

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

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, October 11, 2021 using Microsoft Teams. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 29 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	Present
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

- Chair Kruse recognized National Indigenous People's Day by reading the land acknowledgement agreement.
- Chair Kruse thanked those Supervisors who helped staff the booth at the WCA Conference last week.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Cable announced the open house for the Reach Resource Center will be on Thursday, October 14th from 4-7pm.

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PROCLAMATION OCTOBER 2021 - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
WHEREAS, New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Centers, End Abuse Wisconsin, and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence is commemorating October 2021 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and **WHEREAS**, the month of October seeks to further greater awareness of the incidence of domestic violence, primarily focusing on the victims who have suffered emotional and physical abuse, and celebrating the achievements of domestic abuse advocate groups throughout the state and nation; and **WHEREAS**, through the inspiration, courage and persistence of survivors, their friends and their support groups, legislation has been enacted to provide protection and services for those suffering from emotional and physical terror; and **WHEREAS**, there is still a lot of work left to do to address this most serious problem; and **WHEREAS**, government officials, domestic violence programs, social service agencies, religious organizations, education institutions, health care providers and funding agencies are joining in the effort to promote an awareness of the incidence of domestic violence and to provide services to its victims. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of October 2021 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Motion by G. Mathu/N. Weber Strauss to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION OCTOBER 2021 -SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING MONTH
WHEREAS, La Crosse County helps to minimize the environmental impact of waste disposal in our region through management of award winning programs including waste-to-energy, landfill operations, gas to energy recovery and household hazardous materials collection; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County has helped to facilitate the successful implementation of single-stream recycling collection in the cities of La Crosse and Onalaska that has resulted in a 137 percent increase in recycling; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County enhances regional solid waste and recycling efforts through expanding sustainability practices and collaboration on all aspects of solid waste and recycling, processing and beneficial reuse of by-products. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of October 2021 as La Crosse County Solid Waste and Recycling Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to operating one of the most environmentally sustainable solid waste disposal systems in the nation.

Motion by R. Erickson/J. Pogreba to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes.

- Administrator O'Malley noted that Moody's has issued La Crosse County a rating of AA1 which is the 2nd highest rating you can obtain.
- Update on addressing Racism as a Public Health Crisis
 - Human Resource Director Stephen Conrad updated the Board on what has happened since passing the resolution. An internal committee was formed that included community partners from inside and outside La Crosse County. What the committee learned was to follow the other leaders, determine readiness, be in alignment, be clear, be patient, and be inclusive. The recommended approach is to define the vision and mission and to determine common language through training on racial equity on vocabulary and terminology. In addition, they need to assess readiness to engage, embrace, and execute this work, create a La Crosse County strategic road map draft, and to align on vision, mission, and strategic road map draft with Board and all stakeholders.
- Initial report on results of ARPA public survey
 - Associate Administrator Jane Klekamp reported that the public survey was launched on September 2nd and has had 1,415 participants to date. The survey closes on October 13th. A variety of tactics were used to promote the survey including local media, social media, paper copies and county library locations. The Board has picked six priority areas for ARPA funding. The overall Board prioritization was sustainability/environmental protection, affordable housing,

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childcare, local economy and tourism, infrastructure with a focus on aging, and equity. The Public survey so far has shown prioritization with affordable housing, sustainability/environmental protection, infrastructure with a focus on aging, childcare, local economy and tourism and equity.

- Report on the results of the sale of land adjacent to landfill
 - Administrator O'Malley summarized the sale of unused property adjacent to the County Landfill in the industrial park. The City purchased about 24 acres with TID proceeds and paid for much of the new roadway which saved the landfill costs for the entrance. The County added \$1 million to the neighborhood revitalization program. The program has created at least a 11:1 return on investment so far with \$10.7 million value, established 261 housing units, and \$200,000 remaining. The City sold land for \$2.8 million with the proceeds being used for revitalization. The price of the Fed Ex building was \$1.529 million and the Casey Weis building was \$1.315 million. The assessed value of the two commercial developments is \$15.85 million. The decisions have provided at least \$26.55 million in new value with about \$2.8 million remaining for more neighborhood revitalization by innovative use of 24 acres of undeveloped land.
- Information Technology Department reorganization
 - Information Technology Director John Parshall explained the current structure is not sustainable and the need for the reorganization. The current structure is flat and not flexible enough to meet the changing resourcing and service needs of the County Departments. The IT staff needs a better development plan. Some of the significant challenges facing the IT Department is the Next Generation Public Safety Systems, updated electronic Health Record Systems, tax and permit system replacement, Next Generation Human Resources Information System, mobility and working remotely, and sharing data and exchanging information. The IT reorganization vision is to be a leader in customer service that delivers extraordinary service, be a team of credible high performing capable leaders, achieve a culture of innovation through technology, persistent mindset to always be looking to improve systems and processes, be the best in class in security, and to deliver the right technology to departments to enable them to be more efficient with their department operations.
- 2022 Budget highlights and position increases
 - Associate Administrator Jane Klekamp presented the overview of the 2022 budget recommendation. The 2022 budget has the County in a strong financial position with a balanced budget, overall expenses are flat, outstanding principle has been reduced, lowered property tax rate, continued investment in county roads, 2% pay increase for employees and an increase in the number of full-time employees. The mill rate will be \$3.25/thousand. The 2022 gross expenditures are down .29% for \$170.15 million and property tax levy is \$37.207 million which is up 1.99%. The budget has sales tax budgeted to match the 2020 actual of \$13.35 million. Human Services has a decrease in levy while Health, Highway, Medical Examiner, and Information Technology has an increase. There will be a 2% across the board employee raise and this will be the 5th year with no increase in health insurance premiums. Highway borrowing of \$5million will be in its 3rd year and the St. Joe's Highway Shop is on schedule to open in the spring adding a fueling island and scale without additional debt financing in 2022. There will be no reliance on American Rescue Plan dollars. The multi-year debt planning keeps reducing total principal and the use of general funds balance for smaller capital projects. The increase in number of full-time employees is the first in seven years.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Keil asked for an update on the police oversight committee

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ADJOURN

Motion by D. Hundt/J. Pogreba to adjourn at 7:51 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, October 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 15 OF OCTOBER 2021.