

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting was held on Thursday, February 18, 2016 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 21 supervisors were present when Chair Tara Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and those otherwise present, excused or absent are noted in the roll call detail:

| <b>District Name</b>  | <b>Attendance</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Richmond, Andrea    | Present           |
| 2 Geary, Ralph        | Present           |
| 3 Veenstra, Joe       | Present           |
| 4 Freedland, Maureen  | Present           |
| 5 Rosa, Keyla         | Excused           |
| 6 Plesha, Roger       | Present           |
| 7 Hampson, Sharon     | Present           |
| 8 Jerome, Peg         | Present           |
| 9 Caucutt, Nancy      | Present           |
| 10 Cable, Kim         | Excused           |
| 11 Scheller, Patrick  | Present           |
| 12 Holtze, Dave       | Present           |
| 13 Vacant             |                   |
| 14 Schroeder, Jeffrey | Excused           |
| 15 Kruse, Monica      | Present           |
| 16 Ferries, Dan       | Excused           |
| 17 Giese, Mike        | Present           |
| 18 Berg, Laurence     | Excused           |
| 19 Hoffman, Hubert    | Present           |
| 20 Doyle, Steve       | Excused           |
| 21 Burke, Vicki       | Present           |
| 22 Barlow, Patrick    | Present           |
| 23 Nikolay, Matt      | Present           |
| 24 Pfaff, Leon        | Present           |
| 25 Ebert, Ray         | Present           |
| 26 Hesse, Dan         | Present           |
| 27 Wehrs, Tina        | Present           |
| 28 Keil, Robert       | Excused           |
| 29 Johnson, Tara      | Present           |

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**County Board Chair Report - Tara Johnson**

- University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics Collaborative Leadership Award – The La Crosse County Board received this award and Chair Johnson presented it to the Board for the work on the development of Lot C.
- Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Review Committee Volunteers – anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact Chair Johnson.
- Supervisor Conference Reports

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- o Supervisor Hoffman announced the bill regarding railroad track crossings has passed the assembly.
- o Supervisor Hampson prepared a handout reviewing the WCA Legislative Exchange the bills being presented.
- o Supervisor Pfaff attended the Wildlife Abatement Committee meeting and 45 deer were donated for processing. La Crosse County was up in donations with several surrounding counties going down in donations.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by R. Plesha/P. Jerome to approve the minutes of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning meeting held January 11, 2016 and the Monthly meeting held January 21, 2016 and the claims list for \$6,621,922.73 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 7 excused - L. Berg, K. Cable, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, R. Keil, K. Rosa and J. Schroeder, 1 vacant – District 13.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 78-2/16 RE: DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 11-15, 2016 AS WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK IN LA CROSSE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 11-15, 2016; and, **WHEREAS**, construction and maintenance activities on our streets and highways periodically require that work zones be established; and, **WHEREAS**, work zones often require narrowed lanes, lane shifts, temporary pavement, reduced speeds, and evening and overnight work hours; and, **WHEREAS**, work zones also include locations where emergency vehicles, utility vehicles, tow trucks, law enforcement, fire, and EMS services are operating with their lights flashing, requiring motorists to move over or slow down; and, **WHEREAS**, annually, Wisconsin suffers on average approximately 1,600 accidents, 720 injuries, and 8 fatalities per year in work zones. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby designates the week of April 11-15, 2016 as Work Zone Awareness Week in La Crosse County. **FISCAL NOTE:** No cost to La Crosse County.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Motion by M. Freedland/R. Geary to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 7 excused - L. Berg, K. Cable, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, R. Keil, K. Rosa and J. Schroeder, 1 vacant – District 13.

#### **FIRST CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE**

ORDINANCE NO. 147 TO CREATE S.7.04(9) OF CHAPTER 7 ENTITLED "TEMPORARY SPEED LIMITS IN CONSTRUCTION ZONES" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN. Motion by M. Freedland to move the first reading. Discussion ensued. The ordinance will be held over for 30 days and is on file and open for public inspection in the office of the County Clerk and on the La Crosse County web site at: [www.co.la-crosse.wi.us](http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us). Upon adoption and publication it will be incorporated into the La Crosse County General Code of Ordinances.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 79-2/16 RE: ASSIGNMENT OF ACCOUNT TO RECEIVE PROCEEDS FROM SALE OF VACANT LAND NEAR LAKEVIEW BUSINESS PARK**

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution 50-11/15, the La Crosse County Board authorized the sale of approximately 3.8 acres, more or less, of property located south of East Garland Street in the Village of West Salem to James Finch in accordance with a submitted Offer to Purchase; and, **WHEREAS**, that resolution indicated in the fiscal note that the funds shall be deposited in Org 1064, Account 56015, which is a non-departmental fund account; and, **WHEREAS**, the Finance Director recommends that the funds from the sale of the property be deposited specifically into a different account, Org 2551 Business Park (non-TIF), Account 56015 Sale of County Property; and, **WHEREAS**, the assignment of funds to this account is appropriate because the Lakeview Business Fund paid for the extension of East Garland Street, which allowed the purchase to occur. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby shall assign the net sale proceeds from the sale of property to James

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Finch as approved by Resolution #50-11/15 to Org 2551 Business Park (non-TIF), Account 56015 Sale of County Property. **FISCAL NOTE:** The effect of this resolution is to change the fiscal note from resolution #50-11/15 by providing that the funds be deposited in a specific Business Fund account, rather than be deposited in Org 1064, Account 56015.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Motion by S. Hampson/V. Burke to approve. Discussion ensued. Administrator O'Malley responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 7 excused - L. Berg, K. Cable, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, R. Keil, K. Rosa and J. Schroeder, 1 vacant – District 13.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 80-2/16 RE: APPROVAL OF NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ACQUISITION AND DEMOLITION GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, residential property makes up approximately 66% of the total tax base of La Crosse County, and residential property in the City of La Crosse makes up the single largest component of the County's tax base; and, **WHEREAS**, certain residential neighborhoods in the City of La Crosse have up to 89% of the homes valued at less than \$100,000; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County has a vested interest in neighborhood revitalization in existing neighborhoods that are experiencing issues with a deteriorating housing stock because the low values affect property tax rates for all County residents; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County recognizes the cost gap between building new housing on a vacant lot and redeveloping housing within existing neighborhoods and wants to help bridge that gap and encourage redevelopment; and, **WHEREAS**, the 2016 County budget includes line items for Housing Projects in Org 1059, Neighborhood Revitalization, and staff has developed program guidelines for the use of those funds; and, **WHEREAS**, the program guidelines will target residential neighborhoods based on criteria to include low valued housing stock, concentration of poverty, and proximity to employment; and, **WHEREAS**, the grant award will normally range from \$15,000 to \$75,000 and will require an end product of redevelopment of at least \$150,000 value per single family housing unit and \$120,000 value per unit for multi-family units. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby approves a Neighborhood Revitalization Acquisition and Demolition Grant Program in accordance with the general terms outlined in this resolution. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Board Chair will appoint a Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Review Committee to review applications, make modifications to the Program Guidelines and oversee the implementation of the Program, with a maximum of seven members, and that at least three of the Committee members shall be County Board Supervisors. **FISCAL NOTE:** Grants through this program shall be paid from Org. 1059 Neighborhood Revitalization, Account 79062 Housing Projects.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Motion by S. Hampson/P. Scheller to approve. Discussion ensued. Community Development Specialist Brian Fukuda responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 7 excused - L. Berg, K. Cable, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, R. Keil, K. Rosa and J. Schroeder, 1 vacant – District 13.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 81-2/16 RE: AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR THE COUNTY-WIDE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM FROM MARCH 2019 - MARCH 2021**

**WHEREAS**, 17% of Wisconsin children ages 2-19 and 37% of Wisconsin adults are obese, which contributes to increased development of chronic disease and lowered life expectancy; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Safe Routes to School Program increases physical activity among K-8<sup>th</sup> grade children by encouraging active commuting to and from school; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Safe Routes to School Program and partnering organizations (public and private school districts including La Crosse, Onalaska, Holmen, West Salem and Bangor, Gundersen Health System and Safe Kids Coulee Region-La Crosse, Urban Connections, Boys and Girls Club of Greater La Crosse and the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin) work to provide services to approximately twenty-two schools reaching

approximately 8000 students and their families; and, **WHEREAS**, funding for Safe Routes to School has been folded into the Transportation Alternatives Program and current La Crosse County funding will sustain the program through February 2019; and, **WHEREAS**, the federal Transportation Alternative Program Safe Routes to School activities requires applicants to provide 20% of the total award in matching funds. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Board of Supervisors hereby support the Transportation Alternatives Program application for state funding of \$340,000, with a required La Crosse County match of \$68,000 from 2019-2021, to continue providing this service to schools, children and families in La Crosse County. **FISCAL NOTE**: Details of the required match are not yet final. The granting agency encourages local governments to plan for the potential local levy match now with the final determinations to be made later in 2016.

#### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

Motion by M. Kruse/M. Nikolay to approve. Discussion ensued. Health Education Manager Paula Silha responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 7 excused - L. Berg, K. Cable, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, R. Keil, K. Rosa and J. Schroeder, 1 vacant – District 13.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 82-2/16 RE: ADOPTION OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, Wis. Stat., s. 323.14(1)(a) requires that each county board shall develop and adopt an emergency management plan and program that is compatible with the state plan of emergency management; and, **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wis. Stat., s. 323.13(1)(b), the adjutant general of the department of military affairs, subject to approval by the governor, shall develop and adopt a state plan of emergency management; and, **WHEREAS**, the 2015 Wisconsin Emergency Response Plan contains content and new planning elements prompted by several key directives and initiatives, including the following:

- Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-8 (March 2011)
- Comprehensive Preparedness Guide/CPG 101, Version 2.0 (November 2010), Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans
- Wisconsin Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (Updated December 2014); and,

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Wisconsin Emergency Response Plan provides greater consistency of format and style between the Plan sections through the elimination of redundancies across the Plan and strategies to improve readability of the Plan; and, **WHEREAS**, the existing County Emergency Operations Plan has been modified and restructured for consistent alignment with the 2015 Wisconsin Emergency Response Plan. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby adopts the La Crosse County Emergency Response Plan as the official program of La Crosse County Emergency Management. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the County Emergency Management Coordinator, Wisconsin Emergency Management West Central Regional Director, and the Administrator of Wisconsin Emergency Management. **FISCAL NOTE**: No cost to La Crosse County.

#### **JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE**

Motion by P. Barlow/V. Burke to approve. Discussion ensued. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 7 excused - L. Berg, K. Cable, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, R. Keil, K. Rosa and J. Schroeder, 1 vacant – District 13.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 83-2/16 RE: OPPOSITION TO THE UW-COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MULTI-COUNTY REORGANIZATION PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the process used to develop the UW-Cooperative Extension Multi-County Reorganization plan was flawed, not transparent, raises many unanswered questions, and provided little opportunity for meaningful consideration of County concerns, including asking Counties for options to address any share of revenue shortfall that is used to justify the imposition of the plan; and **WHEREAS**, the plan likely jeopardizes the partnership between

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the UW-System and Wisconsin Counties, which implies working together to find solutions, not simply accepting a plan unilaterally imposed by a decision of the Chancellor of UW Colleges and UW-Extension; and, **WHEREAS**, the current Cooperative Extension system has a proven track record of success for more than 100 years as a single County based model for governance, locally set levy contribution and individual County determined educational programming priorities under the policy guidance of each County Extension Committee designated by the elected County Board; and **WHEREAS**, the reduction target allocated by the plan to Cooperative Extension of \$1.2 million annually, is equivalent to about 5.8% of the Total \$20.46 million County Levy support for Extension by the 72 Counties, and does not justify the complete dismantling of the current County-based Cooperative Extension system when there are multiple options to address the budget shortfall; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County's share of the budget decrease would be approximately \$18,788 per year which equals 4.4% of annual tax levy support, but would not be needed in Calendar Year 2016 because of the attrition savings due to the vacant Agricultural Agent position; and **WHEREAS**, there are up to 40 current faculty/academic staff educator vacancies within the system, providing sufficient savings to allow for an inclusive examination of cost saving options with Counties engaged as full partners, to consider if individual Counties are willing to contribute their proportionate share of the revenue decrease, or identify other non-levy revenue, or offer other expenditure reductions to make up their share of the shortfall allocated to Cooperative Extension by County; and **WHEREAS**, the reorganization plan imposes a drastic and reckless change, eliminating 80 local faculty education positions, a reduction of nearly 50% in direct education staff, while adding an unnecessary bureaucratic layer of at least 18 "area-leader-director" positions who will not provide any face-to-face service and will not be accountable to local elected officials, community partners, program priorities, community needs, volunteers, funders or participants; and **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin Counties are unlikely to continue the current level of County Tax Levy support in future years if direct educational services are decreased by up to 50%, thereby making the proposed multi-county educational delivery structure financially unsustainable. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board opposes the UW-Cooperative Extension Multi-County Reorganization Plan approved by Chancellor Sandeen on February 10, 2016. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board calls upon University System President Ray Cross and the UW-Board of Regents to direct the Chancellor of the UW Colleges and UW Cooperative Extension to retract all portions of the plan imposing a Multi-County system on County / Tribal Extension offices and engage Counties / Tribes as equal partners to consider individual County options to address their share of the \$1.2 million reduction target, approximately 21 cents per capita state-wide, which is equal to 1.93% of \$62,071,049 Total State/Federal Direct and Indirect Support plus County Extension Tax Levies, while maintaining the current single County Extension system. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that La Crosse County is willing to appropriate additional County funding to continue with the current level of service including filling the vacant Agricultural Agent position, while preserving the single County Extension service to La Crosse County citizens, program participants and volunteers. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that La Crosse County is not willing to continue providing local tax levy funding at the current level if direct educational faculty services are decreased by up to 50% as described in the plan, while eliminating accountability to the County Extension Committee and Board. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County UW-Extension Department Director and La Crosse County Administrator are hereby directed to solicit input to the UW-System regarding local concerns about the detrimental impact of the proposed multi-county reorganization plan from the more than 140 local partner organizations and 1,000's of program participants and volunteers in the four program areas: Agriculture, 4-H & Youth, Family Living and Community Natural Resources & Economic Development. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all 72 Wisconsin County Boards / Extension Education Committee Chairs and County Extension Department Heads, the Wisconsin Counties Association, County Executives and Administrators, Governor Walker, President Ray Cross and the Board of Regents, Senator Shilling, Representative Doyle, Representative Billings, Assembly Speaker Vos and Senate Majority Leader Fitzgerald. **FISCAL NOTE:** There should be no fiscal impact to La Crosse County in 2016, since there is

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a current unfilled vacancy in the Agricultural Agent position. The approximate share of the budget cut for La Crosse County is estimated at \$18,788 per year, or 16 cents per capita.

**PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Motion by T. Wehrs/D. Holtze to approve. Discussion ensued. Administrator O'Malley responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 7 excused - L. Berg, K. Cable, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, R. Keil, K. Rosa and J. Schroeder, 1 vacant – District 13.

**SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – none offered.**

**ADJOURN**

Motion by J. Veenstra to adjourn at 7:01 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 7 excused - L. Berg, K. Cable, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, R. Keil, K. Rosa, and J. Schroeder, 1 vacant – District 13.

**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 Monthly Meeting held Thursday, February 18, 2016 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 26 OF FEBRUARY 2016.**