

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting was held on Thursday, December 17, 2020 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 28 supervisors were present when Chair Monica Kruse 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 Janssen, Barb	Present
4 Freedland, Maureen	Present
5 Mathu, Grant	Present
6 Plesha, Roger	Present
7 Padesky, Gary	Present
8 Isola, Peg	Present
9 Wacek, Dawn	Present
10 Cable, Kim	Present
11 Scheller, Patrick	Present
12 Erickson, Randy	Present
13 Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14 Larson, Margaret	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Present
16 Ferries, Dan	Present
17 Pogreba, Jack	Present
18 Weber Strauss, Noelle	Present
19 Cornforth, Rick	Present
20 Doyle, Steve	Present
21 Burke, Vicki	Present
22 Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Hoyer, Kevin	Present
25 Hundt, David	Present
26 Hesse, Dan	Present
27 Jacobs, Thomas	Present
28 Keil, Karen	Excused
29 O'Neill, Jamie	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Monica Kruse

- Supervisory District 22 vacancy update – Chair Kruse noted that Supervisor Joe Kovacevich was resigning from District 22 due to conflicts with his employment.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Cable invited Supervisors to a memorial for homeless or formally homeless who have passed in 2020 on Monday, December 21st at 5:30pm at the north end of Riverside Park.

(89-20/21)

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

- Recognition of retiring Zoning and Planning Administrator Nathan Sampson – Administrator O'Malley acknowledged the work of Nate Sampson for his 14 years of service at La Crosse County starting as a Land Specialist then to a Zoning Supervisor and onto Zoning and Planning Administrator.
- Recognition of retiring Facilities Director Jim Speropulos – Administrator O'Malley acknowledged the work of Jim Speropulos and the 20 years working for La Crosse County starting as a HVAC specialist to grounds director and then to Facilities Director.

APPOINTMENT

Motion by G. Mathu/D. Wacek to appoint Kathleen Stewart as the Zoning and Planning Administrator to replace Nathan Sampson passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil. She has 25 years in local government, economic development, real estate planning and development, zoning, budgeting, transportation, masters in public administration, and a bachelors degree and certificate in marketing.

PROCLAMATION DECEMBER 2020 - ZONING, PLANNING AND LAND INFORMATION AND METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING MONTH

WHEREAS, the staff of these departments assist and advise individuals, businesses, professionals and governmental communities by uniformly administering the zoning, floodplain, shoreland, subdivision, telecommunication, nonmetallic mining ordinances, and consistently carrying out the provisions of the comprehensive land use ordinances; and **WHEREAS**, they coordinate land information systems for the assessment, taxation, mapping, building permits, planning and the educational needs of the public and private sector, one of which is the county land records website; and, **WHEREAS**, they help provide a safe and efficient transportation system plan, obtaining transportation funding, which is maintained and funded partly through Wisconsin, Minnesota and federally required metropolitan transportation planning department. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of December 2020 as Zoning, Planning and Land Information and Metropolitan Transportation Planning Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contributions of the staff dedicated to promoting the public health, safety and a property tax base through encouraging planned and orderly land use development.

Motion by J. Pogreba/J. Kovacevich to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil.

CHAIR CHANGE: 1st Vice Chair K. Cable took the Chair

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by M. Kruse/G. Padesky to appoint Tim Padesky and Jose Rubio-Zepeda to the Economic Development Fund Board; appoint Sally King to the La Crosse County Library Board for a three year term to expire December 31, 2023 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil.

CHAIR CHANGE: Chair Kruse resumed the Chair.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by R. Plesha/D. Ferries to approve the minutes of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Annual Meeting held November 9, 2020 and the claims list for \$1,471,984.90 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil.

RESOLUTION NO. 41-12/20 RE: AUTHORIZING PURCHASES RELATED TO TREATMENT AND SUPPLIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE OPIOID RESPONSE (SOR) FUNDING 2020-2021

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), has awarded La Crosse County \$405,000 of State Opioid Response (SOR) grant dollars for the period of September

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30, 2020 through September 29, 2021; and **WHEREAS**, the funding is to be used to increase access to approved forms of medication-assisted treatment (MAT), decrease waitlists, service denial, or other unmet treatment needs for individuals seeking treatment services for an opioid use disorder; and **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Human Services Department will specifically use the funding as follows:

\$150,000	Residential Treatment <i>through subcontracted services</i>
\$116,000	Case Management <i>through funding of a 1.0 FTE Social Worker</i>
\$80,000	Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) <i>through subcontracted services</i>
\$48,000	Recovery Housing <i>through subcontracted services</i>
\$5,000	Opioid Withdrawal Management <i>through subcontracted services</i>
\$6,000	Other General Expenses

WHEREAS, the need for the above stated service options and case management to facilitate these services, as well as access to treatment and prevention interventions has become critical due to the nature of the opioid use disorder (OUD) illness; and **WHEREAS**, ongoing funding from this grant will require completion of an application process prior to the next grant cycle. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby accepts the State Opioid Response Grant funding of \$405,000 for this grant cycle of September 30, 2020 through September 29, 2021; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Board of Supervisors authorizes the creation and hiring of a 1.0 FTE Human Services Social Worker position, effective immediately, to fulfill the authorized case management activities under this grant; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that La Crosse County is authorized to contract for all services that are necessary to meet the terms of the State Opioid Response Grant, so long as they can be supported with the related federal funding; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Board Chair is authorized to execute any contracts or documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this resolution, after approval by Corporation Counsel; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the additional staff authorized under this resolution will be hired and retained only so long as they can be supported with dollars related to the State Opioid Response Grant; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Finance Department is authorized to make any necessary and appropriate account transfers relating to accepting this additional funding. **FISCAL NOTE:** Acceptance of the State Opioid Response Grant of \$405,000 with no County match required, and the award period September 30, 2020 through September 29, 2021. The personnel and operating costs will be tracked under the 210.450.4610 division within the County financial system under the Integrated Support and Recovery Services section.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by T. Tryggstad/R. Cornforth to approve. Discussion ensued. Administrator O'Malley responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil.

ZONING ORDINANCE NO. Z428-12/20 RE: PETITION NO. 2050 FILED BY RAINEY L & DEBBIE J WALTERS TO REZONE 1.15 ACRE LOT FROM EXCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE DISTRICT TO THE RURAL DISTRICT FOR ONE SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE IN THE TOWN OF BARRE

The La Crosse County Planning, Resources and Development Committee, having considered Petition No. 2050 to amend the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance filed by: RAINEY L AND DEBBIE J WALTERS, 807 RICHMOND AVE, LA CROSSE, WI, 54603 and having held a public hearing on the 30th day of November 2020 for a petition to rezone a 1.15-acre lot from the EXCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE DISTRICT to the RURAL DISTRICT for one single family residence located in the Town of Barre and is described as follows: Lot 1 of Certified Survey Map No. 210 in Vol. 1. Tax parcel 2-150-1. Property address County Rd O. Town of Barre. And pursuant to s. 59.69 Wis. Stats.: the Committee did publish and receive proof of a Class II notice of the hearing; did receive receipts of mailing of the notices to the affected Town Clerk(s); did hold a public hearing to hear testimony and official correspondence; and, did receive and

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consider action from the affected Town Board(s). The Committee, under s. 59.69(5)(e)4, and under s. 91.48(1), Wis. Stats., has the authority to approve the petition as submitted; to disapprove of the petition; or, to modify and approve the petition. Having considered the entire record the Committee's recommendation is to: By a vote of seven (7) in favor, and zero (0) no, the committee voted to approve Zoning Petition No. 2050 subject to no conditions. (IF THIS PETITION IS APPROVED AS A CONDITIONAL ZONING, DEED RESTRICTIONS MUST BE RECORDED BEFORE ZONING TAKES EFFECT.) The County Board, under s.59.69(5)(e)5 Wis. Stats., has the authority to effectuate the petition by ordinance or to disapprove it. The County Board took the following action this 17th day of December, 2020. Approved the petition as submitted, becomes an ordinance.

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by P. Isola/P. Scheller to approve as recommended by the Committee passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil.

ZONING ORDINANCE NO. Z429-12/20 RE: PETITION NO. 2052 FILED BY DAVID J & KRISTINE K SCHNEIDER AND LINDA C GROON FOR AN AFTER-THE-FACT PETITION TO REZONE TWO LOTS TOTALING 39.91 ACRES FROM EXCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE DISTRICT CONDITIONS NOT RECORDED TO THE RURAL DISTRICT FOR TWO CONTINUED SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL USE LOTS IN THE TOWN OF BANGOR

The La Crosse County Planning, Resources and Development Committee, having considered Petition No. 2052 to amend the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance filed by: DAVID J AND KRISTINE K SCHNEIDER, N3292 DARLING RD, BANGOR, WI, 54614, AND LINDA C GROON, N3298 DARLING RD, BANGOR, WI, 54614 and having held a public hearing on the 30th day of November 2020 for an after-the-fact petition to rezone two lots totaling 39.91 acres from the EXCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE DISTRICT CONDITIONS NOT RECORDED to the RURAL DISTRICT for two continued single family residential use lots located in the Town of Bangor and is described as follows: Part of the NW/NW of Section 28, T16N, R5W and part of the SW/SW of Section 21, T16N, R5W. Tax parcels 1-531-0 and 1-531-1. Property addresses N3292 and N3298 Darling Rd. Town of Bangor. And pursuant to s. 59.69 Wis. Stats.: the Committee did publish and receive proof of a Class II notice of the hearing; did receive receipts of mailing of the notices to the affected Town Clerk(s); did hold a public hearing to hear testimony and official correspondence; and, did receive and consider action from the affected Town Board(s). The Committee, under s. 59.69(5)(e)4, and under s. 91.48(1), Wis. Stats., has the authority to approve the petition as submitted; to disapprove of the petition; or, to modify and approve the petition. Having considered the entire record the Committee's recommendation is to: By a vote of seven (7) in favor, and zero (0) no, the committee voted to approve After-the-Fact Zoning Petition No. 2052 subject to the recording of the following three (3) deed restrictions indicating:

1. Only one single family residence is allowed per lot;
2. No further subdivision of either lot; and
3. These deed restrictions must be recorded within 30 days of county board approval and can only be lifted or amended by the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors.

(IF THIS PETITION IS APPROVED AS A CONDITIONAL ZONING, DEED RESTRICTIONS MUST BE RECORDED BEFORE ZONING TAKES EFFECT.) The County Board, under s.59.69(5)(e)5 Wis. Stats., has the authority to effectuate the petition by ordinance or to disapprove it. The County Board took the following action this 17th day of December, 2020. Approved the petition with amendments/conditions, becomes an ordinance, after recording conditions.

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by P. Isola/D. Hesse discussion ensued Zoning and Planning Administrator Nathan Sampson responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve as recommended by the Committee passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil.

RESOLUTION NO. 42-12/20 RE: DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR 2021
WHEREAS, La Crosse County Board Rule 2.02(6) per Wisconsin Statutes Section 985 requires the designation of an official newspaper for La Crosse County; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse

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Tribune meets the qualifications per Wisconsin Statutes 985.03; and, **WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of La Crosse County to designate the La Crosse Tribune as the official newspaper because of its distribution and circulation in the county; and, **WHEREAS**, the current year designation by resolution terminates on December 31, 2020. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse Tribune is designated and approved by the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors as the official newspaper for La Crosse County for the year 2021 and expiring December 31, 2021. **FISCAL NOTE**: No fiscal impact for designating the official newspaper.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/A. Richmond to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-12/20 RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES

WHEREAS, per WI. Statutes Chapter 34 and 59, the County Board shall designate one or more depositories; and, **WHEREAS**, the Executive Committee has met and they have designated depositories which meet the state statutes requirements. The following financial institutions have been designated as official depositories for La Crosse County funds:

Wells Fargo Bank NA, La Crosse & Onalaska
State Bank Financial, La Crosse & Onalaska

Coulee Bank, La Crosse, Onalaska & Holmen
Farmers State Bank of Bangor
Park Bank, La Crosse & Holmen
Associated Bank, La Crosse, Onalaska & Holmen
Dana Investment Advisors
River Bank, La Crosse & Holmen
MBIA Municipal Investors Corp.
Trust Point, La Crosse
Governmental Employees Credit Union, La Crosse
Co-Op Credit Union, La Crosse & Onalaska
Marine Credit Union, La Crosse & Onalaska
BMO Harris Bank, La Crosse & Onalaska
Bluff View Bank, Holmen

Wells Fargo Securities
Firefighters Credit Union, La Crosse, Onalaska & Holmen
U. S. Bank, La Crosse & Onalaska
Union State Bank of West Salem, West Salem
First National Bank of Bangor & La Crosse
Altra Federal Credit Union, La Crosse, Onalaska & Holmen
Verve a Credit Union, La Crosse, Onalaska & Holmen
Bremer Bank, Onalaska
Wisconsin State Mutual Pool, Madison
American Deposits Management, Delafield WI
Institutional Capital Management
Citizens State Bank, La Crosse & Onalaska
Merchants Bank, Onalaska
1st Community Credit Union, West Salem

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board appoint the financial institutions designated above as official depositories for La Crosse County funds: **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the aforementioned depositories are officially designated until there is a change in state statutes or they are amended by the La Crosse County Board. **FISCAL NOTE**: No Fiscal Impact

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/P. Isola to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil.

RESOLUTION RE: EXTRA COMPENSATION DUE TO EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT BY COUNTY EMPLOYEES DURING 2020 DUE TO COVID-19

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by T. Tryggstad/J. Pogreba to indefinitely postpone passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil.

RESOLUTION RE: EXTRA COMPENSATION DUE TO EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT BY COUNTY EMPLOYEES DURING 2020 DUE TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, in December 2019 a novel strain of coronavirus known as COVID-19 was discovered. It was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, and the US

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Department of Health and Human Services, Governor Evers and the La Crosse County Board each made separate emergency declarations during the first quarter of 2020 which required major service changes, challenges and risks to employees at all levels of county government; and **WHEREAS**, President Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, 2020, under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act due to the spread of the coronavirus, which as a result of this declaration, employers may now provide tax favored payments to reimburse employees affected by the coronavirus for costs incurred as a result of its impact; and **WHEREAS**, in order to address the imminent threat of the pandemic, the County temporarily scaled back most services in March, while redirecting more than 75% of all Health Department activities from other health priorities, while implementing emergency operating procedures through an incident command structure, dominating the activities of the Emergency Management Coordinator, Health Director, health managers and employees across multiple departments; and **WHEREAS**, protecting clients has required revising most standard operating procedures at both long-term care campuses (Lakeview and Hillview), and significantly restructuring daily operations in the Jail and Juvenile Detention Facility; and **WHEREAS**, the pandemic response has required extraordinary efforts by all county departments and employees to maintain county services, while redeploying resources in unprecedented ways, requiring employees to implement the means to perform work remotely, increase efforts to reduce operating costs and seek efficiencies, and balance increased work demands with their own family needs, including, but not limited to: caretaking, meeting increased financial challenges and responsibilities; and **WHEREAS**, preliminary analysis through the 3rd Quarter of 2020 indicate that a majority of departments will underspend their approved budgets, while projected revenues will exceed original estimates and the county has maximized reimbursement of costs from federal CARES law funding, which indicates that the county should close year 2020 with sufficient funds to provide a reimbursement payment to employees for reasonable and necessary expenses resulting from the coronavirus pandemic; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County recognizes that employees incurred additional costs as a result of the pandemic, including, but not limited to: medical expenses, including co-pays, deductibles, vitamins and supplements; increased expenses associated with being quarantined at home (utilities, groceries, home office expenses, etc.); increased childcare expenses; increased travel expenses; increased housing expenses for students returning home including duplicative meal expenses; expenses related to mental and physical well-being from social distancing; and enhanced office expenses to perform work at home during the pandemic such as internet connections; and **WHEREAS**, the County Administrator recommends providing up to \$500 payment to each hourly or salaried employee as the most equitable means of providing reimbursement in recognition of the increased costs during these unprecedented times. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board approves a one-time payment of up to \$500, including the five elected officials, Clerk of Court, County Clerk, Sheriff, County Treasurer and Register of Deeds, to reimburse for expenses incurred during the pandemic and this amount shall be adjusted for the amount of time the employee was impacted based on hours worked for the county and any employee may decline this reimbursement payment by notifying their supervisor. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, based on the written tax opinion provided by Ms. Mary Jo Werner, Partner at the accounting firm of WIPFLI LLP, La Crosse, WI, this one-time disbursement is considered to be a qualified disaster relief payment which shall not be treated as net earnings from wages or compensation subject to taxation to the extent that the reimbursement is for reasonable and necessary expenses resulting from the coronavirus pandemic and any expense that is not reimbursed by insurance or any other source. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this payment will not be included as taxable income on the employee's form W-2 and the County does not require any documentation of any specific costs, while encouraging employees to consult with their own tax advisor regarding this exclusion from taxable income. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the six highest compensated positions (Psychiatrist, County Administrator, Executive Director of Long-Term Care, Advance Practice Nurse Prescribers (2) and the Human Services Director will be excluded from receiving this reimbursement. **FISCAL NOTE:** The total estimated cost of this tax favored reimbursement is approximately \$520,000 not subject to Social Security or Medicare tax or Wisconsin Retirement System for approximately 1300 employees, the vast majority to be covered from within the approved

2020 departmental budgets or with account transfers from contingency in March of 2021 at the close of the 2020 financial year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by D. Wacek/K. Cable to approve. Lengthy discussion ensued. Administrator O'Malley, Corporation Counsel Megan DeVore and Mary Jo Werner, a partner at the accounting firm of WIPFLI LLC., responded to questions from the Board. **Motion** by R. Geary/K. Hoyer to refer back to the Executive Committee. Discussion ensued. The motion to refer failed on a voice vote with 21 nays, 7 ayes - D. Ferries, R. Geary, D. Hesse, K. Hoyer, D. Hundt, T. Jacobs and J. Pogreba, 1 excused - K. Keil. **Motion** by K. Cable/T. Tryggestad to call the vote failed on a voice vote with 14 ayes - K. Cable, R. Cornforth, R. Erickson, D. Hundt, J. Kovacevich, M. Kruse, M. Larson, G. Mathu, M. Nikolay, J. O'Neill, R. Plesha, P. Scheller, T. Tryggestad and D. Wacek, 14 nays - V. Burke, S. Doyle, D. Ferries, M. Freedland, R. Geary, D. Hesse, K. Hoyer, P. Isola, T. Jacobs, B. Janssen, G. Padesky, J. Pogreba, A. Richmond and N. Weber Strauss, 1 excused - K. Keil. **The motion to approve** passed on a roll call voice vote with 16 ayes, 12 nays - R. Cornforth, D. Ferries, R. Geary, D. Hesse, K. Hoyer, D. Hundt, B. Janssen, M. Larson, M. Nikolay, J. Pogreba, P. Scheller and N. Weber Strauss, 1 excused - K. Keil.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Richmond asked for a recap on the homeless and providing funding.
- Supervisor Hundt noted Lake Neshonoc is looking for more funding to support the dredging project.
- Supervisor Geary requested a report on options for assisting the unemployed and businesses in our community.

ADJOURN

Motion by T. Jacobs/D. Ferries to adjourn at 8:25 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - K. Keil.

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, December 17, 2020 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 18 OF DECEMBER 2020.