

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, January 6, 2020 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	Present
2 Geary, Ralph	Present
3 Weidenbach, Doug	Present
4 Freedland, Maureen	Present
5 Tahiri, Isaac	Excused
6 Plesha, Roger	Excused
7 Hampson, Sharon	Excused
8 Isola, Peg	Present
9 Gundersen, Jerome	Present
10 Cable, Kim	Excused
11 Scheller, Patrick	Absent
12 Erickson, Randy	Present
13 Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14 Larson, Margaret	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Present
16 Ferries, Dan	Present
17 Giese, Mike	Excused
18 Weber Strauss, Noelle	Present
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	Present
27 Jacobs, Thomas	Present
28 Keil, Karen	Present
29 Johnson, Tara	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Tara Johnson

- Supervisor Conference Reports – none offered.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION JANUARY 2020 - 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;

(199-19/20)

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 2020 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 P. Barlow/R. Geary to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 22 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 6 excused - K. Cable, R. Cornforth, M. Giese, S. Hampson, R. Plesha and I. Tahiri.

- Update status on the Holmen Community Center Project
 - Mary Lin Wershofen and Jake Erickson presented updates. The mission and vision statements of the Boys & Girls Club and Holmen Area Community Center align together. Additional partners in the project include the School District of Holmen and support from the Village of Holmen. The former Festival building was gifted to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater La Crosse. BGC will own the building as of January 1, 2020 and the HACC will lease 6700 square feet. The School District of Holmen will lease 4300 square feet. There will be access to shared spaces, shared utilities, operational plan development and community access. There will be a Holmen Area joint board, ongoing facility and operations fundraising efforts. Intergenerational mentoring program, mental health services, meal/cooking programs, nutrition/exercise programming, family programming and recreational leisure activities will all be offered in the new facility.
- Report on water challenges to County Highways – Highway Commissioner Ron Chamberlain.
 - 2019 was the 4th year in a row that La County has been eligible for FEMA funding from flash flooding / storm water damage. The weather events we have been experiencing have been more severe. Examples were shown of water damage from around the county. The budget for erosion control in 2019 was \$175,000 but actual costs were almost \$632,000.
 - County Highway funding options include property tax levy, general transportation aids, Federal and State grants, sales tax, jurisdictional transfers, and cooperative projects. City, Village, and Town funding options also include property tax levy, general transportation aids, Federal and State grants but also include Special Assessment Excess Water Utility Revenues and Municipal Utilities – water sewer, storm, water and electric. Cooperative funding options include Political Subdivision Revenue Sharing Agreement. This would allow any 2 or more political subdivisions, by a majority vote of a quorum of their governing bodies, enter into an agreement to share all or a specified part of revenues derived from taxes and special charges.
- 2019 Highlights and County Tax Impacts on Individual Properties.
 - Administrator O'Malley reviewed the operational achievements and enhancements for 2019 which included Emergency Services, on-going integration of Lakeview and Hillview, Coalition to End Homelessness, opioid response, creating a dementia friendly community, Veteran's Bonanza, landfill expansion providing long term disposal solutions, and a multi-year highway improvement plan. Collaboration success includes Human Services leading on Child Welfare Crisis, Lakeview Business Park, Lake Neshonoc Dredge and Phosphorus Credit Agreement, jurisdictional transfer with Village of Bangor, the Coalition to End Homelessness and the Alliance to HEAL, and Mississippi Valley Health Services Commission.

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- o La Crosse County property taxes are one of the lowest in the State. The tax rate per \$1,000 valuation decreased by 9.6% since 2014. The average tax levy is \$8.5 million more per year in other counties as compared to La Crosse County. The average budget supported by the County tax levy is 29%. Since 2017, the County has paid off more in outstanding principal each year than new borrowing. La Crosse County continues to have a Moody's rating of Aa1. A home in the City of La Crosse who's assessed value increased by around 15%, saw County taxes rise close to the 2.6% total levy increase. Any home with an assessed value increase of less than 10%, saw a decrease in County taxes. Any value increase above 16% saw County taxes increase at a higher rate than the 2.6% actual total increase in County taxes.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by T. Tryggestad/R. Ebert to adjourn at 7:17 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 22 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 6 excused - K. Cable, R. Cornforth, M. Giese, S. Hampson, R. Plesha and I. Tahiri.

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 6, 2020 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 JANUARY 2020.