

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, April 11, 2011 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 27 supervisors were present when Chair Steven 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	Excused
5 Konkel, Bradley	Present
6 Billings, Jill	Present
7 Plesha, Roger	Present
8 Freedland, Maureen	Present
9 Hampson, Sharon	Present, Excused at 07:27 PM
10 Wood, Margaret	Present
11 Kader, Audrey	Present
12 Flood, Bridget	Excused
13 Brockmiller, Bill	Present
14 Medinger, John	Present
15 Mach, Beverly	Present
16 Sebranek, Gerald	Present
17 Meyer, Donald	Excused
18 Johnson, Tara	Present
19 Keil, Robert	Present
20 Bina, Donald	Present
21 Manthei, Dennis	Present at 07:25 PM
22 Ebert, Ray	Present
23 Gamroth, Tammy	Present
24 Pfaff, Leon	Present, Excused at 06:51 PM
25 Schroeder, Jeffrey	Present
26 Burke, Vicki	Excused
27 Pedretti, Marilyn	Present at 06:05 PM
28 Doyle, Steve	Present
29 Kruse, Monica	Present
30 Spiker, Charles	Excused
31 Ferries, Dan	Present
32 Benrud, Arlene	Present
33 Berns, Jim	Present
34 Wehrs, Tina	Excused
35 Bilskemper, Joe	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:****County Board Chair Report - Steven Doyle**

- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Billings attended Health Day in the Capitol. Some issues they advocated on included tax credit for work places that have wellness programs. She also attended the County Ambassador program along with WICSA and they advocated on several issues.
 - Supervisor Benrud attended a conference in Washington DC, all of the legislators and speakers said there is no money available. This is the first time she has ever heard this. She noted that this was at no cost to La Crosse County.
 - Supervisor Kader attended the 7 Rivers annual meeting in Winona. It was refreshing to see the quality of people working together from high level execs from major companies in the region working for collaboration.
 - Supervisor Bina and Supervisor Pedretti attended a UW Extension meeting in Madison. They listened to people talking about the future and predicting a 10% cut in all departments and how they will survive. A number of speakers talked about programs within the County and planning for the future. On the 2nd day they had two scheduled meetings with Senator Kapanke and Representative Schilling.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley**PROCLAMATION RE: APRIL 2011 - LA CROSSE COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH**

WHEREAS, La Crosse County employs nearly 1,400 people, working with an annual budget of \$135 million dollars. Yet at the same time La Crosse County maintains the fifth lowest tax levy out of the seventy two Wisconsin Counties; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County Employees and the County Board of Supervisors are committed to excellence, integrity, pride and respect, encouraging creativity as a source of new ideas to continuously improve services; and, **WHEREAS**, Counties enhance the quality of life in countless ways including: protecting health and public safety; enforcing laws and ordinances; operating the court system; maintaining vital public records; conducting elections; maintaining and plowing the roads; preventing abuse & neglect of the most vulnerable; assisting the elderly, poor and mentally ill; disposing of solid waste; enhancing environmental protection; planning for economic development and being prepared for community responses to emergencies and disasters. **WHEREAS**, National County Government Month (NCGM) is celebrated each April by the nation's counties to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. The 2011 theme is "Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces and Their Families" **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim the month of April La Crosse County Government Month.

Motion by J. Medinger/B. Brockmiller to approve. Discussion ensued. Administrator O'Malley responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 7 excused - V. Burke, B. Flood, J. Johnson, D. Manthei, D. Meyer, C. Spiker and T. Wehrs.

PROCLAMATION RE: APRIL 2011 - VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION MONTH

WHEREAS, April is Volunteer Recognition Month; and **WHEREAS**, many of our residents spend hours volunteering their time and energy to improve La Crosse County services and programs; and **WHEREAS**, it is important to acknowledge the effort volunteers have put forth to strengthen our County's communities and services; and **WHEREAS**, Volunteers can make a difference in countless ways; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County has provided opportunities for people to become actively engaged in enhancing their communities; and **WHEREAS**, Residents of La Crosse County have consistently been involved as volunteers through Hillview and Lakeview Healthcare Centers, the La Crosse County Aging Unit, and

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UW-Extension; **NOW , THEREFORE**, we as members of the La Crosse County Board, do hereby proclaim the week of April 17 – 23, 2011 as "*The Seasons for Caring*" Volunteer Recognition Week

Motion by M. Kruse/M. Wood to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 7 excused - V. Burke, B. Flood, J. Johnson, D. Manthei, D. Meyer, C. Spiker and T. Wehrs.

- Metropolitan Transit Report & Update:
 - There was no objection to Transit General Manger Keith Carlson speaking on the annual transit report. 26% of funding comes from the state, 38% is federal, 29% comes from fair box and City of Onalaska, La Crosse, Campbell and La Crescent make up just 6% of the budget. The Governor's budget has proposed to cut 10% of state funding. That cut would come out of the 26% which is \$1.4 million and 10% of that would be approximately \$140,000. This also is restricting the City of La Crosse ability to help by cutting shared revenues and by tying our hands with property taxes. More significantly he is moving from funding out of the segregated transportation fund and moving it into the general fund, which would put us in competition with school districts and all other needs the state has for funds. The budget repair bill that was passed affects the federal dollars. All grant agreements require collective bargaining and by removing collective bargaining, they are looking at the possible loss of all federal dollars, approximately \$2 million each year. Also 80% of our capital funding would be lost. Currently \$11 million was received already on Grand River Station. This won't allow for replacing busses or other capital expenses. City of La Crosse just extended contracts through 2013. Some have not extended agreements and that will affect us by the state taking all federal and all state dollars and distribute equally among all transit. Transit utility will do the best they can to address these cuts and will most likely increase fees and cuts in service. Transit Utility provides fixed bus routes in La Crosse, parts of Onalaska, French Island and La Crescent. Also provide specialized transportation and have contracted with Human Services but that is getting smaller over the years and more is going with WWC. The big news last year was the grand opening of Grand River Station. This has been very successful but not much opportunity to get in media. It is primarily a housing project with 93 apt and 80% already rented. Transit portion working much better than anyone anticipated. Very efficient for busses, riders and safe for everyone. Ten years ago was the site study committee to look at spots to build, that was the length of time to get this project completed. Jefferson Lines have moved in and has routes to either Madison or Minneapolis once a day. They provide staffing and a funding source for transit to use the facility. Transit received \$1.1 million in recovery act money. That money was used to put a Hybrid bus into service a year ago and renovating bus garage. Ridership last year was highest in 28 years and first 3 months of this year is up 6%. The demand for service will go up as gas prices rise. Capacity issues occurred last time gas reached \$4/gallon. If cutbacks happen, they will try to provide basic transportation needs. Service is seven days a week, Saturday and Sundays is less, people who use transit are not the typical 8-5 Monday - Friday people. They would also look at frequency during the day. Currently service is every 30 minutes Monday – Friday. Transit recently won two awards; American Public Works Association, a statewide award and entered into national award and the Concrete Award. The hybrid bus is a medium duty bus that has double fuel economy of current busses, dual diesel/electric. Large percentage of people who ride bus are low income, 40% going to work, about 25% going to school, and a lot of people going to medical appointments. Transit has a youth pass agreements with all three colleges in town. This help to support and in paying for transit system.

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- County Board website, email usage and training:
 - IT Director John Parshall displayed the new website and profile page for the Board. A brief demo was shown on the new website and the new features to make it more functional. Board member profiles, committee profiles and maps are all part of the new website. A link will be activated on Thursday and Supervisors will have until that time to give additional feedback on the website and to make sure that all their information is up to date and accurate. A lot of credit goes to Michelle Jensen who worked on the functionality of the website. John Parshall also touched on supervisors' email addresses. When we go live on Thursday, a new link will replace the County Board/Committee link on our current home page. The new email address will replace the co.la-crosse.wi.us with lacrossecounty.org. There will be three training classes on the email system. Tips, how to change password and any questions you may have will all be involved in this training class. Passwords and log-ins will be given out the night of training. Handouts will also be provided for the training. Anybody not using the County email system will be on your own for saving and archiving personal email accounts. IT will not be able to do this.
- Update on Special Elections, Recall and possible Recount:
 - County Clerk Ginny Dankmeyer spoke about the many elections going on in La Crosse County and potential elections and recounts happening and how this is affecting the budget. The April 5th election had a record turnout for a spring election of 40.25%. May 3rd will be the Special Partisan election for the 94th Assembly District. A potential recount may be called for the Justice of the Supreme Court Race. This potentially could take up to two weeks. A recall election will be held in either mid June or mid July depending on the GAB and their ability to get an extension. A primary may be necessary if more than one candidate turns in signature papers. And if Rep Shilling, who has announced she will be running for the Senate Recall election, wins, then we will have an opening in the 95th Assembly District and a possible two more elections. We are working on budget issues with this since we only budgeted for two smaller elections and will bring those numbers to you as soon as we have more definite answers from the GAB. Cost includes ballots, publications, canvass board, overtime cost, and any necessary additional paperwork or absentee envelopes.
- Completion of LEC addition under budget and dedication event May 4 at 4:30:
 - Administrator Steve O'Malley wanted to recognize the teamwork of County Board and staff to get this done on time and under budget. A couple of people to recognize is Jim Speropulos and Mary Powell who spent a lot of time on resources to manage the cost and reporting back to stay within line items and the finance department on managing bond cost. In 2007, the County Board unanimously approved a LEC addition project for \$29.5 million. Over a period of time and evaluating the detailed design and expectations, resolutions were approved that took the total to just over \$30 million including solar heat water, original bids, and build out for probation and parole. Once everything is closed out and all details complete at the end of the budget year, we will have saved just over \$600,000, just a hair over the \$29.5 million. With all the funding authorized, just over \$300,000 will stay in debt service to help level off debt services for the next three years. This is one piece that we will come back to in the 2012 budget and show while debt payments are supposed to go up, we use debt reserves and other savings to level that off. Contingency fund was just over \$1 million and that was all used. A mock up of the recognition plaque that will go in the lobby was on display for approval. On May 4, 2011 (this date was corrected at a later meeting to May 5, 2011) at 4:30 pm there will be a dedication.

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- Brief update on State Budget, JFC hearings and legislative resolutions:
 - Twelve resolutions will be coming through this month with regards to the budget from Governor Walker. Act 10 continues to be held up in court. It is unclear when it will become effective, likely two more months will be the earliest it will happen. Joint Committee on Finance hearing will be in Neenah not Arcadia. There will be a hearing at UWL sponsored by democrats on the Joint Finance Committee on Monday, April 25, 2011 from 1-7 pm. In the latest edition of the WCA county magazine, they have listed their top 6 issues: family care, privatization of income maintenance, juvenile justice issues like youth aid cuts, child support, cut transportation funding, and recycling mandate. Several resolutions will be coming through this month looking at those issues among others.

- County Tax Bill comparison past Four Years:
 - Average change over the last four years even with the recession was 1.4%, even with building the new Law Enforcement Center.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Reminder that our next meeting is not on Thursday but rather on Tuesday, April 19, 2011
Supervisor Geary asked for a more detailed update on Skipperliner.

ADJOURN

Motion by G. Sebranek/B. Brockmiller to adjourn at 7:36 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 8 excused - V. Burke, B. Flood, S. Hampson, J. Johnson, D. Meyer, L. Pfaff, C. Spiker and T. Wehrs.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)

COUNTY OF LA CROSSE)

I, Ginny Dankmeyer , 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, April 11, 2011 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 19 OF APRIL 2011.