

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, April 12, 2021 via Microsoft Teams. 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 Viner, Pamela	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Hoyer, Kevin	Present
25 Hundt, David	Present
26 Hesse, Dan	Excused
27 Jacobs, Thomas	Present
28 Keil, Karen	Present
29 O'Neill, Jamie	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Monica Kruse

- In person County Board Meetings – Chair Kruse announced that starting in May, meetings will start to move back to in person with all meetings to be in person for June.
- Code of Ethics / Conflict of Interest – These forms were emailed to Supervisors and they are asked to return them to the County Clerk as soon as possible.
- Supervisor Conference Reports – none offered.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION APRIL 2021 - 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, wellbeing, and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and **WHEREAS**, under the leadership of National Association of Counties President Gary Moore, NACo is demonstrating how "Counties Matter," especially in supporting residents and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic; 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 **WHEREAS**, all La Crosse County departments have displayed resiliency and flexibility throughout the pandemic to continue providing exceptional public services, and carefully managed public funds to leave the county in a strong financial position; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of April 2020 as National County Government Month and encourages all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Motion by R. Cornforth/K. Keil to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - D. Hesse.

PROCLAMATION APRIL 26-30, 2021 WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS; since 2000, National Work Zone Awareness Week has marked the start of construction season across our country, promoting road workers safety and cautious driving in work zones; and **WHEREAS**; road workers with the La Crosse County Highway Department and private companies are doing their part to repair and improve our county roads and bridges; and **WHEREAS**; there are 3 County Highway road reconstruction projects and 1 County Highway Bridge project planned in 2021 in La Crosse County, in addition to many maintenance projects on County Highways, and various projects on the State Highway system or the local roads; and **WHEREAS**; last year Wisconsin recorded more than 1,800 work zone crashes that resulted in 665 injuries and 17 fatalities; and **WHEREAS**; safe roads, bridges and highways mean that our kids can ride the school bus safely to school, workers can get to and from their jobs, businesses can move products from point A to point B, and visitors can travel across our beautiful county and enjoy all it has to offer; and **WHEREAS**; road workers, like all workers, have the right to a safe work environment, and all drivers have the obligation to exercise extra caution when traveling through work zones; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the week of April 26-30 2021 as La Crosse County Work Zone Awareness Week and encourage all citizens to slow down and devote their undivided attention in work zones and watch for the men and women who are working hard to improve our county's road and bridges.

Motion by J. Pogreba/G. Mathu to approve. Discussion ensued. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - D. Hesse.

- Health Department Update on Vaccine progress
 - Associate Administrator Jane Klekamp gave an update on the vaccinations. Over 37% of the population in Wisconsin has had at least one dose and La Crosse County has 44% of the population with at least one dose and 28% are fully vaccinated. The Health Department has given over 3500 shots and their focus has been on first responders, jail staff, teachers, frontline workers and others designated as a priority.
- Report on PFAS contamination, County participation and on-going discussions
 - The County has no direct role or responsibility except to support and monitor the PFAS contamination. The DNR is primarily the regulatory authority of wells

(130-20/21)

and water safety. Chair Kruse has helped lobby to get a meeting with the DNR and UW Extension's Karl Green has assisted with education on science and water flow. Carol Engel-Drury with Environmental Health has been answering questions about water safety and monitoring the situation. WI DNR considers water to be unsafe for drinking/cooking when private wells test results are 20ppt (parts per trillion) and above. Of the 230 wells north of the interstate that were tested, 52% are below the 20ppt and 48% are 20ppt or above. 76 tested are in the 20-99ppt range, 25 are between 100 and 199ppt and 9 wells are above 1,000ppt and as high as 1,900 and 2,100.

- Initial update on allocation of American Rescue funding to County and Municipalities
 - Direct allocation to La Crosse County will be \$22,890,000. Half of that will be received by May 11th with the second half in 12 months. The funds must be expended by December 2024. The US Treasury will present rules for allowed uses and if not used properly, you will be required to repay. Periodic reports must also be filed. Initial uses allowed will be for public health emergencies and its negative impacts; providing services to the extent of reduced revenue; infrastructure for water, sewer and broadband; funding to non-profits or a special purpose unit of local government; responding to essential workers including premium pay; and economic recovery for small business, households, and hard hit industries. Any expenditure of these funds will require Board approval and should not be used for recurring expenses.
- Review of the return on investment of Belle Square and related developments
 - There were four primary County actions related to Belle Square and other developments with resolutions approving the real estate transactions. The sale of the County Administrative Center to Stizo LLC in January of 2014 for \$250,000. The purchase agreement for Associated Bank by the County for \$4,600,00 in May of 2014. The purchase agreement with Weber Holdings for Lot C for \$1 million in December of 2014. There was also a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and City of La Crosse regarding the Pine Street Parking Ramp in February 2015. The County applied the \$1 million from Lot C to the ramp cost, paid \$500,000 to own 40 parking spaces on Lot C and leased up to 85 spaces in the ramp. TID revenue is making the debt service payments and the County will be repaid both amounts from the district after the ramp debt is paid off. The 2021 assessment of Belle Square is \$41,306,800, the Hub on 6th is assessed at \$10,238,800, and the parking structures at \$1,044,700. The total added tax base from this project is \$47,844,900 with a mill rate of 0.02560771 to make an annual tax revenue of \$1,225,198.

APPOINTMENT

Motion by M. Kruse/T. Tryggestad to appoint Dave Hansen to the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee to replace Todd Servais for a term to start immediately and expire March 31, 2023. Discussion ensued. Chair Kruse explained the need for the replacement on this committee. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - D. Hesse.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Hoyer asked for a process report on how the Administrator's reviews are conducted.
- Supervisor Cornforth asked to investigate Dignity Homes as a way to combat homelessness.
- Supervisor Viner asked for an update on redistricting deadlines.

ADJOURN

Motion by R. Plesha/G. Padesky to adjourn at 7:16 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - D. Hesse.

(131-20/21)

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 12, 2021 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 13 OF APRIL 2021.