

RESOLUTION #2026 - 001

TOWN OF BIG BEND

MORATORIUM - DATA CENTERS

WHEREAS, The Town of Big Bend recognizes and values the role of tourism, recreation, and seasonal residential use in Wisconsin and the Town of Big Bend in the rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Data Centers because of their size, water and electrical demand, and continuous operational impacts can change the character and culture of our rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Data Centers have the potential to negatively impact resources, water quality, ground water quality, and air quality, and place substantial demands on local electrical and road infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Town's water resources — including the Chippewa River (an Outstanding Resource Water), Soft Maple Creek, and multiple named lakes — are central to the Town's economy and identity and must be protected from potential contamination or depletion; and

WHEREAS, some Data Center proposals in Wisconsin have created significant concern for the Town of Big Bend and surrounding adjacent Towns in Rusk County about the potential negative impact of new and expanding Data Center facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Big Bend supports the long-held value of meaningful local control which supports local residents and the community's ability to participate and provide local input into local land uses, including siting and permitting of Data Centers; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Big Bend is dedicated through direction from the citizens of the Town to protect the Town's ground water resources, the lakes within the Town and adjacent to the Town from all types of potential contamination and overuse, including but not limited to Data Centers; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Big Bend is dedicated through direction from the citizens of the Town to protect the Town's other resources, ground water quality, water quality, air quality within the Town and adjacent to the Town from all types of potential contamination, including but not limited to Data Centers; and

WHEREAS, the Town's existing zoning ordinance does not presently define or specifically address Data Centers as a distinct land use, and the Town's adopted Comprehensive Plan provides that desired uses in the Industrial Land Use Management Area are "None" and that industrial uses should be guided to incorporated villages with public sewer and water; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Ordinance Committee suggests a Moratorium on Data Centers within the Town of Big Bend to enable investigating, determining facts, and additional research into Data Center operations and the possible effect on the Town's resources; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Ordinance Committee presents this resolution and has determined that the moratorium be for one year; and

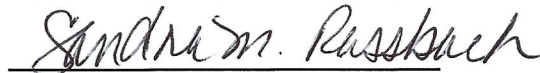
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Bend Town Board hereby authorizes this one-year moratorium, under Wis. Stat. § 60.62, to allow the Zoning Ordinance Committee to investigate and research Data Centers. For purposes of this Resolution, "Data Center" means any building, structure, or group of buildings or structures under common ownership or operation, the principal use of which is to house computer servers, networking, or data storage equipment, together with associated power, cooling, and backup generation systems, and which meets or exceeds either an aggregate building footprint of ten thousand (10,000) square feet or an aggregate designed or installed electrical load of one (1) megawatt. This moratorium is imposed on the acceptance, processing, or approval of any application, permit, license, approval, building permit, site plan, driveway access permit, conditional use permit, rezoning, or any other Town authorization relating to the siting, construction, installation, expansion, or operation of any Data Center within the Town. Town Board requests Committee Data Center progress quarterly update reports. Moratorium resolution is effective on this date June 3 2026.

Date: June 3, 2026

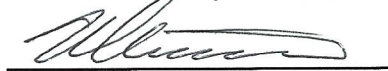
Town of Big Bend Chairman

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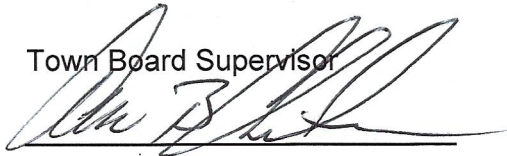
Clerk

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Town Board Supervisor

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Town Board Supervisor

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