

Ronald Skallerud

November 17, 2025

Nora Matuszewski

County Clerk

Forest County

200 E. Madison St.

Crandon, WI 54520

Dear Members of the Forest County Board of Supervisors,

After careful reflection, I respectfully submit my resignation from the Forest County Board of Supervisors and from my position as Chair, effective **November 17, 2025**.

This decision has not been made lightly. Since retiring, I have devoted a significant portion of my time to serving Forest County in multiple capacities. I first accepted the appointment as Sheriff to complete the remainder of a vacated term—not because I sought the position, but because I believed it was critical to ensure that leadership remained rooted in the best interests of Forest County. To do so, I suspended my retirement pension, took a substantial pay cut, and stepped away from my consulting work.

I committed to the Governor to run in the next election, and I honored that commitment. The Governor never inquired about my political party; he simply wanted someone dedicated to the role. I was pleased with the election results, as they let me fulfill my promise without being tied to a four-year term in a position I never personally wanted or sought. After returning to retirement and completing the required separation from the WRS, I sought appointment to a vacant County Board seat in my district to continue serving, bringing my background in administration, education, and public leadership to the role.

Since joining the Board, I have served on several committees, successfully ran for the seat in the next election, and was elected Chair. My work has included:

- Leading the Tri-County Human Services separation and establishing Forest County's standalone Human Services Department
- Overseeing the dissolution of the ADRC and integrating those services into the new Human Services structure
- Contributing to policy and procedural improvements
- Working with state-level partners to identify potential new revenue sources
- Helping modernize our budgeting process by separating capital and operational funds, which ultimately prevented a major layoff
- Navigating ongoing financial constraints, including the need to draw nearly \$200,000 from the General Fund to balance the 2026 budget

Despite these efforts, the County's long-term financial challenges remain significant. Moving forward requires everyone to recognize the issues and commit to solutions together. Sadly,

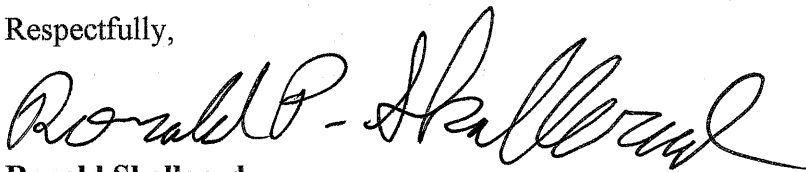
growing division—caused by public misinformation, external pressures, and some Board members conducting unofficial planning sessions and actions that weaken Board decisions—has made effective governance more difficult.

At times, the community discourse has shifted away from essential operational concerns and toward issues that do not address the County's structural financial problems or the preservation of vital services. Without a unified willingness to confront these realities, the County cannot move forward sustainably.

I have always approached public service with integrity, accountability, and the intention to improve the community I care about. However, it has become clear that my continued service on the Board is no longer the most effective use of my experience or my retirement years. I will be fine moving forward and am ready to dedicate my time to other priorities.

I am thankful for the chance to serve Forest County in various roles. I genuinely hope the County finds a steady way forward and that future leaders unite around the common goal of providing essential services and ensuring a sustainable future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald P. Skallerud". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ronald Skallerud