

**RESOLUTION #64-2015**

Resolution offered by the Supervisors of the Forestry, Land and Recreation Committee

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

**WHEREAS**, Oneida County owns 82,279 acres of forest land that provides timber revenue income to the county; and

**WHEREAS**, that income may add up to a million dollars annually to the County treasury over and above the cost of management of County Forest resources; and

**WHEREAS**, that income source greatly benefits county taxpayers by helping to keep property taxes lower than they might otherwise be without that additional income; and

**WHEREAS**, state statutes require that ten (10) percent of County Forest revenues, otherwise known as severance payments, be distributed among Town governments in proportion to the number of acres of County Forest Land located in each Town, as determined annually by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, to offset revenue losses that would otherwise accrue to the Towns if said acreage were privately owned and subject to property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the above described severance payments may be used to provide services to Town residents such as town parks, town buildings, fire protection, first responders, cemeteries, road maintenance, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, Oneida County further offsets the above described loss of tax revenue by offering a program to Towns in which County Forest land is located, whereby gravel material is made available for purchase to said Towns for municipal uses at a cost significantly below the fair market value; and

**WHEREAS**, some Town roads abut County Forest Land over which logging trucks travel when delivering timber harvested from County Forest Land to various users of raw timber; and

**WHEREAS**, Towns are required to maintain their roads to minimum state standards; and

**WHEREAS**, commercial trucks used for delivering heavy loads may contribute to the deterioration of said Town roads, the repair of which may be beyond the fiscal means of the local municipality deemed responsible for their maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, severance payments as defined by state statute do not consider the miles of Town roads over which the above described logging trucks travel; and

**WHEREAS**, the county revenue flow and county taxpayers benefit from the use of said Town roads; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the financial interest of both the County and the Towns that the above described Town roads are adequately maintained and open to all industries throughout the year acknowledging the need for weight restrictions during the period commonly known as spring break up; and

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**WHEREAS**, an increase in severance payments is an investment by the County in various Towns' infrastructure and intergovernmental goodwill and cooperation from which the County and Towns benefit; and

**WHEREAS**, any action by the State Legislature to increase County Forest acreage share (PILT) payments beyond the current \$.30 per acre remains uncertain.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County hereby approves an additional two (2) percent of annual timber sales revenue be made available as severance payments to the various Towns with County Forest Land located within their boundaries effective the calendar year beginning January 1, 2016; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that those additional severance payments be distributed to the Towns in proportion to the number of miles of Town roads in each Town that abut County Forest Land, as determined annually by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Town Plat Record, relative to the total number of miles of Town roads abutting all County Forest Land throughout the county, less the discount each Town receives for gravel purchased located on County Forest Land as determined by the average discount received over each previous ten (10) year period or fractional portion thereof for which data are available (See attachment A); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to be eligible for increased severance payments described herein, the Town(s) shall maintain the roads in their jurisdiction providing ingress and egress to County Forest Land as Class A roads and shall not place any weight restrictions on said roads, excluding the period commonly referred to as spring breakup.

Vote Required: Majority = \_\_\_\_\_ 2/3 Majority = \_\_\_\_\_ 3/4 Majority = \_\_\_\_\_

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, \_\_\_\_\_, Date:

Approved by the Forestry, Land and Recreation Committee this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Consent Agenda Item:        YES        NO

Offered and passage moved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor

104 \_\_\_\_\_ Ayes

105 \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

106 \_\_\_\_\_ Absent

107 \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

108 \_\_\_\_\_ Adopted

109 \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated

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by the County Board of Supervisors this \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Bartelt, County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Hintz, County Board Chair