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**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, January 10, 2022 via 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

PROCLAMATION JANUARY 2, 2022 - THOMAS HARRIS DAY

WHEREAS, we honor Thomas Harris's tireless commitment to working against racism and for social justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in La Crosse County; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors recognizes the positive influence of Thomas Harris on the personal, social and educational development of the thousands of students he mentored during his career at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse; and, **WHEREAS**, Thomas Harris

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has strengthened our community through his leadership with the White Privilege Symposium, the Greater La Crosse Area Diversity Council, and Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration; and his steadfast dedication to and belief in racial diversity and equal rights for all, and **WHEREAS**, Thomas Harris's unwavering commitment to human rights and the legacy of his 30 years of work to eliminate racial inequity in our community serves as an example to us all; and, **WHEREAS**, we encourage the public to join us in paying tribute to Thomas Harris's many contributions to our community and in congratulating him on his retirement. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors does hereby declare January 2, 2022, Thomas Harris Day.

Motion by K. Cable/P. Viner to approve. Discussion ensued. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes.

PROCLAMATION FEBRUARY 4, 2022 - LA CROSSE COUNTY TRANSIT EQUITY DAY

WHEREAS, Transit Equity Day is a national day of action to commemorate the February 4 birthday of Rosa Parks and highlight her brave and determined advocacy for safe and reliable public transportation for all people; and, **WHEREAS**, Transit Equity Day is a day of action to elevate the message that public transit is a critical strategy to combat climate change and promotes affordable, accessible, and safe transportation alternatives; and, **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors is committed to addressing inequities throughout the county, has adopted the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, and supports funding for the SMRT bus system, which provides affordable rural public transit to our region. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim Thursday, February 4, 2022 as "Transit Equity Day" and urges everyone to celebrate the legacy of Rosa Parks and continue to work together to build a sustainable and equitable future for our county.

Motion by K. Cable/G. Mathu to approve. Discussion ensued. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes.

- WCA Legislative Exchange – Chair Kruse reminded Supervisors of the WCA Legislative Exchange February 8-9, 2022 in Madison, WI. The deadline to sign up is Friday.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Freedland noted the MLK Celebration will be held on Monday, January 17, 2022 at Viterbo at 7pm. This will be offered online as well and Dr. Silvia Hood Washington is the guest speaker.
 - Supervisor Larson noted that Clerk Dankmeyer gave a presentation with WEC Administrator Meagan Wolfe to the League of Woman Voters on elections, security and what we learned in 2020.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION JANUARY 2022 - 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 2021, the Highway Department replaced 24 failing culverts, paved 6.28 miles of roadway, and upgraded about 2,800 feet of flex beam guardrail, along with caring for 282 miles of county highways, 157 miles of state trunk highways, and 72 county 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 2022 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.

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Motion by J. Pogreba/R. Cornforth to approve. Discussion ensued. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes.

- Introduction of the new Register of Deeds – Administrator O'Malley introduced Robin Kadrmas as the new Register of Deeds and was sworn into office this morning. She has been the Deputy Register of Deed for over 20 years.
- Update on Comprehensive Plan progress
 - Planner Charlie Handy presented the updates to the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan's Core Values include sustainable, collaborative, equitable, forward thinking, and respect. The bottom line is environmental, economic, cultural and social. We cannot continue to assume that farmland is just development waiting to happen and this assumption is not healthy for the ag landowners. Policies are being looked at to create a financial incentive for municipalities or developers who develop in a sewer/sanitary service area like St. Joe's Ridge or Shelby. Policies are also being looked at to require developers to add design features like trails and parks for development in a suburban/bedroom community like Holland and Barre. Policy would also provide less area in the plan for this type of development. Development of rural lots with a minimum of 10 acres for a single-family home would have policies to provide improved broadband and work with large employers to promote alternative shifts and work from home to minimize peak traffic and congestion. The CPAC will finalize the plan document in January and have a stakeholder's meeting with all municipalities to discuss the plan. A public hearing will be held in March and the first/second reading of ordinance at the March Board meetings.
- Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act funding priorities
 - Associate Administrator Jane Klekamp presented the eight priorities for a total of \$22,225,000 that will be brought to the board with a resolution next week. The priorities include Childcare Neighborhood Model (\$3,300,000), Affordable Housing (\$3,000,000) – Bridge Housing for Families, Skilled Trades Training (\$2,425,000), Affordable Housing – Bridge Housing for Adults with High Needs (\$3,000,000), Affordable Housing – Grants for Housing Redevelopment (\$2,000,000), Hillview Redesign and Rebuild (\$5,000,000), Sustainability – County Solar (\$1,500,000), and Sustainability – Stormwater Infrastructure Grant Fund (\$2,000,000). Over \$700,000 allocated to COVID response and the possibility of \$2 million more needed for COVID response by July. Discussion was held on the Federal Guidelines for non-profit funding challenges due to the pandemic's increased demand for services and changing operational needs. Eligible non-profits are those that experienced negative economic impacts with decreased revenue, financial insecurity, increased costs, capacity to weather financial hardships, and challenges covering payroll or operating costs. Further discussion needs to be held on which projects should the money come from and how much should be allocated.
- Update on Hillview redesign project
 - Administrator O'Malley discussed the redesign project and noted the Veteran's, Aging and Long Term Care Committee has been reviewing the life of the existing buildings and cost of updating those. Funds were allocated in the 2022 budget for the design of a new facility and VALTC approved spending those funds at their meeting this week. The Committee will come back with a financing plan and asking the Board for approval of a construction project. This plan counts on the allocation from the ARPA funds. Without this the facility could not support its own debt services.

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- 2021 Highlights and County Tax Impacts on Individual Properties
 - Administrator O'Malley presented the 2021 highlights. There has been a pandemic response across many departments including meetings of COVID-19 Collaborative, space for WI National Guard for COVID testing, Health Department staffing vaccination clinics and advising the public, and continued remote work policies as appropriate. Operational achievements and future enhancements were reviewed along with collaboration success. The total Mississippi Valley Health Services had non La Crosse County revenues of \$10.9 million over 14 years. The preliminary year end financial condition has all areas in a positive position and sales tax receipts exceeded expectations. The 2021 adopted tax levy is \$36.480 million with a mill rate of \$3.48 per thousand. The 2022 recommended property tax levy increased by .86% to \$36.794 million with a mill rate of \$3.21 per thousand. La Crosse County property taxes are one of the lowest in the State. The average tax levy is 28.8% of total expenditures. 2022 will have the first increase in net number of full time employees in seven years. Since 2018, the County pays off more in total outstanding principal each year than all new borrowing and the 2022-2027 outstanding principle will continue to decline each year while borrowing \$5 million annually for roads. There is no reliance on American Rescue Plan dollars for 2022 budget leaving project options as determined by County Board.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by P. Scheller/G. Mathu to adjourn at 7:17 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 10, 2022 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 20 OF JANUARY 2022.