

**COUNTY OF DUNN
MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 19.84, Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given that a public meeting of the **Dunn County Planning, Resource, and Development Committee** and the **Land Conservation Committee** will be held on **Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 8:30am in Room 60 at the Dunn County Government Center, 3001 US HWY 12 East, Menomonie, Wisconsin.** **The building entrance for meetings is on the lower level of the Government Center and will be open 30 minutes ahead of the meeting start time.** Items of business to be discussed or acted upon at this meeting are listed below. A video recording of the meeting will be available for subsequent viewing on the Dunn County YouTube channel at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@dunncounty1854>


Members of the public who require assistance in accessing the meeting, please call (715) 231-6505. Upon reasonable notice, the County will make efforts to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters, or other auxiliary aids. For additional information, or to request the service, contact the County Human Resources Manager at 715-232-2429 (Office), 715-232-1324 (FAX) or 715-231-6406 (TDD) or by writing to the Human Resources Manager, Human Resources Department, 3001 US HWY 12 E, Suite 225, Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751.

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Call of the Roll**
3. **Approval of the Minutes – March 19, 2025**
4. **Public Comments**
5. **Public Comments-Comprehensive & Farmland Preservation Plan Update**
6. **Public Hearing: None**
7. **Staff Reports:**
 - A. Register of Deeds 2024 Annual Report
 - B. Comprehensive Plan-Focus Group Discussion
8. **Items placed at the request of the Chairperson: None**
9. **Consideration of Actions to be taken by the Planning, Resource, and Development Committee:**
 - A. Request to Repurchase Property Taken Through In Rem Foreclosure
10. **Consideration of reports, resolutions, and ordinances to the County Board from the Planning, Resource, and Development Committee:**
 - A. Budget Adjustment Request from the LWCD
11. **Consideration of reports, resolutions, and ordinances to the Legislative Committee from the Land Conservation Committee:**
 - A. Resolution - Support for Increasing Base Funding for County Conservation Staffing to \$20.2 Million in State Budget
12. **Announcements:**
13. **Future meeting date and any agenda items: April 16, 2025**

14. Adjournment

Tom Quinn, Chairperson

Signed:  _____

Thomas P. Carlson
Dunn County Surveyor

**COUNTY OF DUNN
MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN
MINUTES**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Dunn County Planning, Resource, and Development and Land Conservation Committee.

Held on March 19, 2025, in the Government Center, Room 60.

DRAFT

- 1. Call to Order.** There being a quorum of the Dunn County Planning, Resource, and Development and Land Conservation Committee, Chairperson Quinn called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
- 2. Call of the Roll.** Present were Tom Quinn (Chair), Gary Bjork, Mike Kneer, and Monica Berrier. Diane Morehouse was absent.
- 3. Approval of Minutes.** Supervisor Kneer made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Bjork. All in favor. Motion carried.
- 4. Public Comments.** Neil Koch commented on the treatment of human septage in Dunn County.
- 5. Public Comments-Comprehensive & Farmland Preservation Plan Update.** None.
- 6. Public Hearing.** None.
- 7. Staff Reports.**
 - A. Register of Deeds monthly report.** Report was on screen for review. Heather Kuhn, Register of Deeds, recapped the report. Discussion by committee and Kuhn.
 - B. Environmental Services monthly department reports:**
 - Survey Division: Report was on screen for review. Tom Carlson, County Surveyor, recapped the report. Discussion by committee and Carlson.
 - Planning and Zoning Division: Report was on screen for review. Tammy Traxler, Zoning & Planning Administrator, recapped the report. Discussion by committee and Traxler.
 - Land and Water Conservation Division: Report was on screen for review. Chase Cummings, County Conservationist, recapped the report.
 - C. Groundwater / Private Well Monitoring, 2024 Report.** Heather Wood, Water Resources Specialist, recapped the groundwater monitoring program and the progress made in 2024. Wood reported that approximately 300 private wells were sampled in Dunn County. The program plans to sample another 300 wells in 2025, with analysis conducted by the Dunn County Health Department. Discussion by committee, Wood, and Cummings.
 - D. Groundwater Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations Review.** Cummings recapped the recommendations from the Groundwater Ad Hoc Committee. The committee provided

feedback on recommendations and discussed elements of the work plan for staff to focus on.

- E. **Comprehensive Plan-Focus Group Discussion.** Traxler recapped the objective to select participants and identify additional focus group topics for the focus group discussions as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update. Discussion by committee and Traxler. Traxler to provide a spreadsheet to committee members to suggest focus group topics and participants to be discussed at next committee meeting.

8. Items placed at the request of the Chairperson. None.

9. Consideration of Actions to be taken by the Planning, Resource, and Development Committee:

- A. **Review and take action on a variance request in the Town of Rock Creek to create a new lot that does not have dryland access.** Carlson recapped the variance request submitted by Paul Hayden on behalf of the Paul Allan Hayden Revocable Living Trust. Discussion by committee and Carlson. Supervisor Berrier made a motion to approve the variance request as presented by Carlson. Seconded by Supervisor Bjork. All in favor. Motion carried.
- B. **Review and take action on a variance request in the Town of Rock Creek to create a new lot that does not contain a minimum of 10,000 square feet of contiguous land lying above the contour line which is two feet above the regional floodplain boundary line.** Carlson recapped the variance request alongside agenda item 9A. Supervisor Berrier made a motion to approve the variance request as presented by Carlson. Seconded by Supervisor Kneer. All in favor. Motion carried.

10. Consideration of reports, resolutions, and ordinances to the County Board from the Planning, Resource, and Development Committee. None.

11. Consideration of reports, resolutions, and ordinances to the County Board from the Land Conservation Committee:

- A. **County support for increased state funding for the Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program.** Cummings emphasized the growing need for increased state funding for the Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program. Cummings requested feedback from the committee on potential advocacy methods. Discussion by committee and Cummings. Cummings to draft a resolution in cooperation with Corporation Counsel to be presented at a future meeting.

12. Announcements. None.

13. Future Meeting Date and any agenda items. Next meeting date will be April 2, 2025.

14. Adjournment. There being no further business, Chairperson Quinn declared the meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lilly Glodowski
Recording Secretary

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



From Left to Right - Lori Schneider, Heather Kuhn, Annette Larson

Perpetually maintaining the history of Dunn County, its land and its people.

2024 has been a year of growth, challenges and resilience for the Register of Deeds office. This report highlights our accomplishments, the impact we've made on our community and the steps we are taking towards a progressive future. Customer service and security remain top priorities. Deeds, mortgages and satisfactions, among many other types of documents, are submitted to our office daily. Documents are required to be entered on the day received, and in the order received. While the number of documents varies day to day, we are also responsible for filing death and marriage records and handling a variety of information and copy requests.

The housing market and economy have a direct impact on revenues collected by our office. In 2024, recording fees, transfer fees and online access fees surprisingly exceeded budget expectations. There were 355 more real estate documents recorded in 2024 compared to 2023. Time was spent training a new part-time employee but unfortunately we ended the year with a vacant half time position. Due to the vacant position along with other cost savings, projected expenditures were reduced by \$18,000.

History:

The Register of Deeds office was established in Wisconsin in 1836, and the 1848 Wisconsin constitution designated it as a permanent component of county government. Registers are elected every 4 years, and any vacancies are appointed by the governor. The office was created to ensure the rights of persons who first made claims to property which still holds true today. Ownership of rights in and claims on property constitute one of the chief forms of wealth in American Society. Records of the existence and exact nature of those rights are keys to orderly economic activity relating to that property. Accurate descriptions of property help society avoid wasteful battles over boundaries and rights.

The earliest deed recorded in Dunn County took place in 1857. The Dunn County Vital Record registrations began in 1869, with the earliest birth record in 1858, earliest marriage record in 1855 and the earliest death record in 1861.

Office Purpose and Services Provided:

Citizens are provided safe archival storage, convenient access and immediate retrieval of maintained personal vital records and all public land records in Dunn County according to the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin and the duties prescribed by Wisconsin Statutes, predominately section 59.43. Recorded land records are the basis for creating and maintaining the county's tax roll and GIS mapping.

1. Record, provide access and maintain Real Estate records.
2. File, provide access, maintain and issue certified copies of Birth, Marriage, Death, Divorce, and Military Discharge records.
3. To implement statutory changes, system modernization, program and procedure evaluation, and staff development to assure a high level of timely service for our constituents.
4. Coordinate procedures with various county offices regarding real estate and vital records.
5. Coordinate operations with various state and federal agencies, including Dept. of Health and Social Services (Vital Records), Dept. of Administration (Plat review and the Wisconsin Land Information Program), Department of Revenue (transfer fee collection), Dept. of Natural Resources (managed forest law), and Internal Revenue Service (federal tax liens).



Heather M. Kuhn, Register of Deeds

3001 US Hwy 12 E, Suite 112

Menomonie, WI 54751

Phone: (715) 232-1228

www.dunncountywi.gov/rod

2024 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

GENERAL FUND REVENUE **\$322,569**

- Transfer Fees \$136,941
- Miscellaneous Copy Fees \$3,852
- Online Access Contracts \$82,818
- Vital Record Copy Fees \$18,568
- Recording Fees \$80,390

EXPENDITURES **(369,731)**

COUNTY LAND RECORDS MODERNIZATION FUND **\$ 42,728**

SENT TO STATE AGENCIES **\$593,936**

- Dept of Revenue (Transfer fee share) \$539,257
- Land Information Program (WLIP) \$37,387
- Dept. of Administration (Vital Records share) \$13,645
- Children's Trust Fund (child abuse & neglect prevention) \$3,647

TOTAL GROSS RECEIPTED \$959,233.00

2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Register of Deeds: Financials Jan - Dec 2024

Acct Type	Total 2023 Actuals	Total 2024 Budget*	YTD 2024 Actuals	Total 2024 Projected*
Revenue: Levy	(49,435)	(61,435)	(61,435)	(61,435)
Revenue: Public Charges	(309,002)	(264,500)	(318,717)	(318,717)
Revenue: Misc	(5,361)	(5,000)	(3,852)	(3,852)
Revenue: Fund Balance	(12,000)	(5,439)	-	(5,439)
Revenue: Other	-	(51,726)	-	(51,726)
Expense: S&F	264,621	279,739	271,947	271,947
Expense: Operating	91,466	108,361	97,785	97,785
Grand Total	(19,711)	-	(14,273)	(71,438)
Revenue	375,798	388,100	384,004	441,169
Expense	356,086	388,100	369,731	369,731
Net	19,711	-	14,273	71,438

* Surplus/(Deficit)

Projection Methodology:

1. Wages are projected based on 26 pay periods & health benefits based on 12
2. Expenses and revenues are projected based on year-to-date less than 1 month. It may not be applicable for fixed funding sources (i.e., grants & levy).

Key Achievements:

- Customer service remains a top priority and we strive to respond efficiently and accurately to every request for information
- Recorded 5353 documents and reviewed for compliance with statutory recording requirements. 56 different document types were identified. 999 documents were rejected and resubmitted.
- Issued 4899 certified copies of vital records to authorized individuals and agencies
- Filed 294 death records, 207 marriage records and 4 Military Discharges
- Back-indexed 8200 documents compared to 3000 documents in 2023 which added value to the online Grantor/Grantee index as it's now searchable back to 1972.
- Recorded 1545 ownership transfers compared to 1459 ownership transfers in 2023. Sales totaled over \$224.6 million.
- Land Development: filed 103 Certified Survey Maps compared to 97 in 2023; filed 1 Subdivision Plat and 9 Transportation Project Plats
- Collaborated with business partners, such as attorneys, title companies, surveyors, appraisers and lenders on accessing, indexing and recording documents
- Ongoing database clean-up for ease of access to records
- 2024 Election year – Thank you for your support!
- Assisted Treasurer's office with SAP approvals for timekeeping and journal entries during the Treasurer vacancy
- Managed billing accounts for 24 online access subscribers and notified subscribers of any software updates and training opportunities
- Attended and helped coordinate orientation for the newly elected RODs
- Added a new recording vendor, Hopdox. We can accept electronic recordings via five different trusted submitters.
- Monitored activity for the online pay-as-you-go search platform, called Tapestry, which resulted in 2662 online searches and generated revenue of \$11,281.08

Staff Development, Training and Community Outreach:

- Attended monthly software webinars, annual user group meeting & educational symposium provided by software vendor, Fidlar Technologies
- Attended Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) symposium, which is a national association of recorders
- Attended Wisconsin Counties Association Legislative Conference along with three Wisconsin Register of Deeds conferences
- Attended open house in Barron County which offered software training for our business partners
- Elected President of the Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association (WRDA); served on WRDA committees (Operations, Joint Alpha, Public Relations & Legislative); member of WRDA District 5
- Volunteered for the United Way - Day of Caring
- Staff involved in the Employee Workgroup and attended monthly meetings
- Staff attended “Be your Best” conference
- Staff volunteered at the blood drives held at the government center
- Joined a Judicial Security Workgroup which focused on implementation of ACT 235
- Joined an Accounting Pit Crew to aid the county in the selection of a new ERP
- Participated in the Veteran’s Resource Fair and assisted veterans in signing up for Honor Rewards and Property Fraud Alert
- Completed monthly cybersecurity trainings
- Assigned government center floor warden for emergencies, fire and severe weather
- Assisted property owners interested in signing for “Property Fraud Alert”, a free notification service that alerts subscribers (via email, text message, or a voice phone call) each time a document is indexed with their name. Currently, there are 373 subscribers.

Challenges:

- Educating constituents on our role in real estate ownership transfers and filing documents
- Assisting customers drafting legal documents to ensure documents meet statutory recording requirements without giving legal advice.
- Funding for imaging projects and book repair
- Revenue impacted by higher interest rates, low housing inventory and higher prices
- Inability to control workload
- Ensuring staff coverage
- Implementation of ACT 235 - requiring shielding of public records
- Cybersecurity, protecting the records for permanent retention

Tracking Legislation:

- Transfer Fee decrease to \$2.00/\$1000 value and the split is changed to 50% county and 30% WLIP and 20% state general fund
- Recording Fee increase in Governor's budget
- ACT 235 - Judicial officer privacy effective 4/1/2025
- Updates to Wis. Stats. 59.43 (Register of Deeds duties)
- Authorization for tribal governments to copy certified copies of vital records
- Disclosure of vital record information after 100 years
- Prohibiting recording contracts for services or materials that do not improve real estate & provide a penalty



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Thank you to our business partners for their assistance and collaboration. Together, we will continue to serve as the cornerstone for growth in our community.

Thank you to the amazing Register of Deeds Deputies for their hard work and dedication! So proud of the work they do every day to make things better for our customers and for our community.

Lastly, thanks to all of you for your support and I look forward to continuing to serve Dunn County.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather M. Kuhn, Register of Deeds

BACKGROUND

DATE: April 2, 2025

TO: Planning, Resources, and Development Committee

FROM: Tammy Traxler, Zoning & Planning Administrator

AGENDA ITEM: 7.B. Comprehensive Plan-Focus Group Discussion

Background:

As part of the Comprehensive Plan & Farmland Preservation Plan Update, public input will include **SIX** focus groups: agriculture, housing, water, economic development, land use regulations, and one additional topic (to be determined by April 16).

At the April 2 meeting we will discuss the following Focus Group Items:

1. The Agriculture/Working Lands Focus Group
 - a. Who: Stakeholder composition
 - b. How: This group will expect to have a minimum of 2 meetings
 - c. When: 1st meeting, Late April-Early May ; 2nd meeting June/July

Tentative Agenda (1st meeting)

 - i. Trends, Issues & Opportunities
 - ii. Farmland owner survey; questions and logistics
2. Other Focus Groups; stakeholder composition
3. Invitation Details



OFFICE OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

Attorneys for the Municipal Corporation of Dunn County

Corporation Counsel

James L. McMenemy

Assistant Corporation Counsel

Barbara Anne Fagan

In Rem Repurchase Request

TO: Planning, Resources and Development Committee
FROM: Barbara Anne Fagan, Assistant Corporation Counsel
DATE: March 26, 2025
RE: Tax Foreclosed Property - Re-Purchase Request

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Amy Hall	Bruce Johnson
207 S Pine Street	25621 243 rd Ave.
Wheeler	Holcombe, WI 54745

- Former Owner(s)
 Heir of Former Owner(s)

FORMER OWNER(S) & PROPERTY

Amy Hall	Bruce Johnson
207 S Pine Street	25621 243 rd Ave.
Wheeler	Holcombe, WI 54745

Computer No.: 191-1020-07-000

PIN: 17191-2-301336-210-0043

Legal Description: Lots Three (3) and Four (4), Block Two (2) of Nooney's Third Addition to the Village of Wheeler, Dunn County, Wisconsin. SUBJECT to Easements, Restrictions, and Rights of Way of Record.

Street Address: 207 Pine Street, Wheeler, WI 54772

Attachments: (1) GIS Map showing aerial photo of property

FORECLOSURE & REQUEST TO REPURCHASE

On July 25, 2024, Dunn County filed an *In Rem* Foreclosure action for those persons owning property in Dunn County with delinquent taxes for the years 2019 and earlier. Notice was mailed to all owners, mortgagees, land contract sellers, purchasers and the State of Wisconsin by certified mail, return receipt requested. The envelope sent to Amy Hall were returned to our office as “unclaimed.” The envelope sent to Bruce Johnson was signed for on 09/23/2024.

Default judgment was awarded to Dunn County on December 18, 2025, for those properties not redeemed. A copy of the Judgment was recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds on January 9, 2025. On March 19, 2025, Amy Hall requested to repurchase her property.

APPLICABLE COUNTY ORDINANCE

Section 7.7.5, Dunn County Code of Ordinances, Preference to Former Owners in Tax Sales

- (1) The Committee may, at its option, convey tax deeded lands to a former owner who had lost title to real property through delinquent tax collection enforcement procedures, or his or her heirs, pursuant to the authority provided in Section 75.35(3), Stat. The Committee is further authorized, but not required, to give such former owners first option to purchase said land. This section shall in no manner create any right of first refusal in any former owner
- (2) Any sale made to a former owner pursuant to this section shall be exempt from the operation of Section 75.69, Stats., but no such sale shall be approved by and authorized by the Committee, unless, as a minimum, the former owners pay to the County all real estate taxes, including special assessments, special charges and special taxes, then due and owing together with the interest and penalty thereon, plus a service fee on such transaction not to exceed 10 percent of the assessed value of the tax deeded land. In any event, the service fee shall not be less than \$500.00.
- (3) Consideration under this section shall be given only to those former owners who request the same, prior to the time the sale and appraised value of the lands involved have been advertised by publication, in accordance with Section 75.69, Stats. If the former owners do not make payment to the County within thirty (30) days of the time such sale is authorized by the Committee, the Committee may, at its option, proceed to sell the land involved in accordance with Section 75.69, Stats., to the highest or most advantageous bidder thereon.
- (4) Failure to give notice to the proper party as former owner shall not create a right in any person or persons to redeem tax deeded lands.
- (5) This section shall not apply to tax deeded lands which have been improved for or dedicated to a public use by Dunn County, subsequent to acquisition. No sale to the former owner or any other person shall be made of such land without the express authorization of the Committee.

DETERMINATION OF PURCHASE PRICE

All delinquent taxes through 2024 tax year plus interest and penalty through transfer of ownership, including estimated interest and penalty that would have accrued after transfer of ownership through April 2025:

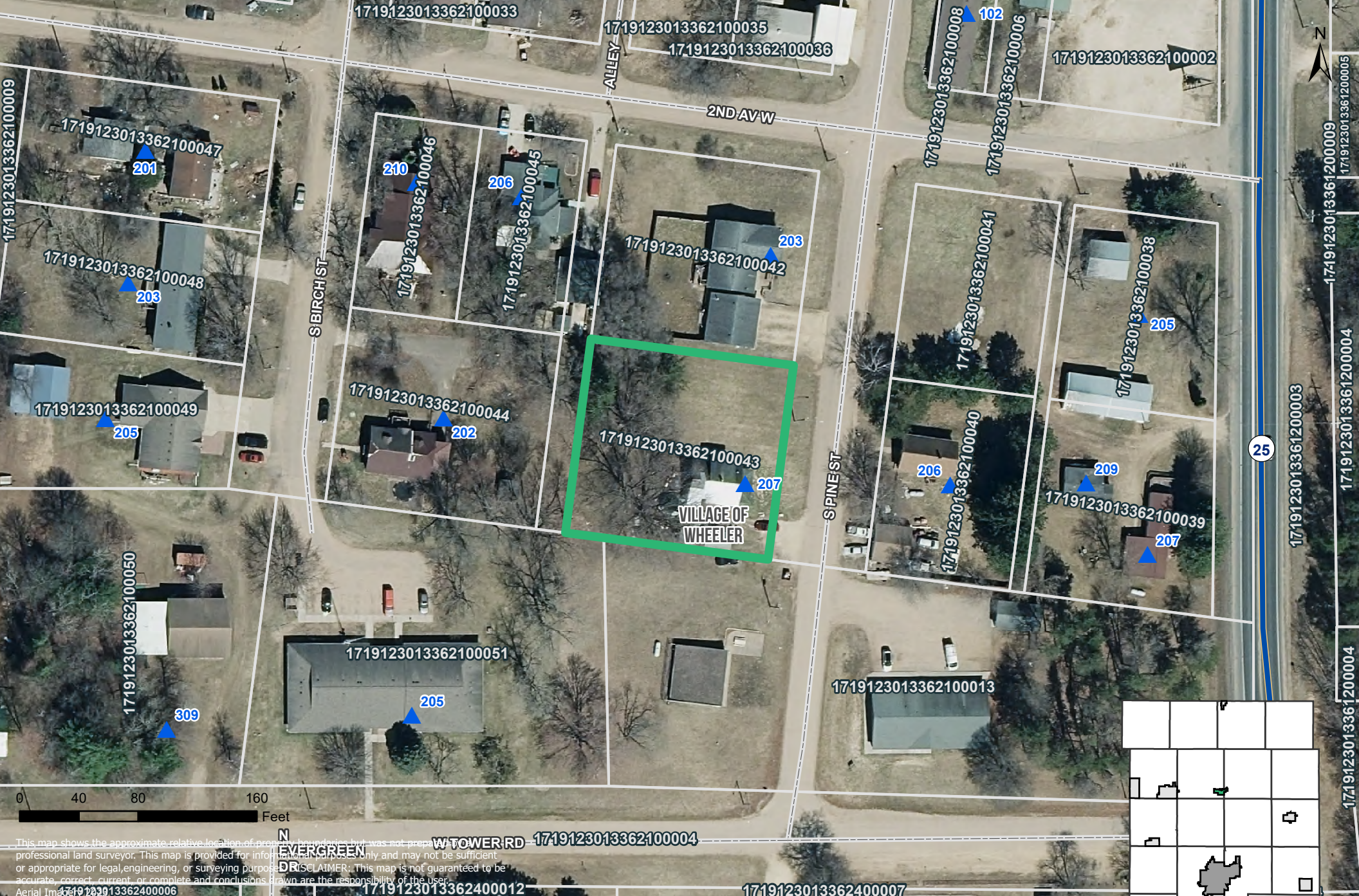
\$12,929.19

Administrative Fee:

\$500

Sale Price

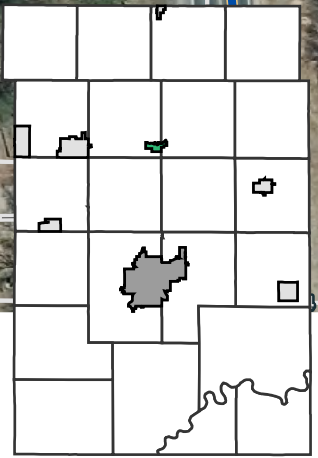
\$13,429.19



This map shows the approximate relative location of property boundaries but was not prepared by a professional land surveyor. This map is provided for informational purposes only and may not be sufficient or appropriate for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. **DISCLAIMER:** This map is not guaranteed to be accurate, correct, current, or complete and conclusions drawn are the responsibility of the user.
 Aerial Imagery: 1719123013362400006

TAX FORECLOSED PROPERTY DETAIL - PIN 1719123013362100043

Property Address: 207 S PINE ST, WHEELER, 54772
Municipality: 191 - VILLAGE OF WHEELER
Township/Range/Section: Town 30 North Range 13 West, Section 36
Approximate Acres:
School District: 0637 - BOYCEVILLE
Zoning:



COUNTY OF DUNN, WISCONSIN
RESOLUTION NO. _____
2025 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Dunn, Wisconsin that, effective with the publication of the notices required by law, the budget of the County of Dunn for the year beginning January 1, 2025 is amended by the following amounts to the line item account numbers shown:

<i>Environmental Services Department</i>	<i>Expense</i>	<i>Revenue</i>
State Grants – Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (new grant)		
2100010900 – 524030 – Grounds and Grounds Improvement	\$80,000	
2100010900 – 435000 – State-Grants		\$80,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board authorizes the Department of Administration to enter and maintain the information contained herein in a manner based upon generally accepted accounting standards and that, effective with the publication of the proceedings of this meeting, the following changes are hereby adopted.

Dated the 16th day of April 2025, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

OFFERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Kelly McCullough, Chair

ADOPTED ON: _____

ATTEST:

Approved as to Form and Execution:

Andrew Mercil, County Clerk

James McMenemy, Corporation Counsel

Budget Impact: Adoption of this resolution increases the 2025 adopted budget by a net amount of \$80,000. Adoption of this resolution will have no impact on the current year tax levy.

Background Information:

The Environment Services Department, Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD), received and will administer a Commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) Grant for the Red Cedar Conservation Farmers Producer-led Watershed group through the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in 2025-2026. Grant funds will support on-farm research for agricultural trials on private land owned by Red Cedar Conservation Farmer Producer-led Watershed (RCCF) group participants.

DUNN COUNTY, WISCONSIN
RESOLUTION NO. _____

**SUPPORT FOR INCREASING BASE FUNDING FOR COUNTY CONSERVATION STAFFING
TO \$20.2 MILLION**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dunn County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to strengthen the viability of the State’s County Land and Water Conservation Staffing program by increasing base funding for the program by \$11,035,900 on an annual basis to a total of \$20.2 million annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the resolution be sent to the WI Land+Water Conservation Association, all State Legislators, the Governor, DATCP Secretary, DNR Secretary, DOA Secretary, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Wisconsin Towns Association.

Offered this 16th day of April, 2025, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

OFFERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Adopted on: _____

Gary Stene, Chair

Approved as to Form and Execution:

ATTEST:

James McMenemy, Corporation Counsel

Andrew Mercil, County Clerk

Budget Impact:

The Land and Water Conservation Staffing Grant supplements the overall County budget in support of the Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD). Increases to the state grant allocation would augment the County levy and increase the capacity of the LWCD to deliver the services to residents of the County.

Background Information:

County Land and Water Conservation Departments (LWCDs) in Wisconsin play a key role in implementing state agricultural and resource management programs. These programs reduce pollution, preserve farmland, manage forests, prevent aquatic invasive species, and address flooding.

LWCDs assist farmers by supporting watershed groups, developing nutrient management plans, engineering manure storage, and promoting conservation practices that improve soil health and profitability. Their work benefits water quality by preventing soil erosion, protecting drinking water, enhancing groundwater infiltration, and restoring native habitats.

As trusted advisors, LWCD staff help landowners achieve their land management goals by offering project planning, engineering, quality control, and securing cost-share funding to reduce project costs. Building long-term relationships with landowners is vital for success.

By leveraging cost-share funding from federal and private sources, LWCDs generate a 2:1 return on state investments, boosting local economies in agriculture, construction, tourism, forestry, and recreation.

Wisconsin law (Wis. Stats Chap. 92) mandates LWCDs to meet specific funding goals, but since its inception, the state has failed to meet these goals, with base funding decreasing by 24% from 2006 to 2024. County LWCDs remain a top priority for conservation, environmental, and local government groups.