

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2022**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, February 14, 2022 via Microsoft Teams. 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:

<b>District Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
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	Excused
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	Absent
28 Keil, Karen	Present
29 O'Neill, Jamie	Present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**County Board Chair Report - Monica Kruse**

- The March 7<sup>th</sup> Planning Meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.
- There is a Chamber of Commerce Meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Riverside Ballroom of the La Crosse Center where Brian Fukuda will be honored.
- The Health Department will be having tours on February 28<sup>th</sup> from 9-10 a.m. Please notify the Chair or Jane Klekamp if you plan to attend.
- All future meetings will be back in person now as COVID numbers have continued to drop. Proper protocols will be in place.

(128-21/22)

**PROCLAMATION FEBRUARY 2022 - BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is celebrated throughout the United States of America during the month of February; and, **WHEREAS**, recognition began in 1926 as a program to encourage the study of Black history to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, and was officially expanded to the entire month of February in 1976 by President Gerald Ford; and, **WHEREAS**, we recognize this year's Black History Month theme of "Black Health and Wellness"; and, **WHEREAS**, we acknowledge systemic racism has led to Black people being more likely to die at an early age from all causes, more commonly misdiagnosed, and impacted by health inequities throughout the health care system that have traumatized the Black community; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in April 2021 declaring racism a public health crisis as an effort to acknowledge the impact of systemic racism and chart a course for action to address disparities in our county; and, **WHEREAS**, today, we celebrate and affirm the importance of Black Health and Wellness to our county, throughout Wisconsin, and the nation. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim February 1st – February 28th, 2022, as Black History Month and calls upon the people of La Crosse County to observe this month with appropriate reflections and to redouble our efforts to create a world that is more just, equitable and prosperous for all.

Motion by J. Pogreba/K. Keil to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 1 absent - T. Jacobs, 1 excused - D. Ferries.

- Health Care Worker of the Year Award – Representative Doyle presented Paula Silha from the La Crosse County Health Department with the Health Care worker of the Year Award. She has been with the County for 33 years.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Isola attended the WCA Legislative Exchange.
  - Supervisor Cable noted that Couleecap received funding from the State of Wisconsin in the amount of \$545,000 for eviction litigation and to develop a tenant/landlord resource center. The YWCA received \$1 million to promote the operations of the REACH Center.
  - Supervisor Geary participated in Transit Equity Day riding the MTU bus and noted the many upgrades to the buses.

**Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley**

**PROCLAMATION FEBRUARY 2022- PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the Vision of the La Crosse County Health Department is "Healthy People in a Healthful Community"; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Health Department is made up of 95 full and part time staff representing 14 different Public Health professions; and, **WHEREAS**, Health Department employees provide information and services to county residents in about 55 different program areas that enable citizens to live long and productive lives; and, **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin rates the Health Department performance at the highest level possible in Wisconsin; and, **WHEREAS**, the Health Department has taken a leading role in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community by providing reliable public information and working with community partners to coordinate vaccination programs; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Health Department is among the first 10 in Wisconsin and first 150 in the US to achieve national accreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of February as Public Health Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of Health Department staff.

Motion by K. Cable/G. Mathu to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 1 absent - T. Jacobs, 1 excused - D. Ferries.

- Report on Financial Impact of the La Crosse Center to La Crosse County

(129-21/22)

- Brent Smith, AJ Frels and Art Fahey presented the financial impact of the La Crosse Center. Highlights of the recent updates were reviewed. 28 conventions are booked for 2022, 38 for 2023 and more for 2024. 35%-50% of those groups signing contracts for the La Crosse Center are coming from outside of the City of La Crosse. Three financial impact studies have been done and all came back with more than \$40 million on economic impact. Direct sales tax was \$245,000 - \$248,000 a year. Mayor Reynolds spoke about the La Crosse Center and the impact it has had on our regional economy.
- 2021 Sales Tax Proceeds above Budget and Option for added Highway Design and Road Projects
  - Sales tax revenue has been coming in much better than expected. The pandemic showed a 22% drop in February and March 2020 and then a slow recovery to slightly exceed budget. In 2021 the County budgeted for an 8% drop and instead are on pace for a 19% increase over the 2020 actual. A resolution will come next month to amend the 2022 Highway Budget by transferring \$2.3 million from 2021 sales tax. \$1.5 million for two projects for County TT and VP which is 2.67 additional miles in 2022. Also \$800,000 for seven project designs towards \$11 million in construction.
- Financing Plan for Hillview Campus 48 Bed Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF)
  - Staff and VALTC Committee have spent over two years evaluating options. The Hillview building is at the end of its life and would require \$14.8 - \$18.7 million to remodel. The results of remodeling would not provide licensing flexibility or expected amenities. Carrol Heights would require \$3.6-\$4.6 million to remodel. Hillview Terrace opened in 2011 and has many years of life remaining. There is a shortage of long-term care beds and staffing in our community. A redesign/resizing of the facility would enable flexibility with a smaller size. VALTC has approved the selection of an architectural design and construction management firm (Hoffman) to design the 48 bed CBRF building. Approval of financing and authority still needed to begin construction in 2022.
  - The total projected estimated cost is at \$11.5 million. The costs included \$1,230,192 for design, \$962,688 for construction management and \$9,365,700 for building, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, sitework, furniture, etc. The 2022 budget has \$1.2 million from Hillview Campus Reserve Funds. There will be a request of \$5 million from ARPA funding which is reserved for this purpose and \$5.3 million (plus cost of issuance) from General Obligation Debt Financing or grant funding if approved by State. The use of ARPA funding will eliminate the need for tax levy support of debt payments or tax levy operations since projected revenues will be sufficient.

#### **Corporation Counsel Report – Megan DeVore**

- Update on Revisions to Ordinances: Chapter 1, 2, and 4
  - Corporation Counsel DeVore gave an update on the revisions for Ordinances of Chapter 1, 2 and 4 that will be on the agenda this month for a first reading. Most changes were for language that was duplicative of statutory language and deemed unnecessary, moving information from one chapter to another where it better fit, and updating information and processes to current practice.

#### **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Hundt asked for an update on the homeless.
- Supervisory Hoyer asked for an update on the various partnerships the County has with the homeless and MOU's we have with various entities.

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion by K. Keil/J. Pogreba to adjourn at 7:54 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 1 absent - T. Jacobs, 1 excused - D. Ferries.

(130-21/22)

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, February 14, 2022 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 17 OF FEBRUARY 2022.