BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 19

Resolution Requesting Re-connection of Rail Line Cameron, Wisconsin

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, Barron County has two Class 1 rail lines running east-west, Canadian National, and north-south, Union Pacific through Barron County; and

WHEREAS, Progressive Rail, Wisconsin Northern Railroad, at this time, has an operating contract for the Union Pacific line; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned rail lines connect within the Village of Cameron, however, at this time that connection has been severed; and

WHEREAS, on May 17th, 2019, a meeting was conducted by State Representative Romaine Quinn, at the Northern Industrial Sand Plant, Chetek, WI; and

WHEREAS, at this meeting representatives from US Senator Ron Johnson’s office and US Representative Sean Duffy’s office were present along with a representative from Barron Electric, Barron County and Northern Industrial Sands; and

WHEREAS, the main focus of this meeting was discussing the reopening and reconnection of the rail line in Cameron, so that products can be shipped by rail to Ladysmith Wisconsin and then north into Canada; and

WHEREAS, the reconnection of this line has the support of other businesses and individuals, such as, Northern Industrial Sands, Chetek, WI., Shadow Plastics, Rice Lake, WI., McFarland-Cascade, Cameron, WI, Synergy Cooperative, Ridgeland, WI, Chippewa Sand Company, New Auburn, WI, Barron County Economic Development Director Dave Armstrong, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, at one time the Barron County Board of Supervisors and the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors supported West Wisconsin Rail Transit Authority, WWRTA, who’s purpose was to maintain and improve rail lines within Barron County, along with applying for State and Federal Grants to fulfill their mission; and

WHEREAS, when the WWRTA was active, it worked cooperatively with Wisconsin Northern Rail Road so rail service was not lost to Barron County; and

WHEREAS, the reconnection of this line will support economic development, job growth, employment, food safety and security by offering rail connection with two Class 1 rail roads; and

WHEREAS, the drafting of this resolution has the support of the Barron County Economic Development Committee, June 12th, 2019 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the drafting of this resolution has the support of the Barron County Executive Committee at their June 12th, 2019 meeting and at the July 3, 2019 meeting was approved on a vote of 8 – 0 with Okey, Bartlett, Heinecke, Rindsig, Buchanan, McRoberts,
Resolution Requesting Re-connection of Rail Line Cameron, Wisconsin

Hanson and Thompson voting in favor and no members voting against. Horstman was absent;
and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Barron County Board of
Supervisors does hereby support the reconnection of the rail line in Cameron, Wisconsin, for the
reasons outlined previously; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Barron County Board of Supervisors does
hereby request that Federal and State Officials work quickly to require the aforementioned
railroads to reconnect these lines and to work cooperatively with the local short-line operator,
Wisconsin Northern Railroad, so that service is restored swiftly and effectively to all shippers on
either rail system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be distributed to; US Senator Ron
Johnson, US Senator Tammy Baldwin, US Representative Sean Duffy, the US Surface
Transportation Board, Governor Tony Evers, the State Commission of Rails, State Senator Janet
Bewley, State Representative Romaine Quinn and Wisconsin Counties Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that publication of this resolution may occur through
posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

OFFERED THIS 15th day of July, 2019.

Hanson and Thompson voting in favor and no members voting against. Horstman was absent;
and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Barron County Board of
Supervisors does hereby support the reconnection of the rail line in Cameron, Wisconsin, for the
reasons outlined previously; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that publication of this resolution may occur through
posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

OFFERED THIS 15th day of July, 2019.

Number of readings required: One (X) Two ( )
Vote required for passage: Majority (X)
2/3 Entire Board ( )
Source of funding: Budgeted ( ) General Fund ( )
Grant ( ) Contingency ( )
Other ( X ) Details: N / A
Fiscal impact:
- Current year total amount: $ -0-
- Future years total amount: $ -0-
- Effect on tax levy – current year: $ -0-
- Effect on tax levy – future years: $ -0-
Fiscal impact reviewed by:
Jodi BusoB, Finance Director
Approved as to form by:
Jeffrey French, Administrator

Chair Okey and Administrator French
discussed the letters of support received for the
reconnection of the rail line and stated that this
is an advisory resolution only. Motion:
(Skoug/Schrade) to approve. Discussion.
Larry McGlumphry from Northern Industrial
Sands Company answered questions from the
Board. Carried.