

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, JANUARY 08, 2018**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, January 08, 2018 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 25 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:

District Name	Attendance
1 Richmond, Andrea	Present
2 Geary, Ralph	Present
3 Weidenbach, Doug	Present
4 Freedland, Maureen	Present
5 Tahiri, Isaac	Excused
6 Plesha, Roger	Present
7 Hampson, Sharon	Present
8 Isola, Peg	Present
9 Gundersen, Jerome	Present
10 Cable, Kim	Present
11 Scheller, Patrick	Present
12 Holtze, Dave	Present
13 Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14 Larson, Margaret	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Present
16 Ferries, Dan	Present
17 Giese, Mike	Present
18 Berg, Laurence	Present
19 Cornforth, Rick	Present
20 Doyle, Steve	Excused
21 Burke, Vicki	Present
22 Barlow, Patrick	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Pfaff, Leon	Excused
25 Ebert, Ray	Present
26 Hesse, Dan	Present
27 Wehrs, Tina	Excused
28 Tyser, Kathie	Present
29 Johnson, Tara	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Tara Johnson

- 2017 Mileage Reimbursement – Clerk Dankmeyer reminded Supervisors that January 18th will be the deadline for turning in 2017 mileage statements. She also noted that 2017 and 2018 mileage cannot be combined on the same form.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Chair Johnson brought up the WCA Legislative Exchange in February and the conflict it will cause with some meeting date and times. After discussion, it

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was decided that Public Works & Infrastructure would meet on February 12th at 4pm, Health & Human Services would meet on February 5th at 4pm (which was later updated to 6pm), Judiciary & Law will meet on the 12th at 5:30pm and the County Board Planning meeting will move to the 12th at 6pm. All these meeting times are tentative based on agenda items. Please check the calendar and agendas for start times.

- o Supervisor Giese noted that La Crosse County joined PACE in 2016 and he's been serving as a board member. The County membership is now at approximately 22. In December the first grant was issued in Dane County.
- o Supervisor Freedland announced the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr Celebration on Monday, February 15th at 7pm at Viterbo.
- o Administrator O'Malley noted that there will be opportunities to listen to different speakers for employees who have MLK day off in exchange for additional vacation time.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION 1/18 JANUARY 2018 - HIGHWAY SAFETY / TRANSPORTATION MONTH

WHEREAS, staff works so diligently to build safe roads for the residents of La Crosse County and visitors to travel upon; and, **WHEREAS**, maintenance such as snow plowing; salting; grading shoulders; mowing; repairing, sealing, sweeping, and paving roads and many other duties that keep La Crosse County highways clean and safe; and, **WHEREAS**, the safety of all traveling persons is ensured by the hard working men and women of the highway department. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of January 2018 as La Crosse Highway Safety Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to ensuring safe roads for La Crosse County residents and visitors.

Motion by R. Geary/P. Barlow to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - S. Doyle, L. Pfaff, I. Tahiri and T. Wehrs.

- Community Development Updates: Neighborhood Revitalization, La Crosse Promise and Downtown La Crosse – Community Development Specialist Brian Fukuda
 - o Neighborhood Revitalization: The awards made in 2016 and 2017 was \$548,710 for acquisition and demolition grants and \$18,910 for solid waste disposal grants. Only \$248,470 has been drawn so far on grant dollars. 47 total housing units have been built with a minimum of \$5.89 million in new tax base. Mr. Fukuda reviewed pictures of the housing units for 2016 and 2017. The overall tax value to grant ratio is \$10.73 per grant \$1.
 - o La Crosse Promise: Future Centers are designed to work with school advisors to prepare students for their future. Advising Centers are located within La Crosse High Schools that provide career and post-secondary educational advising to every high school student in the La Crosse School District. They assist with applications, scholarships, essay writing, financial aid guidance, campus visits, job shadows, and much more. The Neighborhood Program is designed to incentivize the private sector to deal with La Crosse's aging and deteriorating housing stock. The program provides up to \$50,000 in scholarships per household for building or significantly renovating a home in Powell Poage Hamilton or Washburn neighborhoods. New homes must appraise for at least \$150,00 and renovations must invest at least \$30,000 or \$60,000 to be eligible for \$25,000 or \$50,000 in scholarships. The family must live in the home for at least 4 years. The program is funded by generous private donors. 9 La Crosse Promise families are currently residing in their homes with an estimated construction value of \$1,978,000. 8 additional homes are currently under construction and have La Crosse Promise scholarships reserved for them. There are 10 potential additional sites for homes have been identified.

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- Downtown La Crosse: Residences at Belle Square have 93 market rate units with initial occupancy in November 2016 and currently are 100% leased. Office/retail space at Belle Square is approximately 130,000 square feet and is currently 100% leased (110,000 of office and 20,000 of commercial/retail). The HUB project will cost \$16.5 million. Rental housing will be available in September 2018. There will be 95 luxury units with 56 studios, 31 two bedrooms and 8 three bedrooms. Condominium units will be for sale in September 2018. There will be 18 luxury condos: 2 two bedroom/one bath (\$270,000), 13 two bedroom/two bath (\$240,000), and 3 three bedroom/two bath (\$350,000). Commercial space at the HUB will be approximately 6,000 square feet. Amenities will include community room, fitness room, 2nd story outdoor sports court, outdoor patios, bicycle repair and storage, on site laundry, and underground parking. It will be built with sustainability, solar photovoltaic to power all common area utilities and will be asbestos free.
- Presentation on Multi-County Litigation Regarding Opioids - Corporation Counsel Megan DeVore
 - Opioid epidemic over the past several years was reviewed. Opioid related deaths have increased in Wisconsin from 1999-2015. Child Protective Services has seen an overall increase of 35% for referrals since 2010.
 - Opioid Litigation: More than 200 federal cases have been filed. 59 Counties in Wisconsin have filed suit or passed resolutions to join the suit. They are represented by 3 firms working together: Simmons Hanly Conroy, Crueger Dickinson, and von Briesen & Roeper. The suits are filed against “big pharma” (approximately 14 defendants). This is not a class action suit. It is being treated as “multi-district litigation”. All cases have been assigned to the Northern District of Ohio for pre-trial proceedings. The Cause of Action: defendants violated Wisconsin’s Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Public Nuisance, Unjust Enrichment, Intentional Misrepresentation, and Civil Conspiracy. The Plaintiff’s demand is for compensatory damages, costs and attorney fees, declaratory judgement, and punitive damages. The cases are filed on contingent fee basis. There will be no costs upfront no costs if unsuccessful, and fee/costs are fronted by the litigation team and then recovered out of settlement. There are significant discovery issues across multiple County Departments. Special considerations to take into consideration include confidentiality of records, fact that La Crosse County is self-insured, and fact that La Crosse County operates nursing home/facilities. The unknowns of the suit include possible length of litigation, possible benefit/award, amount of work the County will expend in gathering data/information, and level of assistance that will be provided by the litigation team.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – None offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by R. Cornforth/M. Larson to adjourn at 7:58 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 4 excused - S. Doyle, L. Pfaff, I. Tahiri 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, January 08, 2018 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 11 OF JANUARY 2018.