

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
TOWN OF BOULDER JUNCTION  
VILAS COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-R04

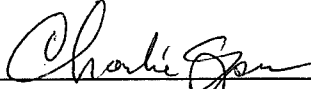
A RESOLUTION ALLOWING TOWN BOARD MEMBERS  
TO APPEAR BY TELEPHONE TO ESTABLISH A QUORUM  
AND BE ALLOWED TO VOTE

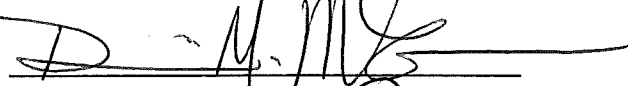
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of Boulder Junction hereby allows town board members to attend meetings telephonically or electronically. Absent members will be allowed to appear via phone or computer for the purposes of establishing a quorum and they will be allowed to vote, To comply with the open meetings law, arrangements must be made to ensure that all of those present are able to hear the absent member and vice versa.

BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution is valid from the date signed.


Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of October, 2012

TOWN BOARD OF BOULDER JUNCTION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charlie Spencer, Town Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Denny McGann, Supervisor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Reuss, Supervisor

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lois J. Smith, Clerk/Treas.

ANSWER: If the chair (or whomever has been designated the job of setting the agenda) refuses to put an item on the agenda, a member may make a motion to have the item added to the next agenda. If there is a second and the motion passes by majority vote, the item must be added to the next agenda. It creates an "order of the day" for the next meeting. If this is a routine problem, the board might decide to adopt a local rule that spells out how items are to be added to the agenda. For example, the local rule might specify that any member of the town board may add items to the agenda if the request is made in a timely manner prior to the meeting.

### Scenario 7

A five (5) member town board is about to begin its regular monthly meeting. Five minutes before the meeting is to be called to order, it is apparent that only three (3) members of the body are in attendance. The town chair's cell phone rings. A supervisor has called to explain that she will not be able to attend the meeting, but she would like to participate in the meeting via telephone. Can the chair allow this?

ANSWER: Absent members do not have a right to attend meetings telephonically (or via Skype, etc.). However, attending meetings telephonically may be allowed by the body. To comply with the open meetings law, arrangements must be made to ensure that all of those present in the meeting room are able to hear the absent member and vice versa. It is advisable to adopt a local rule that addresses this issue. For example, will absent members be allowed to appear via phone only for purposes of establishing a quorum? Will they be allowed to vote? Will appearance by telephone only be allowed due to unavoidable circumstances such as an illness or

aring for a sick spouse or may someone appear by telephone while they spend several months vacationing in Florida?

### **Scenario 8**

**At last night's town board meeting, the board voted to name the new town park after a former board member. After talking to your constituents, you decide that was a bad idea. How do you bring this issue back before the body? Can you make a motion to reconsider? Or is it necessary to rescind the motion?**

Answer: A motion to reconsider is typically used to bring a matter back before the body during the same meeting that it was originally acted upon. In such a circumstance, a person that voted with the prevailing side on the original vote must make the motion to reconsider. If the motion passes, the body would again be able to take up the issue as if they had never voted on it the first time. If the original meeting is over, it is usually more appropriate to move to rescind the previous action. Any member of the body can make a motion to rescind, but the item needs to be specifically listed on the meeting agenda. Note that ordinances (and resolutions) need to be repealed by the adoption of another ordinance (or resolution) and a mere motion to rescind the previous ordinance (or resolution) is not sufficient. Basically, the same level of formality must be used to rescind a previous action as was used to implement it the first time.

### **Scenario 9**

**The chair makes a motion to sell a piece of town equipment to a town resident. The motion is seconded and there is some discussion. It becomes apparent that the potential purchaser is a good friend of the chair's. A side board member suspects the equipment is worth much more than has been offered and he would like to talk with the town highway employees to get their opinion of the sale before the town board takes final action on this matter. Should he move to table the pending motion?**