS; SITE CONSTRUCTED HOLDING TANKS.

(1) All site constructed holding tanks shall be inspected after the floor is poured and the keyway and water stop are installed or after the forms for the tank walls have been set but in all instances before any concrete for the walls has been poured.

(2) Concrete walls may be poured only after it has been determined that the tank, as formed, complies with the approved plans.

(3) This inspection shall not eliminate the need for an inspection after the installation has been completed.

15.26- INSPECTIONS; MOUNDS & AT-GRADE SYSTEMS.

(1) The installing plumber whose name appears on the sanitary permit shall allow the Department to make a field inspection of the POWTS installation, modification or reconnection after construction, but before backfilling, no later than the end of the next work day after which such work was completed on the system and the Department was notified, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays,. The installing plumber will be held in violation of this section when any POWTS is backfilled and covered before it has been inspected and approved by the Department, unless the inspection requirements of SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, are not met by the County..

(2) Systems may be inspected at the time the ground surface is plowed, before distribution pipes have been placed in the cell, at the time the distribution piping installation has been completed before backfilling and after all work has been completed, at the discretion of the Zoning Administrator.

15.27- TESTING

(1) If testing of new systems or new system components is required by SPS 382, 383 or 384, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or as a condition of plan approval, notice shall be given to the Department as specified in §15.24(3), so that the Department may make an inspection during the test.

(2) The Department may verify that required testing has been completed, by:

(a) Performing an inspection during the test,

(b) Requiring written verification from the responsible person, or

(c) Both a and b.

SYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

15.28- MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT.

(1) All private onsite wastewater treatment systems shall be managed and maintained in accordance with SPS 383, 384 and 391, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and this ordinance.

(2) The property owner shall report to the Department each inspection, maintenance or servicing event, in accordance with SPS 383, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and this ordinance.

(3) The property owner shall submit a copy of an appropriate maintenance agreement and/or servicing contract to the Department prior to sanitary permit issuance.

(4) The property owner shall submit a new or revised servicing contract to the Department whenever there is a change to such document(s).

15.29- POWTS MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

(1) All new and existing septic tanks shall be inspected and pumped within three years of the date of installation and at least once every three years thereafter, unless upon inspection the tank is found to have less than 1/3 of the volume occupied by sludge and scum pursuant SPS 383.54.

(2) PUMPING AND DISPOSAL. The pumping and the disposal of the septage shall be done by a certified septage servicing operator in accordance with NR 113, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

(3) Visual inspection of a private onsite wastewater treatment system shall be conducted by persons specified in SPS 383.54 to determine the condition of the tank and whether wastewater or effluent from the POWTS is ponding on the ground surface.

(4) REPORTS. The property owner or owner's agent of a private onsite wastewater treatment system shall furnish the Department with a copy of the inspection report verifying the condition of the tank, whether wastewater or effluent from the POWTS is discharging to or ponding on the ground surface and the date of pumping within 30 calendar days of the date of inspection and/or pumping. Reports shall include all information required in SPS 383.55, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and signed by the person(s) inspecting and pumping the private onsite wastewater treatment system. Other maintenance or management reports required by SPS 383 or 384, Wisconsin Administrative Code, shall be included with this report.

(5) POSTPONEMENT. Circumstances, such as inclement weather, road weight restrictions and site limitations, may necessitate a delay in the maintenance until conditions permit at the discretion of the county.

15.30- HOLDING TANK AGREEMENT.

(1) The proposed owner of the holding tank shall enter into a Holding Tank Agreement with Crawford County before a sanitary permit is issued. The holding tank agreement shall be signed on a form provided by the Zoning Administrator, who shall sign the agreement on behalf of the county. The agreement shall require the applicant to conform to state regulations regarding the maintenance and pumping of the holding tank. If the tank is not maintained or pumped in conformance with state regulations, the Zoning Office shall order it to be maintained or pumped by a certified septage servicing operator, at county expense. The county shall then invoice the property owner for all such costs incurred. If the invoice is not paid within 30 days, the county may place the amount on the tax roll as a special assessment pursuant to Wis. Stat. 145.20(4) against the property in question. This holding Tank Agreement shall be filed with the Register of Deeds office and shall be recorded in a manner which will permit the existence of the agreement to be determined by reference to the property where the holding tank is installed.

(2) The owner or agent shall submit a copy of the Holding Tank Agreement when plans are submitted to the Department for review.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

15.31- ADMINISTRATION. The Zoning Administrator shall be responsible for the administration of this ordinance. The Zoning Administrator may delegate his responsibilities to personnel employed by the Department.

15.32- POWERS AND DUTIES. In the administration of this ordinance, the Zoning Administrator shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) Delegate duties to and supervise clerical staff and other employees to assure full and complete compliance with this ordinance and related Wisconsin Statutes and the Administrative Codes.

(2) Advise applicants concerning the provisions of this ordinance and assist them in preparing permit applications.

(3) Review and approve plans for private onsite wastewater treatment systems for one and two family residences or as approved through agent status by the State.

(4) Issue sanitary permits and inspect properties for compliance with this ordinance and related Wisconsin Statutes and the Administrative Code.

(5) Keep records of all sanitary permits issued, inspections made, work approved, and other official actions.

(6) Report violations of this article to the corporation counsel and/or district attorney. Issue citations or initiate other legal action through corporation counsel or district attorney.

(7) Have access to any premises for the purpose of performing official duties between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. or at other times set by mutual agreement between the property owner or his agent and the Zoning Administrator or upon issuance of a special inspection warrant in accordance with §66.122, Wisconsin Statutes. Application for a sanitary permit is considered for the purposes of this ordinance as the owner's consent to enter the premises.

(8) Upon reasonable cause or question as to proper compliance, revoke or suspend any sanitary permit and issue cease and desist orders requiring the cessation of any construction, alteration or use of a building which is in violation of the provisions of this ordinance, until compliance with this ordinance or applicable Wisconsin Statutes and the Administrative Code is obtained.

(9) Issue and enforce orders to plumbers, certified septage servicing operators, property owners their agents or contractors or the responsible party, to assure proper compliance with all provisions of this ordinance or delegate such authority to the County Health Department.

(10) Withhold permits or approvals if the application or proposed private onsite wastewater treatment system does not comply with the requirements of the statutes, administrative code, or this ordinance governing private onsite wastewater treatment systems. A request for a waiver of the

provisions of this article may be made, to grant or deny a permit or approval on the merits of the application, to the corporation counsel and the zoning committee.

(11) Perform other duties regarding private onsite wastewater treatment systems as considered appropriate by the County or the State.

(12) Review and approve Existing POWTS Evaluation Reports for compliance with this ordinance and administrative codes.

15.33- BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT. Any person who alleges that there is an error in any order, requirement or decision made in the enforcement of this ordinance may appeal to the Board of Adjustment as provided in Ch. 16 (Shoreland Protection Ordinance) of the General Code. Any appeal shall be made on forms furnished by the Department within 30 days of the date of that administrative action. Other substantiating evidence will be accepted.

15.34- VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

(1) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this ordinance, or any order of the Department issued in accordance with this ordinance, or resists enforcement, shall be subject to a penalty as provided in §25.04 of the General Code.

(2) Any construction which is in violation of this ordinance shall cease upon written orders from the Zoning Administrator or the placement of a notification of violation at the site.

(3) All construction shall remain stopped until the order is released by the Zoning Administrator.

(4) Violations of this ordinance shall be prosecuted by the Corporation Counsel or District Attorney as requested by the Zoning Administrator. ”

Section II: This Ordinance shall become effective in upon its passage and publication as required by law.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2026

LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Gary Koch, Chairman	Kate Krachey
Mary Kuhn	Chad Sime
Owen DuCharme	

Passed and approved this 17th day of February, 2026

Tom Cornford
County Board Chairman

ATTEST:
Roberta A. Fisher
County Clerk

Published this day of March, 2026.
Effective this day of March, 2026.

Motion by Anderson, second by Kuhn to approve and adopt the Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Chapter 15 of the Crawford County Code of Ordinances Regarding Private On-site Wastewater Systems and Non-Plumbing Sanitary Systems. The motion carried unanimously.

Under Committee Reports:

Mary Kuhn, Ag & Extension Chairman, informed that the Economic Development Agent has been busy putting together an Agri-Tourism group. Kuhn also reported on the Fair, stating that they have been lining up entertainment and cleaning up some loose ends in preparation for the 2026 Crawford County Fair.

Gary Koch, Finance Chairman, informed they are knee deep in the final borrowing for the Jail Project. Greg Callin of Kraemer Brothers was supposed to be here today to give a financial update along with Carol, but he had a previous engagement and will update in April.

Nate Bremmer, Jail Project Transition Leader, provided the board with an update on the remodel and new construction of the Jail. He reported that the project remains on schedule. Bremmer also invited anyone interested to stop by the Kraemer Brothers construction trailer or contact him directly to arrange a tour.

Linda Munson, HHSD Chair, announced that they hired Katelyn Gilman as the new Social Worker Supervisor.

Kyle Kozelka, Highway Commissioner, announced the hiring of Greg Moe to the Highway crew. Moe brings experience in construction, including dump truck driving and operating excavators and front end loaders. Kozelka also expressed his appreciation to the supervisors who recently met with him individually to discuss the upcoming Highway Department project.

Mark Gilberts, Veterans Chairman, shared 2024 updates with the board. He reported that veterans and their dependents in Crawford County received more than $14,166,000 in VA benefits during the year. In addition to regularly scheduled appointments, the Veterans Department assisted more than 3,000 walk-in visitors seeking information about VA benefits.

EMERGENCY FIRE WARDENS
CRAWFORD COUNTY
2026

To the Honorable
County Board of Crawford County, Wisconsin

In accord with s. 26.12(3) and 26.14(3), Wis. Stats., we recommend the following persons to act as authorized Emergency Fire Wardens for the prevention and suppression of forest fires in this county for the year 2026 and ask your approval of this organization list.

Greener's Corners	IN THE Town of Seneca, Wisconsin
The Marketplace	IN THE Village of Gays Mills, Wisconsin
Tractor Supply Co	IN THE City of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources
Eric Zenz, Area Forestry Leader

Tom Cornford
Crawford County Board Chairman

Motion by Anderson, second by Krachey to approve the 2026 Crawford County Emergency Fire Wardens List. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, there was a motion by DuCharme, second by Gilberts to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
(ss)
COUNTY OF CRAWFORD

I, Roberta A. Fisher, Clerk of County of Crawford, State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the Crawford County Board of Supervisors at the Regular Session on February 17th, 2026

Roberta A. Fisher, Crawford County Clerk