



Minocqua, WI
At 4:15 PM CST
Clear
23°F
S 6 MPH
www.weatherforyou.com



WEB SITE ADS WITH LINK FOR AS LOW AS \$79/MO.
Call us today!
THE LAKELAND Times
715.356.5236
Or click here!



home : [recent news](#) : [recent news](#)

February 20, 2009

2/20/2009 9:09:00 AM

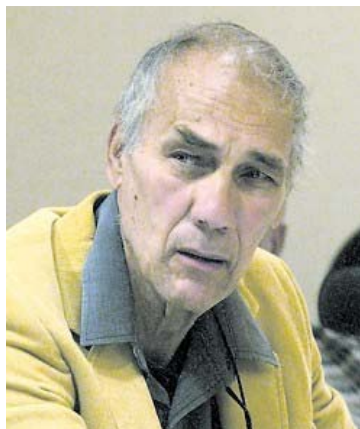
[Email this article](#) • [Print this article](#)

A unified call for changing the state's school funding formula

O.C. supervisors call for formula changes to re-allocate more aid to schools



Eric Johnson
Reporter



Paul Dean

Saying Oneida County school districts are "suffering" under Wisconsin's current school funding formula, county board supervisors on a 20-0 Feb. 17 vote endorsed supervisor Paul Dean's resolution that calls upon state legislators to change the funding formula to "more fairly distribute state aids" throughout the state.

Supervisor Denny Thompson was unable to attend the board meeting and was excused.

Student county board representative Mary Benbenek of Minocqua, an alternate from Lakeland Union High School, also cast a vote in favor of the resolution.

In the text of the resolution, it was noted that Oneida County school districts have been financially struggling on several fronts, citing decreased state aid levels spurred by state budget shortfalls and the inherent inequities in Wisconsin's school funding formula.

With Oneida County school districts "receiving less state aid than comparable school districts in Wisconsin based on the state's school aid formula," the resolution said the board supports the notion that "a change in the state aid formula is necessary in order to re-allocate more funds to Oneida County school districts."

Resolution 13-2009 urges state legislators to "more fairly distribute state aids throughout the state of Wisconsin," noting the board "supports changes to the state aid formula."

In board discussions, several supervisors voiced their strong support for the resolution.

"... I just thought it would be nice that the people of Oneida County know that the supervisors ... will support this resolution and bring it down to Madison," Dean said. "This resolution, 13-2009, is to support our schools - Rhinelander and other districts. With the decreasing state aids to schools, Oneida County school districts are receiving less state aids based on school aid formulas. Oneida County property taxes is not the answer. The state is obligated - I'll say it again, the state is obligated - to support the district schools. The Legislature has to make some kind of adjustments ... If we send support like this, and other people as well, maybe they'll see that we do have a problem. In closing - if you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Supervisor Gary Baier agreed, noting "property value rich and tax poor" northern Wisconsin districts are facing an economic crisis under the current school funding formula.

"The [school funding] formula is broken, it hasn't worked for years ...," he said. "If they (the state) say they are going to fund it (education) two-thirds, then they ought to fund it two-thirds."

Copies will be sent to Gov. Jim Doyle, 12th District Sen. Jim Holperin, 34th Assembly District Dan Meyer and 35th Assembly District Rep. Don Friske.

On a unanimously-endorsed amendment championed by supervisor David O'Melia, copies of the resolution will also be sent to outgoing Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster and Oneida County's four area school district superintendents - Todd Kleinhans, Lakeland Union High School; Jim Ellis, Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk School; Roger Erdahl, School District of Rhinelander; and George Karling, Three Lakes School District.

Let us be your link to the web.
Many advertising opportunities to choose from.
On-line or newspaper, we're here to work with your business needs.
THE LAKELAND Times
715.356.5236
Click on this ad to contact us

How the DNR STOLE WISCONSIN
by Richard Moore
\$1695 + S&H
click here to order

Back by popular demand.
Northwoods Nostalgia
381 pages of Northwoods history by Joyce Laabs.
\$24.95 + S&H
THE LAKELAND Times
715.356.5236
Click on this ad to contact us

WE KNOW CANVAS AND BEYOND.
Custom Boat Covers for any size boat.
JACQUART FABRIC PRODUCTS
Ironwood Industrial Park, 1136 Wall St., Ironwood, MI
906-932-1339 800-452-2153 www.jacquart.com

Search

Search
Advanced Search

Airport petition for funds

On the recommendation of the county's Finance and Insurance Committee, board supervisors unanimously approved the passage of a resolution that grants approval to the Rhineland-Oneida County Airport Commission to petition the Secretary of Transportation for federal and state aid for planned 2009-17 airport development and improvement projects.

As part of the passage of the resolution, supervisors also approved a listing of proposed airport development and improvement projects compiled by the Federal Aviation Administration's Airports District Office, the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics and Rhineland-Oneida County Airport administration.

Proposed airport development and improvement projects include reconstruction of Taxiway A and portions of Taxiways B and D; clearing and maintenance of runway approaches; design, remodeling and expansion of SRE/ARFF building and terminal building; environmental assessments, design, reconstruction and extension of primary runway 9/27; general aviation development; and extension of Taxiway A between Taxiway A3 and Taxiway D, as well as any needed related work.

Appearing before the county board, airport director Joseph Brauer said costs for the proposed improvement projects would be split three ways - federal government, 95 percent; Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics, 2.5 percent; and Oneida County and the city of Rhineland, 2.5 percent.

Brauer said the improvements will be "100 percent funded" by a variety of user fees - federal ticket taxes; state fuel taxes, state sales taxes on aircraft and state aircraft registration fees; and a locally-assessed \$4.50 "passenger facility fee."

Included in the airport's proposed 2009-17 project roster is a planned federal economic stimulus project, through the Federal Aviation Administration, for the \$6.5 million reconstruction of 30-year-old Taxiway A, the main connector to primary runway 9/27, as well as the reconstruction of portions of Taxiways B and D.

Brauer said Pavement Condition Indicators (PCIs) on Taxiway A, which would ideally be rated at 55, are currently rated in the low 40s.

"We took this opportunity to go to the Federal Aviation Administration, with the support of the [Wisconsin] Bureau of Aeronautics, to see if we could get a part of the [federal economic] stimulus money ..." he said. "If we're fortunate enough to get those monies, we'll probably kick the shovel on June 1st."

If the airport fails to receive federal stimulus funding for the \$6.5 million project, Brauer said the airport is left with a handful of fallback options - either secure a federal budget earmark or tackle the project one section at a time over a six-year period using the airport's annual \$1 million allocation from the federal budget for various airport improvement projects.

Supervisor Jack Martinson urged board members to support Resolution 15-2009.

"... This package is a very worthy project and we should go along with it, because it will help Oneida County develop even farther ...," Martinson, a pilot, said.

General Code update amendments

Acting on the recommendation of the county's Resolutions and Ordinances and Legislative committees, Oneida County supervisors unanimously passed Resolution 14-2009, which updates and amends the county's General Code in compliance with changes in state law and county resolutions and ordinances adopted through Nov. 12, 2008, pursuant to Statute 25.08 of the General Code.

Quit Claim deed awarded

Acting on the recommendation of the Land Records Committee, Oneida County supervisors voted unanimously to award a Quit Claim deed to Waupun resident Matthew Jahnke on public sale property located at 7545 Forest Trail in the town of Woodruff, pursuant to Chapter 18 of the county's General Code.

Jahnke was high bidder on the Indian Mounds Subdivision parcel, with a \$31,001 bid.

Ordinance amendment tabled

On a unanimous vote, Oneida County Board supervisors voted to indefinitely table the Labor Relations and Employee Services Committee's proposed Resolution 12-2009, which would amend Section 4.32 of the Oneida County Code.

The Resolution had been previously referred back to the Labor Relations and Employee Services Committee, with a planned return to the county board for discussion and possible action at their February meeting.

2008 Service Awards presented

In other news at the Feb. 17 county board meeting, 2008 Service Awards were presented to county employees marking major milestone anniversaries.

Those receiving recognitions included:

- Circuit Court, Branch 1 - Mavis Winkler, 20 years.
- Building and Grounds Department - LuAnn Brunette, 20 years.
- Corporation Counsel Office - Thomas Wiensch, 10 years.
- Department on Aging - Mary Boyer, 10 years.
- District Attorney's Office - Bonnie Wilcox, 35 years.
- Highway Department - Stanley Pecor, 35 years; David Brinkman, 15 years; and Dean Morris, five years.
- Information Technology Services - Susie Kuczmarski, 10 years.
- Labor Relations and Employee Services - Lisa Charbarneau, 15 years; and Linda Herrmann, 10 years.
- Land Information Department - Arthur Hilgendorf, 10 years.
- Planning and Zoning Department - Steve Osterman, 30 years; and Denise Hoppe and Nadine Wilson, 15 years.
- Public Health Department - Patricia Olsen-Theiler, 10 years; and Ann Ovsak, five years.
- Sheriff's Department - Kaye Juel and James Wood, 25 years; Randall Keller, 20 years; Daniel Hess, Philip Newcomb and Nathaniel Ouimette, 15 years; Brian Erikson, Bradley Fogerty, Mary Goeldner and Terri Ripp, 10 years; and Lindsay Bornberg, Scott Bornberg, Robert Hebein, Laura Tromp and Pamela Winchell, five years.
- Social Services Department - Tara Vandenberg, 25 years; Mary Rideout, 15 years; Tricia Barr, Tina Kimball and Kirsten Kronberger, 10 years; and Melissa Clark, five years.
- Solid Waste Department - Bart Sexton, 15 years; Timothy Peter, 10 years; and Michael Bess, five years.
- Treasurer's Office - Jennie Huber and Kristina Ostermann, 20 years.
- Veteran's Service Office - Danielle Riesbeck, five years.
- University of Wisconsin Extension Office - Kerri Ison, 10 years.
- County Board - Wilbur Petroskey, 20 years; and Matt Matteson and Peter Wolk, five years.

In related news, Oneida County Sheriff Jeff Hoffman reported that he will be presenting a retirement plaque to veteran 20-year Corrections sergeant Roger Prien, who was unable to attend Tuesday's ceremony.

Eric Johnson can be reached at ejohnson@lakelandtimes.com.

Comment on this story

The Lakeland Times reserves the right to edit or reject reader submissions. No comments will be posted containing racial, religious or personal attacks, slander, profanity, email addresses, mailing addresses, phone numbers or website addresses that are for personal or promotional gain. Comments are limited to 150 words.

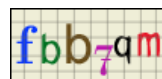
Name:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Passcode:

This form will not send your comment unless you copy exactly the passcode seen below into the text field. This is an anti-spam device to help reduce the automated email spam coming through this form.



Please copy the passcode exactly
- it is case sensitive.

Message:

Submit

Clear Form



Lakeland Printing, Inc. • P.O. Box 790 • Minocqua, WI 54548
Phone: (715) 356-5236 • Fax: (715) 358-2121
Software © 1998-2009 [1up! Software](#), All Rights Reserved