

AMENDMENT NO. 137 TO ORDINANCE NO. 179

CHAPTER 2 THE GOVERNING BODY

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PEPIN COUNTY:

Section 1. Authority and Purpose. This ordinance is enacted under authority of Chapter 59 Wis. Statutes.

Section 2. That the Code of Ordinances of the County of Pepin be amended as follows:

THE GOVERNING BODY

2.03 RULES OF THE COUNTY BOARD. (Ord. No. 179: Am. #108, 03-16-16; Am. #115, 05-16-18; Am #125, 03-18-2020; Am # 132, 05-19-2021; Am #137, 02-21-2024)

(2) ANNUAL MEETING. The Board shall meet on the Tuesday after the 2nd Monday of November in each year for the purpose of passing upon the budget and transacting general business of the Board. Members of the County Board are required to attend the November Annual Meeting in person **unless remote attendance is approved by the County Board Chair**. See Sec. 59.11 (1) (a) Wis. Stats.

(3) MONTHLY MEETING. In addition to the meetings prescribed above, the Board shall meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, except April and November, for the purpose of transacting general business of the County Board. This date may be changed, or the County Board Chairperson may cancel the monthly meeting provided notice of the change or cancellation is provided at least one (1) week prior to the date and time of the scheduled meeting.

At the County Board meetings, the use of remote participation is allowed but subject to the following:

- (a) All meetings are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law.**
- (b) At the start of any meeting in which a Supervisor participate remotely, they will need to identify themselves during roll call and make every attempt to be visible to participants.**
- (c) All Supervisors who attend a meeting through remote participation shall be entitled to vote as if they were physically present at the meeting.**
- (d) All votes taken during a meeting in which member(s) participate remotely must be by roll call vote.**
- (e) Acceptable means of remote participation include telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing, or any other technology that enables the remote participant and all persons present at the meeting location to be clearly audible to one**

another. Text messaging, instant messaging, email and web chat without audio are not acceptable methods of remote participation.

(f) Recognizing that remote participation in a meeting is a privilege and not a right. If technical difficulties arise as a result of utilizing remote participation, the Chairperson or in the chairperson's absence, the person chairing the meeting, may decide how to address the situation. If a Supervisor remote participant is disconnected from the meeting, the minutes must note that fact and the time of which the disconnection occurred.

(g). Members attending remotely are not entitled to receive any mileage reimbursement.

(h). The Chair may request in person attendance when necessary.

(23) CONDUCT. County Board members, visitors, staff and others shall at all times conduct themselves and dress in a professional and respectful manner. Board Member comments should be directed to the County Board Chair or Committee Chair and not to any individual Board Member, County Staff or member of the public. All comments must be respectful, courteous, appropriate and germane to the topic under discussion. Any inappropriate conduct will be recognized and addressed by the County Board Chair or Committee Chair. The County Board Chairperson at a County Board meeting or the Committee Chairperson at a committee meeting shall have the power to direct a member's removal from a meeting. Committees shall not meet when the board is in session. There shall be no conversation on the board floor or in the visitor's section except as part of debate or as authorized by the County Board Chairperson. All electronic devices shall be kept in the silent mode. The Clerk shall distribute any literature to supervisors.

2.04 COMMITTEES.

(5) STANDING COMMITTEES.

(2) Land Conservation, Planning /Extension Pepin County: (Ord. No. 179: Am# 111, 06-15-16; Am# 115, 05-16-18; Am# 117, 03-20-19; Am # 137, 02-21-2024)

Four members of the County Board, and the required to appointment one designated ~~member of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee~~ **person who engages in an agricultural use.** (*"Agricultural Use" defined as crop or forage production; keeping livestock; beekeeping; nursery; sod; or Christmas tree production; floriculture; fur farming; and forest management.*)

~~The FSA member~~ This appointed agricultural person shall participate and vote on U.W. Extension matters. This Committee shall:

(7) CONDUCT OF BUSINESS. Conduct of committee business shall be as follows:

(a) Meetings.

(4) At Committee meetings, the use of remote participation is allowed but subject to the following:

~~(c) At the start of any meeting which a member will participate remotely will be identified.~~ At the start of any meeting in which a member participate remotely, they will need to identify themselves during roll call and make ever attempt to be visible to participants.

(b) Order of Business. The order of business at committee meetings shall be as follows, except that the Chairperson may modify the order of business as necessary:

(1). Call to Order

(2). Call of the Roll

(3). Public Comments Regarding Listed Agenda Items

At the discretion of the Committee Chair, public comments may be allowed during the discussion of the specific agenda item.

Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per speaker unless otherwise given permission by the Committee Chairperson. No accumulating of time from others allowed. The Committee Chair may, from time to time, adopt rules applicable to public comment.

The public comment period is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee on matters that are scheduled for the Committee to take up during the meeting, as indicated on the meeting agenda. All comments shall be germane to the topics on the Committee's agenda. Speakers must also refrain from personal attacks against the Committee members and County staff. The Chair may declare any commenter out of order for failure to abide by these guidelines.

(4). Approval of the Agenda

(5). Approval of the Minutes

(6). Consent Agenda Items

(7). Reports

(8). Business Items

(9). Public Comments other than Agenda Items

(10). Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

(11). Adjournment

(9) REMOVAL OF COMMITTEE OFFICER AND MEMBERS.

A chairperson of a committee can be removed by majority vote of all members of a committee. The removed chairperson would remain on the committee and the vice-chairperson of the committee would assume the role of chairperson until a new chairperson is elected. A committee member can be removed by the County Board

chairperson in his or her discretion by a majority vote of all members of a committee. The County Board chairperson may reassign the removed member to another committee.

2.07 COUNTY BOARD MEMBER RULES OF CONDUCT OUTSIDE MEETINGS.
(Ord. No. 179: Am. #137,02-21-2024)

Recognizing the importance of ethical and responsible conduct to the orderly and efficient operation of county government, the County Board hereby establishes the following Rules of Conduct applicable to County Board Members, which will govern activities outside a County Board meeting and supplement the provisions of Section 2.03(23). Any violation of these Rules of Conduct may, in addition to any penalties imposed under the Wisconsin Statutes, result in admonishment, censure, removal of committee chair responsibilities, removal from committees or otherwise form the basis for additional proceedings under applicable Wisconsin Statutes.

- (1) The County Board affirms its commitment to the standards of conduct contained in Wis. Stat. § 19.59(1)(a)-(d) applicable to County Board Members as local public officials, as set forth in the following:
 - (a) No local public official may use his or her public position or office to obtain financial gain or anything of substantial value for the private benefit of himself or herself or his or her immediate family, or for an organization with which he or she is associated. This paragraph does not prohibit a local public official from using the title or prestige of his or her office to obtain campaign contributions that are permitted and reported as required by WI State Statute Ch. 11. This paragraph does not prohibit a local public official from obtaining anything of value from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation or the department of tourism, as provided under s. 19.56 (3) (f).
 - (b) No person may offer or give to a local public official, directly or indirectly, and no local public official may solicit or accept from any person, directly or indirectly, anything of value if it could reasonably be expected to influence the local public official's vote, official actions or judgment, or could reasonably be considered as a reward for any official action or inaction on the part of the local public official. This paragraph does not prohibit a local public official from engaging in outside employment.

- (c) No local public official or candidate for local public office may, directly or by means of an agent, give, or offer or promise to give, or withhold, or offer or promise to withhold, his or her vote or influence, or promise to take or refrain from taking official action with respect to any proposed or pending matter in consideration of, or upon condition that, any other person make or refrain from making a political contribution, or provide or refrain from providing any service or other thing of value, to or for the benefit of a candidate, a political party, any committee registered under

WI State Statute Ch. 11, or any person making a communication that contains a reference to a clearly identified local public official holding an elective office or to a candidate for local public office.

- (d) Except as otherwise provided in par. (e), no local public official may:

- 1. Take any official action substantially affecting a matter in which the official, a member of his or her immediate family, or an organization with which the official is associated has a substantial financial interest.

- 2. Use his or her office or position in a way that produces or assists in the production of a substantial benefit, direct or indirect, for the official, one or more members of the official's immediate family either separately or together, or an organization with which the official is associated.

- (e) Paragraph (d) does not prohibit a local public official from taking any action concerning the lawful payment of salaries or employee benefits or reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, or prohibit a local public official from taking official action with respect to any proposal to modify a county or municipal ordinance.

(2) Board Member Relationship with Staff.

- (a) Board Members shall at all times exhibit professional and courteous behavior when interacting with County staff. Under no circumstance shall it be acceptable for a Board Member to berate, belittle or shout at a County employee whether in a meeting or outside a meeting.

- (b) Board Members shall refrain from requesting that County staff perform a task or function without first obtaining the appropriate authorization. Matters relating to official County business should be addressed through the Administrative Coordinator or the appropriate Committee.

(3) Expectations for Board Member Attendance and Participation.

Board Members are expected to attend all meetings of the County Board and every Committee to which the Board Member is assigned. Likewise, Board Members are expected to fully participate in all matters of business brought before a meeting in a manner consistent with these Rules.

Section 3. Effective Date. This amendment shall take effect February 29, 2024

Adopted: February 21, 2024

RECOMMENDED BY THE PEPIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTE

/s/ Tom Milliren, Committee Chair In favor-5 Oppose-0 Absent-0 Abstain-0

COUNTY BOARD ACTION:

ADOPTED by the Pepin County Board of Supervisors on this 21st day of February 2024.
In favor – 11 Oppose – 0 Absent – 1 Abstain – 0

/s/ Audrey Bauer, County Clerk

/s/ Tom Milliren, County Board Chair

Amendment No. 137 to Ordinance 179 Chapter 2 – The Governing Body