

(7-22/23)

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, May 9, 2022 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 26 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</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1	Konradt, Joe	Present
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Pierce, David	Present
4	Freedland, Maureen	Present
5	Mathu, Grant	Present
6	Plesha, Roger	Present
7	Padesky, Gary	Present
8	Isola, Peg	Present
9	Wacek, Dawn	Excused
10	Cable, Kim	Excused
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	Baroni, Mike	Excused
19	Cornforth, Rick	Present
20	Doyle, Steve	Present
21	Abraham, Rob	Present
22	Viner, Pamela	Present
23	Nikolay, Matt	Present
24	Hoyer, Kevin	Excused
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26	Hundt, David	Present
27	Hesse, Dan	Present
28	Keil, Karen	Present
29	Schlimgen, Ken	Present
30	Mader, Dillon	Present

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**County Board Chair Report - Monica Kruse**

**PROCLAMATION MAY 14, 2022 - HMONG AMERICAN DAY**

**WHEREAS**, beginning in the 1970s, Hmong families immigrated to the United States as refugees to escape persecution and poverty in the aftermath of the Vietnam War; and, **WHEREAS**, on arrival in this country many Hmong immigrants were greeted with racism and hatred despite their support of the United States war effort in Vietnam; and, **WHEREAS**, the Hmong community in Wisconsin, including La Crosse

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County, resisted attempts to marginalize their identities, language and traditions; and, **WHEREAS**, Hmong people in La Crosse County and throughout the United States continue to make remarkable economic, cultural and political contributions to our society and have made our country immeasurably stronger and richer; and, **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin has the third largest Hmong population of any state in the nation; and, **WHEREAS**, we are proud that at least 3,400 Hmong people now live in La Crosse County and today we celebrate and recognize their history, culture and vast contributions to our county, state and nation. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim May 14 Hmong American Day.

Motion by P. Viner/G. Mathu to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 4 excused - M. Baroni, K. Cable, K. Hoyer and D. Wacek.

- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Erickson reported that the City of La Crosse Arts Board approved a \$10,000 contribution to Artspire and \$7,000 towards a mural project on a parking ramp at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main Street in downtown La Crosse. The La Crosse Center Board is proceeding with exploring contract management for running the La Crosse Center. Larson General received a \$10,000 innovation and diversification grant.
- Multi Factor Authentication – IT Security Supervisor Matt Bright reviewed the need for Multi Factor Authentication and how it provides additional security to La Crosse County in case your log in and/or password are stolen. Supervisors were then walked through setting up MFA on their computers.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Motion by P. Isola/R. Cornforth to reappoint Tina Tryggstad to the Criminal Justice Management Council for a three year term to expire April 30, 2025 as the Health And Human Services Board Representative; reappoint Monica Kruse the Criminal Justice Management Council for a three year term to expire April 30, 2025 as the County Board Chair; reappoint Margaret Larson to the Criminal Justice Management Council for a three year term to expire April 30, 2025 as the Judiciary And Law Committee Representative; appoint Dawn Wacek to the Criminal Justice Management Council for the remainder of a term to expire April 30, 2023 as a Board Supervisor to replace Tom Jacobs; appoint Grant Mathu to the Economic Development Fund Board as a Board Supervisor to replace Randy Erickson; appoint Joe Konradt to the Economic Development Fund Board as a Board Supervisor to replace Vicki Burke; appoint Mike Baroni to the Health And Human Services Board for the remainder of a term to expire April 30, 2024; Appoint Dillon Mader to the Health And Human Services Board for a three year term to expire April 30, 2025; appoint Karen Keil to the Health And Human Services Board for the remainder of a term to expire April 30, 2023; appoint Maureen Freedland to the Regional Bluffland Coalition to replace Jamie O'Neil; appoint Ralph Geary to the Solid Waste Policy Board for a three year term to expire April 30, 2025; appoint Margaret Larson to the Winding River Library System for the remainder of a term to expire December 31, 2022 to replace Barb Janssen approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 4 excused - M. Baroni, K. Cable, K. Hoyer and D. Wacek.

#### **Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley**

#### **PROCLAMATION MAY 2022 - LAW ENFORCEMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY & COURTS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, in a free society, law enforcement is entrusted and expected to protect the civil rights of its residents and visitors to our community; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County employees serve to enhance public safety in the Courts, District Attorney, Sheriff, Emergency Management Coordination, Medical Examiner and Public Safety Communications; and, **WHEREAS**, thousands of residents and visitors are helped each year by the professionals who respond to emergencies and assist those in need. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of May as Law Enforcement, Public Safety & Courts Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to ensuring the safety of its county's residents and visitors to our community.

Motion by J. Pogreba/D. Ferries to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 4 excused - M. Baroni, K. Cable, K. Hoyer and D. Wacek.

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- Accomplishments and Comparative Data
  - Administrator O'Malley gave a review for the 19 years her served as the La Crosse County Administrator. Administrator O'Malley has served 37 years in Public Administration with Eau Claire County, Marinette County, Rice County MN, Burnsville MN, and La Crosse County. He led 19 La Crosse County budgets and has served 111 County Supervisors from 2003-2022. A few of his major accomplishments are the Criminal Justice Reform and managing County Jail capacity, stimulating neighborhood revitalization in the most challenged neighborhoods, enhanced economic development in West Salem that expanded employment and value, development of the Administrative Center and Downtown Campus, and building replacement and cost control for the Lakeview Health Care Center.
  - All Wisconsin Counties of similar size levy more total taxes than La Crosse County and La Crosse County is the most effective in minimizing local costs to the property taxpayers of any similar sized County. The average tax levy is 28.8% of total expenditures. Year end 2021 financials are in the strongest position ever. All major capital needs have been addressed which include facilities, jail, long term care, emergency communications and federal funding for road projects.
- Status Report: Budget, Reserves, Cash Flow and Debt
  - Administrator O'Malley gave an overview of the link between the county budget, taxes and use of reserves and debt. Over 80% of the County Budget is paid by revenues other than property taxes. The General Fund reserves have historically been the source of cash flow or all fund and investment interests of reserves has been a strong source of revenue. Some of the benefits of borrowing instead of spending down reserves is it spreads capital cost over multiple budgets, debt interest rates have been lower than interest revenue received, retaining strong reserves provides contingency or "rainy day" funding, and strong reserves reassures the rating agency and investors. The 2022 gross expenditures is \$170.80 million, not including \$22.9 million in ARPA funding. The 2022 tax levy is \$36.794 million and that equals 19% of total revenue. Year End 2021 remaining principle Governmental Debt is \$53,460,000 and Year End 2021 remaining principle for Enterprise Debt is \$22,506,838. Governmental Debt is paid by property taxes and Enterprise Debt is paid by other revenue. La Crosse County has a Moody's Rating of Aa1. In every year since Highway borrowing began, the County made more cumulative interest on reserves invested than paid on total Highway debt. Highway borrowing from 2010-2021 equaled \$39.86 million. The average investment rate for 2010-2020 was 2.19% and the average borrowing rate for the same time period was 1.41%. Cumulative Investment Interest earned on the General Fund has exceeded annual interest paid to date on Highway borrowing. Year End 2021 financials are even stronger than anticipated with revenues exceeding expectations. Early 2022 sales tax receipts indicate excel revenues over budget. Recommended changes for 2022 instead of issuing debt; apply \$5 million unassigned General Fund to Highway budget and reduce the balance closer to the 50% General Fund Policy. In addition, postpone Hillview funding until 2023 without selling bonds. The project construction can begin by relying upon the ARPA funding and Hillview cash through 2022. Recommendations for the 2023 budget is to loan \$5.3 million to Hillview from the General Fund to be repaid over a 20 year amortization at 2.5% with interest only payment in 2024 and evaluate options throughout the budget to shift levy to Highway to reduce the need for debt toward funding of a new five year CIP at \$7 million/year for construction.

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

- Supervisor Cornforth asked for an update on the Resolution that declared racism a crisis.

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**ADJOURN**

Motion by G. Mathu/M. Nikolay to adjourn at 7:47 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 4 excused - M. Baroni, K. Cable, K. Hoyer and D. Wacek.

**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, May 9, 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 MAY 2022.**