



ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN
Board of Supervisors
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For Immediate Release
May 4, 2023

Rock County Board Chair Seeking Persons Interested in Serving on the Rock County Board of Adjustment

Rock County Board Chair Rich Bostwick is seeking persons interested in serving on the Rock County Board of Adjustment. The Board of Adjustment consists of seven total members (five regular members and two alternates). One of the eligibility standards is that the member must be a resident of Rock County who lives outside a city or village. Additionally, no two members may reside in the same town and County Board or Staff are not eligible. Appointed members serve 3-year staggered terms.

The primary role of the Board of Adjustment is to review and decide cases where an applicant wants to develop a property in a way that is prohibited by a local zoning ordinance, or where there is an alleged error in a zoning decision.

The Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body. Therefore, members must act like judges, making decisions by applying legal standards found in state statutes, court decisions, local ordinances, and board bylaws. Per state law, Board of Adjustment members may only grant a variance to local zoning ordinance if the applicant has demonstrated that they meet all of the variance standards. Zoning board members are also required to explain the rationale behind their decisions.

As outlined in Wis. Stats. 59.694 (7) the Board of Adjustment has the power to:

- Hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in an order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of s. 59.69 or of any ordinance enacted pursuant thereto.
- Hear and decide special exceptions to the terms of the ordinance upon which the board is required to pass under such ordinance.
- Authorize upon appeal in specific cases variances from the terms of the ordinance that will not be contrary to the public interest, where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship, and so that the spirit of the ordinance shall be observed, and substantial justice done.
- Grant special exceptions and variances for renewable energy resource systems. If the board denies an application for a special exception or variance for such a system, the board shall provide a written statement of its reasons for denying the application. In this paragraph, "renewable energy resource system" means a solar energy system, a waste conversion energy system, a wind energy system, or any other energy system which relies on a renewable energy resource.

The Board of Adjustment meets only when necessary to review and consider an application. At most, there will be one meeting per month in the evening.

Rock County residents are encouraged to submit their interest to serve as a member on the Board of Adjustment through the online portal on the Rock County website. The portal can be found at this link <https://www.co.rock.wi.us/residents/join-a-committee> or by clicking on “Residents” at the top of the County’s website and following the link to join a committee. This portal can be used by residents to express their interest in serving on any County committee that has community representatives.

Questions about the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Adjustment can be directed to Director of Land Conservation, Planning and Development, Andrew Baker, at andrew.baker@co.rock.wi.us.

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