

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

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, July 8, 2019 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	Present
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	Absent
18 Weber Strauss, Noelle	Sworn in at 6:07 PM
19 Cornforth, Rick	Excused
20 Doyle, Steve	Present
21 Burke, Vicki	Present
22 Barlow, Patrick	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Hoyer, Kevin	Present
25 Ebert, Ray	Present
26 Hesse, Dan	Excused
27 Jacobs, Thomas	Present
28 Keil, Karen	Present
29 Johnson, Tara	Present

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A moment of silence was held for past Supervisor Dorothy Dedo who served from 1990-1994 in District 21 and recently passed away.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:
County Board Chair Report - Tara Johnson**

CHAIR CHANGE

1st Vice Chair Kruse took the chair.

APPOINTMENT

Motion by T. Johnson/M. Freedland to appoint Noelle Weber Strauss as County Board Supervisor for District 18 for a term to begin immediately and to expire April 20, 2020 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Laurence Berg passed on a unanimous voice vote with 25 ayes, 1 absent - M. Giese, 2 excused - R. Cornforth and D. Hesse, 1 vacancy – District 18.

CHAIR CHANGE

Chair T. Johnson resumed the chair.

Noelle Weber Strauss was sworn into office by the Honorable Judge Scott Horne.

- CAFR sign-up sheet – A sign-up sheet was passed around for any supervisor who wanted a paper copy of the CAFR report.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Chair Johnson reminded Supervisors that the new directories were in their mailboxes.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION JULY 2019 - NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING MONTH
WHEREAS, La Crosse County residents or members of their family are provided affordable, quality long term care services in a person-centered environment; and, **WHEREAS**, staff is committed to excellence in providing care and rehabilitation to all with respect for the dignity and rights of individuals including those who have special physical, developmental, and mental health needs; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County operates two long term care campuses – Hillview Health Care Center and Lakeview Health Center. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of July as La Crosse County Long Term Care & Residential Services Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to ensuring quality care to our residents in need.

Motion by T. Tryggestad/A. Richmond to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - M. Giese, 2 excused - R. Cornforth and D. Hesse.

- Work Zone Safety Video – A video was shown regarding work zone safety that was created by the Wisconsin Highway Association.
- Annual Report by Coulee Cap – Executive Director Hetti Brown
 - Coulee Cap was established in the 1960's and help serve 22,000 people a year. Supervisors Freedland and Kruse are on the Board for Coulee Cap. The good news now is that unemployment is low, median incomes are up, childhood poverty is slightly down, no increases in poverty rate, and social safety program are effective – tax incentives, food share, and energy services. Road blocks still exist though. The poverty level in La Crosse County is at 11.6%, housing is unaffordable, poverty increased for the elderly population, and 21% of working adults cannot afford basic expenses. A family of four needs to make \$64,032 annually to afford basic expenses. 21% of the people fall below this threshold. Coulee Cap serves over 22,000 people annually with over 15 programs and \$6 million annual community investment. They employ 65 local residents. Looking ahead they plan to target programming for rural and underserved populations, evolving programs to meet needs of changing population demographics, implementing efficiencies, and expanding current offerings.
- Sustainable La Crosse Indicators Report – Anders Olson from Sustainability Analytics
 - The La Crosse Sustainability Indicators covers electricity usage, natural gas usage, CO2 emissions, and paper usage. Of the 2018 electricity usage, 1/3 of that is in the LEC building. Annual electricity usage is down 16% from 2007 with an estimated saving of \$179,000. The French Island Waste-to-Energy Plant was started in the 1980s and produces 77 million kWh of electricity per year and keeps 40,000 tons per

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year out of the landfill. Of the 2018 natural gas usage, 85% of total used is by LEC, Lakeview and Hillview facilities. Annual natural gas usage is down 32% from 2007 for a saving of \$95,000. The Landfill Gas-to-Energy project started in 2012 and sends landfill gas to Gundersen, rather than flaring off on-site. Annual CO2 emissions from energy use are down 36% from 2007. Annual paper usage is down 44% from 2009 for an estimated savings of \$165,000. The cumulative savings from efficiency/conservation for 2008-2018 is \$1.47 million.

- Update on status of Opioid Litigation
 - Corporation Counsel Megan DeVore gave an update on what is known now with things that are changing daily. They are being advised by attorneys representing the different entities and municipalities that over the next several months this will continue to be a changing situation. There are now over 2,000 individual suits filed and would require that many trials if they ever go to court. A judge in Ohio is overseeing the discovery phase and preliminary proceedings and will be the judge presiding over the first case which is scheduled to start in October of this year. At the same time, settlement negotiations are ongoing.
- Chapter Three Presentation - Corporation Counsel Megan DeVore
 - Major changes of ordinances are easier to repeal and replace rather than update. The revised Chapter 3 clearly outlines governance and moves sections to employment handbook. The revised handbook is more user friendly, comprehensive, and will be housed online with links to policies. Changes for Chapter 3 will include update role specification, change language from Personnel to Human Resources, update the grievance process, and begin the process of aligning definition of ordinances, policies, and procedures. Chapter 14 – Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity will be repealed and incorporated into the new Chapter 3.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by N. Weber Strauss/M. Nikolay to adjourn at 7:50 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - M. Giese, 2 excused - R. Cornforth and D. Hesse.

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, July 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 9 OF JULY 2019.