

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, April 8, 2019 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 22 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	Excused
2 Geary, Ralph	Present
3 Weidenbach, Doug	Present
4 Freedland, Maureen	Present
5 Tahiri, Isaac	Present
6 Plesha, Roger	Present
7 Hampson, Sharon	Excused at 7:15 PM
8 Isola, Peg	Present
9 Gundersen, Jerome	Present
10 Cable, Kim	Present
11 Scheller, Patrick	Absent
12 Holtze, Dave	Present
13 Tryggestad, Tina	Excused at 06:41 PM
14 Larson, Margaret	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Excused
16 Ferries, Dan	Present
17 Giese, Mike	Present
18 Berg, Laurence	Excused
19 Cornforth, Rick	Excused at 7:15 PM
20 Doyle, Steve	Excused
21 Burke, Vicki	Present
22 Barlow, Patrick	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Hoyer, Kevin	Absent
25 Ebert, Ray	Excused
26 Hesse, Dan	Present
27 Jacobs, Thomas	Present
28 Keil-Arellano, Karen	Present
29 Johnson, Tara	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Tara Johnson

- Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Forms – Chair Johnson reminded Supervisors that they must fill out and turn in the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interests forms that are on their desk. They are required to be filled out and turned in annually to the County Clerk.
- Supervisor Conference Reports

(180-18/19)

- Supervisor Weidenbach attended the County Ambassador and Human Services day on April 2nd at the Capital. They were there to lobby on behalf of the County for items coming up in the budget.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION APRIL 2019 - LA CROSSE COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties serving more than 300 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and **WHEREAS**, counties provide health services, administer justice, keep communities safe, foster economic opportunities and much more; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and **WHEREAS**, through National Association of Counties President Greg Cox's "Connecting the Unconnected" initiative, NACo is demonstrating how counties deliver "people-centered" services to our residents nationwide; and **WHEREAS**, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of April 2019 as National County Government Month and encourages all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Motion by P. Isola/M. Nikolay to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 22 ayes, 2 absent - K. Hoyer and P. Scheller, 5 excused - L. Berg, S. Doyle, R. Ebert, M. Kruse and A. Richmond.

- Governmental Finance Officers Association Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Popular Annual Financial Report Awards – Administrator O'Malley presented the CAFT and PAFT awards to Finance Director Sharon Davidson and her staff. Less than 5% receive this annual award.
- Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Reports
 - Jeremy Gray from Mosaic Community Planning presented the Fair Housing Choice reports. The study was prepared by the City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Monroe County, City of La Crosse Public Housing Authority, La Crosse County Housing Authority, Tomah Housing Authority and Monroe County Housing Authority. CBDG program requires this report every five years. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing means "Taking meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that overcomes patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers. The AI process includes the Project Kickoff - May; Community Input and Data Collection – July; Analysis and Report Drafting – August/September; and Review, Approval, and Submission – happening now. The study included analysis of the local fair housing landscape; four specific housing issues: integration and segregation, areas of poverty, access to opportunity, housing needs; and fair housing priorities and goals. A total of 900 residents engaged in the process.
 - Impediments to Fair Housing Choice include; affordable housing needs disproportionately affect protected classes, limited access to some areas of opportunity, poor rental housing conditions limit access to quality housing, accessible housing for people with disability in short supply, the La Crosse Housing Authority is rebuilding public trust, racial disparities exist in access to homeownership, the Human Rights Commission continues to clarify its Fair Housing Role, and need for coordinated fair housing education and enforcement.
- Erosion Challenges caused by Weather Events

(181-18/19)

- Highway Commissioner Ron Chamberlain reviewed locations and pictures of erosion control issues in La Crosse County. He reviewed the locations and situations when the Highway Department does the repairs and when they do not.
- Highway Funding Review – Status, Options and Next Steps
 - Administrator O'Malley reviewed the Highway funding status, options and the next steps. Funding challenges remain with inflation of material cost, very little increase from State, County needs are \$5 million per year for County share of projects, County is unlikely to get PRAT approval, and borrowing must continue but is inadequate. Budget goal has been to restrain annual borrowing, spread out payments to minimize property tax and seek other resources.
 - Five year plan to reach \$5 million/year capital road funding. Phase out 10 year borrowing over next 2 years, shift to shorter term borrowing, debt tax levy increases over 5 years for highway projects, plan to be reviewed annually to consider new circumstances if revenues change. The pros include the County taking responsibility without waiting for the State, closer to "pay as you go" to reduce interest costs, gets to \$5 million/year for highway projects by 2023, and \$18.75 million projects vs. \$12.5 million status quo. Cons include only minimal increase in road projects at first, roads continue to deteriorate, and property tax increase for highway alone is 2% each year plus \$1.3 million new levy, reserves or other revenue is actually closer to 3% each year 2020-2024.
 - New debt plan would minimize initial payments while paying off old debt. Amortize 2019 \$2.5 million over 10 years, interest only 1st year; increase annual highway borrowing to \$5 million 2020-2023; use longer loan amortization and then move to shorter amortization if feasible depending on rates and levy impact; \$22.5 million for highway projects over 5 years 2019-2023; and an estimated 1.3% property tax increase each budget 2020-2022 and .55% 2023 and .05% 2024. The pros of this plan is County taking responsibility without waiting for State, gets to \$5 million/year for highway projects in 2020 making a difference very quickly, \$22.5 Million projects vs \$12.5 million status quo, minimizes property tax increase for roads, spreads cost over time, and plan can be revised each year going forward. The cons of this plan would incur more interest than a pay as you go approach and still relies on debt for highway projects.
 - The next steps include the sale of promissory notes in August or September for 2019 highway debt \$22.5 million over 10 years, interest only 1st year (resolution approved in November 2018). Highway Commissioner and Public Works Committee to evaluate priorities of CIP with new resources for 2020 budget. The Executive Committee will evaluate the details of the new highway financing plan for the 2020 budget and beyond. Future capital funding challenges beyond 2020 budget include Lakeview debt service, St Joseph highway shop, JDF remodel or replace, and Hillview Campus.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by K. Keil-Arellano/R. Plesha to adjourn at 7:52 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 19 ayes, 2 absent - K. Hoyer and P. Scheller, 8 excused - L. Berg, R. Cornforth, S. Doyle, R. Ebert, S. Hampson, M. Kruse, A. Richmond and T. Tryggestad.

(182-18/19)

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, April 8, 2019 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 10 OF APRIL 2019.