

(111-10/11)

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2010**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, October 11, 2010 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. The County Clerk, Linda Stone, took attendance. 30 supervisors were present when Chair Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and those otherwise present, excused or absent are noted in the roll call detail:

District	Name	Attendance
1	Richmond, Andrea	Present
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Feehan, Bill	Present
4	Johnson, Jai	Present
5	Konkel, Bradley	Excused
6	Billings, Jill	Present
7	Plesha, Roger	Present
8	Freedland, Maureen	Present
9	Hampson, Sharon	Present
10	Wood, Margaret	Present
11	Kader, Audrey	Excused
12	Flood, Bridget	Present
13	Brockmiller, Bill	Present
14	Medinger, John	Present
15	Mach, Beverly	Present
16	Sebranek, Gerald	Present
17	Meyer, Donald	Present
18	Johnson, Tara	Present
19	Keil, Robert	Present
20	Bina, Donald	Present
21	Manthei, Dennis	Present
22	Ebert, Ray	Present
23	Gamroth, Tammy	Present
24	Pfaff, Leon	Excused
25	Schroeder, Jeffrey	Present
26	Burke, Vicki	Present
27	Pedretti, Marilyn	Present
28	Doyle, Steve	Present
29	Kruse, Monica	Present
30	Spiker, Charles	Present
31	Ferries, Dan	Present
32	Benrud, Arlene	Present
33	Berns, Jim	Present at 6:10 PM
34	Wehrs, Tina	Present
35	Bilskemper, Joe	Excused

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

COUNTY BOARD CHAIR REPORT - Steve Doyle

- Group Photo: It was determined that the best date for the County Board group photo would be November 9th, the morning of the Annual Budget Meeting. Individual photos will also be taken that day for the new County Board member profile pages being planned for the web site.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION: OCTOBER 2010 - SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING MONTH

WHEREAS, dedicated nationally recognized County professionals help to minimize our county's impact on the environment by effectively managing waste through award winning programs; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County solid waste programs in part include waste-to-energy, permanent household hazardous materials collection, asphalt shingle recycling, treatment of petroleum impacted soils, and trailer home recycling; and, **WHEREAS**, in addition to these programs, La Crosse County facilitates local and regional collaborative efforts in managing waste through shared recycling newsletters, mobile collection of household hazardous materials, access to the waste-to-energy program, and solid waste planning; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County has shown its commitment to further enhancing solid waste and recycling efforts through sustainability practices which will be coordinated by the County's sustainability coordinator; and, **WHEREAS**, residents benefit from the cost savings, improved service and enhanced sustainability that result from intergovernmental collaboration on solid waste and recycling issues; and, **WHEREAS**, all residents have an on-going responsibility to participate in sustainability through decreasing the amount of garbage that is produced in our homes, schools, communities, and work place by practicing waste reduction, recycling, and buying recycled products. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of October 2010 as La Crosse County Solid Waste and Recycling Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to the welfare of La Crosse County residents.

Motion by M. Wood/M. Freedland to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 5 excused - J. Berns, J. Bilskemper, A. Kader, B. Konkel and L. Pfaff.

- AED FUND RAISER: The Seven Rivers Chapter of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association is helping the Sheriff's Department raise funds to purchase Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for all of our patrol squads with a fund raiser on October 16th and raffle tickets. The information was passed around the Board for members that were interested. This organization is helping to save lives and assist us in getting some equipment for our department for use out in the community, while saving tax dollars too. Quite often, our officers are the first to arrive at an accident scene and these AED's could be the intervention that saves a life before the ambulance arrives.
- WTA PRESENTATION: Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance President Todd Berry addressed the Board. He distributed an issue of the Wisconsin Taxpayer with information on county administration, revenues and expenditures. The WTA, a 501c3 nonprofit, non-partisan organization, is approaching its' 80th year. With the aid of a "Fiscal Wisconsin" power point, including many graphs, he walked the Board through an overview of the economic situation in Wisconsin. He covered the background, context and implications of the State's economy, a review and recap of State finance, the 2009-2011 budget and the year ahead. He noted the severity of the manufacturing depression of the early 80s and how we have crawled back in the past and probably will again, but it is slower this time. Wisconsin's not as well off as the rest of the nation and hasn't been for a long time. He talked about how we got to the point of having an \$800 million dollar structural deficit.

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In preparation for the recession we were not trimming our budget and we had major tax increases. We've been postponing tough budget decisions by taking from other funds or using accounting tricks for over a decade, making promises and commitments before we even start to budget. Since stimulus money was used to balance the last budget instead of cutting back on expenses, the next governor is going to have a very difficult challenge. The only way to balance the budget is to cut spending and raise taxes. The Department of Revenue has scaled back recovery estimates, saying that we will likely not return to pre-recession levels until 2013; our growth is slower than the rest of the country. Our structural deficit, which includes promised spending, eats up all tax income growth. In the 90s, prisons and school aids drove the budget, but both of those have slowed in growth. Medicaid costs have risen and will drive the budget. Because we cover more of our own costs we won't get bailed out by federal money as other states will. When asked about Wisconsin's "rainy day fund" he noted that we've budgeted on the edge for so long and every administration has inherited structural problems so we're always behind the eight ball. Budget experts say we should have at least a 5% reserve; most school districts and counties typically have much higher. There is legislation pending in Madison to force such a fund. Berry responded to questions and comments from the Board and spoke for nearly an hour. This is a brief summary; the full presentation can be heard on the La Crosse County website at: <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/Audio/2010.htm>

- 2011 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RECOMMENDED BUDGET STATUS: Administrator O'Malley presented an overview summary of his recommended budget. It is under the 3% operating levy limit by \$739,000, not including the unused levy authority. His one year strategy to preserve options for 2012 includes the following:
 - Do as little harm to programs as possible. Future cuts should be tied to specific program aids.
 - Don't make the challenge any greater; hold the line on wages and benefits and all costs.
 - Offer voluntary unpaid time off, thus using vacation buy-up instead of forced furloughs.
 - Some management positions will be cut and some left open.
 - There will be a formalized position review upon all vacancies and a systematic review of management to employee ratio.
 - He will continue engagement with employees on their budget saving ideas.

There are additional policy options for the board to consider for 2011-2012 such as additional debt refinancing, using LEC State Trust Fund loans, cutting non-mandated services, increasing spending in areas of concern or using more fund balance or other reserves such as excess sales tax, and/or increasing fees or other revenue to get closer to the full cost. He addressed upcoming debt decisions regarding Highway and Hillview Assisted Living and how using State Trust Fund Loans and refinancing prior year service debt may save tax levy. He spoke about the Master List of fees and charges given to each supervisor and responded to questions from the Board. There are a few accounting corrections that will be made to this list before it is part of the final budget recommendation. Clerk Linda Stone responded to a specific question about the distribution of marriage license and domestic partnership certificate fees. Administrator O'Malley noted that other fees to consider in the future are a county wheel tax and a per acre fee for Farmland Preservation qualification assistance.

- 2009 SUPERVISOR TRAVEL: This report was requested by Supervisor Sebranek. Sebranek noted that those who have the highest travel expenses are the most dedicated supervisors who give up their time and sometimes their private sector wages and income, as well as unreimbursed expenses because they accept their responsibility as a supervisor and want to increase the quality of life for their constituents. He thanked all supervisors for what they do, particularly those at the top of the list.

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ADJOURN: Motion by G. Sebranek/B. Brockmiller to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. passed on a unanimous voice vote with 4 excused - J. Bilskemper, A. Kader, B. Konkel and L. Pfaff.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

COUNTY OF LA CROSSE)

I, Linda Stone, La Crosse County Clerk, in and for the County of La Crosse, Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors at the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting held Monday, October 11, 2010 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS 15th DAY OF OCTOBER 2010.