

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, September 10, 2018 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 20 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	Excused
5 Tahiri, Isaac	Present
6 Plesha, Roger	Excused
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	Excused
17 Giese, Mike	Present
18 Berg, Laurence	Present at 06:10 PM
19 Cornforth, Rick	Absent
20 Doyle, Steve	Excused
21 Burke, Vicki	Excused
22 Barlow, Patrick	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Hoyer, Kevin	Excused
25 Ebert, Ray	Present
26 Hesse, Dan	Present
27 Wehrs, Tina	Absent
28 Keil-Arellano, Karen	Present
29 Johnson, Tara	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Tara Johnson

- County Board Picnic – a sign-up sheet was passed around for Supervisors who were interested in attending the picnic.
- 2019 Annual Budget Book – a sign-up sheet was passed around for Supervisors who want a hard copy of the budget book.
- WCA Annual Conference September 23-25, 2018 – Supervisors were reminded of the WCA Conference that will be held in La Crosse County on September 23rd – 25th.

- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Chair Johnson noted there was an opening on the Bluffland Coalition for a County Board Supervisor. Please contact her if you are interested.
 - Supervisor Weidenbach mentioned that there was an artist reception for the artwork in the lobby of the Administrative Center. The show will remain up for another month.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION SEPTEMBER 2018 – LIBRARIES AND UW-EXTENSION MONTH

WHEREAS, research-based educational programs for agricultural producers and professionals, businesses, local governments, communities, families and youth are brought to the residents of La Crosse County; and, **WHEREAS**, research-based educational and library programs identify and respond to specific community needs for education, research and knowledge to improve the quality of life in local communities, to strengthen families, to increase the competitiveness of businesses and agriculture, enhance decision-making in local government, and to develop leadership skills for managing resources and planning for the future; and, **WHEREAS**, libraries provide recreational and educational resources for residents in pursuit of life-long learning and provide community gathering places; and, **WHEREAS**, UW-Extension programming combines faculty, campus-based specialists, and staff expertise to bring University research to the people of La Crosse County in the areas of Agriculture/Horticulture; Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development; Family Living Education; and 4-H & Youth Development; and, **WHEREAS**, UW-Extension faculty & staff and area library staff are committed to educating the residents of La Crosse County in order to promote life-long learning and provide a more knowledgeable and informed community. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of September as La Crosse County Libraries and UW- Extension Month, and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to educating the residents and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities in La Crosse County.

Motion by P. Scheller/J. Gundersen to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 20 ayes, 3 absent - L. Berg, R. Cornforth and T. Wehrs, 6 excused - V. Burke, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, M. Freedland, K. Hoyer and R. Plesha.

- Smart Phone use for accessing e-mail by Supervisors and October rollout of new devices
 - IT Director John Parshall reviewed the personal smart phone use for County Board Supervisors. You will need to contact the IT Service Desk to set up an appointment to have county email set up on your personal device. The cellular and mobile device policy is posted on the extranet.
 - The new County Board laptops are also in now and were displayed. They will include a Bluetooth mouse, weighs less than 3 pounds, backlit keyboard, touch enable, reverse set up plus many more features. The current devices are over 5 years old. Supervisors will need to make an appointment to get the new device.
- Report on Radio System and 911 Phone System upgrade
 - Emergency Services Administrator Jay Loeffler reviewed the system prior to the upgrade and the current system which replaced equipment for four simulcast channels, address US Cell 14/61 site, added MVC site, and site prep work for Wanlass upgrade. Scheduled in 2018 is the Wanlass site upgrade, adding law enforcement and highway simulcast channels, change tower from 90' to 180', larger equipment shelter, adding a generator, and a site needed to expand the Mindoro tower proposed for 2019. Upgrades in 2019 include the needed area coverage for paging (Farmington Fire/Ems) and creates a microwave link for future expansion to the northwest. A comparison was shown on the current coverage area and projected coverage area after upgrades.

(86-18/19)

- Public Safety Communications System: 80% of all 911 calls are made from cell phones today. In 2017, there were 30,638 calls for 911, 271,693 calls for 911, non-emergency and out-going calls, and 131,993 calls for service with 92% of calls for law enforcement. The present system was purchased in 2006, refreshed in 2012, and was advised to be replaced in 2017 but was delayed due to network status. The Next Generation 911 will be capable of NG 911; texting, photos, videos, provides more redundancy, and connectivity between 911 centers. The current telephone network cannot support NG 911. Six proposals were received and range in price \$250,000 to \$422,000. Recommendations of system will be made in November with approval and implementation to begin in early 2019. Wisconsin plans to build an Emergency Services IP based network. It is unknown how long it will take to build this network.
- History of Highway Funding and challenges 2003-2018
 - Highway Commissioner Ron Chamberlain and Administrator O'Malley presented. Highway operations are reliant upon mostly flat sources of revenue: property taxes, GTA and contracts for State work. County highways are one of many competing priorities that are underfunded. Needs are growing and restoring GTA to historic levels will not solve the road funding problem. The County budget is highly reliant upon restricted revenues that cannot be transferred to roads. Using long term debt for highways is a proper use of funding capital projects, but not sustainable. The County has used many local sources to support highway projects with county funding plus long term borrowing for highway 2007-2018. Highway operating levy relatively has unchanged since 2003 but total capital projects have increased from all sources averaging \$4.3 million annually since 2011. Debt payments for highway projects are an increasing share of total annual county debt payments. Outstanding balances of highway debt as of 12/31/2018 is \$13,865,000.
 - The 2012 budget incorporated a 5 year plan and special projects. In 2013 all pavement needs and bridge needs were added. 2014 incorporated small structure and overlays. 2015 and forward have identified soil issues, refined scopes and estimates and identified safety needs. La Crosse County is currently responsible for 282.09 miles of CTH. Current costs for rural roads is approximately \$450,000/mile. \$5 million yields 10 miles per year while allowing for some fluctuation. Other sources will be needed for maintenance and complex projects. Over the past 15 years, highway operating levy declined slightly by -5.8% while total county highway funding from all local sources has increased by nearly 39.4%. Annual capital projects have more than doubled over the past 15 years from all funding sources. 2019 budget will highlight growing project needs and consider options to reduce long-term borrowing.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-9/18 RE: AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION REGARDING THE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS RELATED TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §59.52(25), the Board can conduct a county-wide advisory referendum; and **WHEREAS**, on July 19, 2018, the La Crosse County Board, by resolution No. 19-7/18, directed the County Clerk to place the following four questions as separate referenda on the November 6, 2018 ballot:

1. *The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors has determined that an expenditure of \$5 million per year is necessary to address unmet road and bridge needs currently totaling \$101 million. Do you support the County investing \$5 million annually to address needed road and bridge repairs?*
A. YES B. NO
2. *If the La Crosse County Board finds it necessary to increase local spending on roads and bridges due to insufficient state and federal funds, do you support pursuing the enactment of a Premier Resort Area Tax (PRAT) of 0.5 percent as a sales tax on tourism-related goods and services as defined in state law? This option is estimated to raise \$6.6 million per year, of which \$1.6 million will be shared with the cities, villages and towns for their transportation needs.*
A. YES B. NO

3. *If the La Crosse County Board finds it necessary to increase local spending on roads and bridges due to insufficient state and federal funds, do you support imposing an annual vehicle registration fee ("wheel tax") of approximately \$56 per auto and light truck? This option is estimated to raise \$5 million per year.*
A. YES B. NO
4. *If the La Crosse County Board finds it necessary to increase local spending on roads and bridges due to insufficient state and federal funds, do you support increasing short-term borrowing by approximately \$5 million? This option is estimated to increase the County portion of taxes by approximately 15 percent in the 2020 tax cycle.*
A. YES B. NO

WHEREAS, there is a need to prepare and disseminate informational materials that inform the electorate of pertinent facts so that voters can make informed decisions; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board hereby authorizes up to \$30,000 for public information regarding the referendum questions for expenditures approved by the County Board Chair for mailings, brochures and other means to enhance public information about the issues addressed in the referendum. **FISCAL NOTE:** The need for public information is not included in the 2018 budget, thereby necessitating a transfer of \$20,000 from account 100.155.1480-60700.04 (General Fund Contingency) to County Board account 100.100.1000-60795.01 (Public Information).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by M. Kruse/T. Tryggstad to approve passed on a voice vote with 20 ayes, 1 nay - A. Richmond, 2 absent - R. Cornforth and T. Wehrs, 6 excused - V. Burke, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, M. Freedland, K. Hoyer and R. Plesha.

Motion by D. Weidenbach/D. Holtze to suspend the Board rules and take up item #9-2 Resolution RE: Disaster Declaration Related to Flooding Events of August 2018 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 2 absent - R. Cornforth and T. Wehrs, 6 excused - V. Burke, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, M. Freedland, K. Hoyer and R. Plesha.

RESOLUTION NO. 27-9/18 RE: DISASTER DECLARATION RELATED TO FLOODING EVENTS OF AUGUST 2018

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2018 a disaster, namely torrential rain, struck La Crosse Wisconsin; and **WHEREAS**, the disaster has caused and continues to cause the County to expend, commit and exhaust its pertinent available resources; and **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §323.11 and §323.14(4)(b), the County Board Chair declared a condition of disaster on August 28, 2018, a copy of which is attached; and **WHEREAS**, the County Board Chair's proclamation is subject to ratification as soon as the full County Board is able to convene; and, **WHEREAS**, the emergency conditions that led to the disaster declaration continue to exist; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by La Crosse County Board of Supervisors that the Disaster Declaration executed by the County Board Chair on August 28, 2018 is hereby ratified, and that the period of emergency shall be limited to the time during which the emergency conditions exist or are likely to exist.

Motion by S. Hampson/P. Isola to approve. Discussion ensued. Highway Commissioner Ron Chamberlain and Administrator O'Malley responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 2 absent - R. Cornforth and T. Wehrs, 6 excused - V. Burke, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, M. Freedland, K. Hoyer and R. Plesha.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by I. Tahiri/K. Cable to adjourn at 7:57 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 21 ayes, 2 absent - R. Cornforth and T. Wehrs, 6 excused - V. Burke, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, M. Freedland, K. Hoyer and R. Plesha.

(88-18/19)

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, September 10, 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 SEPTEMBER 2018.