

**RESOLUTION 2017 - 38**

**Re: Requesting that the Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Grant Program Become An Ongoing Budgetary Line Item**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Walker has proposed making the Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Grant program in his 2017-2019 proposed state budget a onetime grant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Grant program provides grants to lower income property owners to assist with the repair or replacement of failing septic systems; and

**WHEREAS**, failing septic systems may discharge untreated wastewater into either surface water or groundwater where it can contaminate drinking water supplies and otherwise expose people to disease bearing microorganisms; and

**WHEREAS**, since its inception in 1978 the Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Grant program has assisted over 41,000 Wisconsin residents; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1997 Vilas County has assisted 66 permanent residents with replacing or repairing failing septic systems; and

**WHEREAS**, eliminating the Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Grant increases the threat to public health and safety and environmental degradation because lower income property owners may not be able to pay for the cost of replacing a failing septic system without financial assistance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors in session this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2017 that the Private On-site Wastewater Treatment System Grant program become an ongoing budgetary line item in the 2017-2019 state budget and beyond.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Walker, the Joint Finance Committee of the Wisconsin Legislature and the legislators representing Vilas County.

**SUBMITTED BY: Zoning & Planning Committee**

s/ Jay Verhulst, Chair

s/ Chuck Hayes, Vice Chair

s/ Steve Doyen

s/ Jerry Burkett

s/ Kim Simac