

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, January 11, 2021 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 27 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, Pam | Sworn in at 6:04 PM |
| 23 Nikolay, Matt | Present |
| 24 Hoyer, Kevin | Present |
| 25 Hundt, David | Present |
| 26 Hesse, Dan | Present |
| 27 Jacobs, Thomas | Present at 06:32 PM |
| 28 Keil, Karen | Present |
| 29 O'Neill, Jamie | Present |

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for former Supervisor Don Meyer who was appointed in October of 1989 and served until 2014. He chaired the PRD Committee for many years.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Monica Kruse

APPOINTMENT

Motion by G. Mathu/R. Erickson to appoint Pamela Viner as County Board Supervisor for District 22 for a term to begin immediately and to expire April 18, 2022 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Joe Kovacevich passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - T. Jacobs 1 excused - J. Kovacevich, and 1 vacant – District 22.

Pamela Viner was sworn into office by the Honorable Scott Horne.

- Filing of Exemption form for Campaign Finance – Supervisors were reminded to fill out and return the exemption form to the County Clerk.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Freedland announced the 4th Annual MLK day of learning on Monday, January 18, 2021 for county employees. There will also be the La Crosse County Community Annual MLK Day Celebration at 7pm on Viterbo's Facebook Live.
 - Supervisor Janssen noted the La Crosse Airport Board will be holding an online press conference at 5pm on Tuesday regarding the water contamination in wells around the airport.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION JANUARY 2021 - HIGHWAY SAFETY / TRANSPORTATION MONTH

WHEREAS, staff works diligently 24 hours per day and 365 days per year to build safe roads for the residents of La Crosse County and visitors to travel upon; and, **WHEREAS**, maintenance such as snow plowing; 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**, in 2020, the Highway Department reconditioned 3.41 miles of CTH PI for a cost of \$2,271,638 and 2.74 miles of CTH GI for a cost of \$5,031,580, and seal coated 27.4 miles of highway, along with caring for 282 miles of county highways, 157 miles of state trunk highways, and 127 county and local bridges; 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 R. Erickson/G. Mathu to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 absent - T. Jacobs.

- Introduction of Kathleen Stewart, Zoning and Planning Administrator – Administrator O'Malley introduced Kathleen Stewart as the new Zoning and Planning Administrator who started today.
- County Economic Development COVID Response
 - Community Development Specialist Brian Fukuda reviewed the County Economic Development response to COVID. An administrative decision was made to pause payments for loan clients for three months initially but was extended until further notice. \$20,000 relief loans were offered to loan clients who have been directly impacted by "Safer at Home" order. Resource pages were added to share timely data on various programs and opportunities for business assistance. MRRPC was supported in securing additional RLF funding from ERA and are pursuing CDBG-CV funding through the WI DOA. When the CARES Act was passed, they worked with economic development partners to educate business owners and to continue to help educate local businesses on funding options. Shop Local, La Crosse Small Business Recovery Fund, La Crosse Small Business Resiliency Fund were launched and building community funds through the La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce, Construction Industry Businesses and La Crosse County. There is need for additional funding in the

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future that will include programming for entrepreneurs and assistance for daycare providers.

- County Board Advance survey results
 - Community Development Educator Karl Green reviewed the results from the County Board Advance survey. The top five issues identified from the survey include the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan/Sustainability Plan - when it should start and oversight, Response to pandemic (long term), equity/racial justice, determining a long range plan for Hillview and the long-term care priorities for the campus, and climate change/alternative energy/carbon reduction.
- 2020 Highlights and County Tax Impacts on Individual Properties
 - Administrator O'Malley presented the highlights and County tax impacts on individual properties. The response to the pandemic was spread out across several departments. Some of the operational achievements include the integration of Lakeview and Hillview long-term care services, Emergency Services new radio towers, Household Hazardous Materials restructuring, Land Conservation \$600,000 Targeted Runoff Management Grant, and the Highway Projects including CTH PI, SN and GI. Since 2018, the County pays off more in outstanding principle each year than new borrowing. 2022 is expected to decline further. Collaboration success includes the Coulee Collaborative to End Homelessness, Human Services Justice Support Services, Lake Neshonoc Dredge and Phosphorous Credit agreement, jurisdictional transfer agreement with the Village of Bangor for CTH B, Alliance to Heal, and the Mississippi Valley Health Services Commission. The 2020 versus 2021 proposed tax rate per \$1000 valuation decreased by 10 cents or -2.79%. La Crosse County property taxes are one of the lowest in the state for the county portion of taxes. The average tax levy is \$47.98 million or \$11.5 more than La Crosse per year when comparing counties similar to La Crosse by population. 21.4% of the 2021 total budget is supported by County tax levy.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by G. Padesky/G. Mathu to adjourn at 7:22 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes.

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 11, 2021 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 12 OF JANUARY 2021.