

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, September 12, 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:

District	Name	Attendance
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	Present
10	Cable, Kim	Present
11	Scheller, Patrick	Present
12	Erickson, Randy	Present
13	Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14	Larson, Margaret	Excused
15	Kruse, Monica	Present
16	Ferries, Dan	Present
17	Pogreba, Jack	Present
18	Baroni, Mike	Absent
19	Cornforth, Rick	Excused
20	Doyle, Steve	Excused
21	Abraham, Rob	Present
22	Viner, Pamela	Present
23	Nikolay, Matt	Present
24	Hoyer, Kevin	Present
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

- The Supervisor photo will be taken at the October Planning meeting.
- WCA Convention Update – Chair Kruse noted we will have several Supervisors attending. Please work with each other to carpool if possible.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Padesky noted that Olivia Herken from the La Crosse Tribune, who has covered local government for several years, will be leaving her position there.

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- Supervisor Isola along with other Supervisors attended Pridefest over the weekend.
- Supervisor Hundt noted that the Lake Neshonoc Protection and Rehabilitation District met and will be asking the County to set aside \$100,000 in the 2023 budget for their Lake District.
- Supervisor Schlimgen and Chair Kruse attended the Towns Association meeting and noted their major topic is fixing the roads.

Interim Administrator Report – Jane Klekamp

PROCLAMATION SEPTEMBER 2022 - LIBRARIES AND UW-EXTENSION MONTH

WHEREAS, research-based educational programs for agricultural producers and professionals, businesses, local governments, communities, families and youth are brought to the residents of La Crosse County; and, **WHEREAS**, research-based educational and library programs identify and respond to specific community needs for education, research and knowledge to improve the quality of life in local communities, to strengthen families, to increase the competitiveness of businesses and agriculture, enhance decision-making in local government, and to develop leadership skills for managing resources and planning for the future; and, **WHEREAS**, libraries provide recreational and educational resources for residents in pursuit of life-long learning and provide community gathering places; and, **WHEREAS**, UW-Extension programming combines faculty, campus-based specialists, and staff expertise to bring University research to the people of La Crosse County in the areas of Agriculture/Horticulture; Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development; Family Living Education; and 4-H & Youth Development; and, **WHEREAS**, UW-Extension faculty & staff and area library staff are committed to educating the residents of La Crosse County to promote life-long learning and provide a more knowledgeable and informed community. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of September as La Crosse County Libraries and UW-Extension Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to educating the residents and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities in La Crosse County.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Motion by D. Wacek/D. Ferries to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - M. Baroni, 3 excused - R. Cornforth, S. Doyle, and M. Larson.

- Update on UW Extension Progress – Community Development Educator Charlotte Peters is working on surveys and questionnaires and will be back in December to give an update.
- American Rescue Plan Act – County Solar Update presented by Conservation Specialist Jake Schweitzer
 - \$1.5 million was set aside from the ARPA funding for County Solar. A La Crosse County owned solar array would provide long-term impacts by reducing energy costs and CO2 emissions for La Crosse County into the future. Increasing the renewable energy capacity in La Crosse County will help illustrate La Crosse County's commitment to sustainability and resiliency in County operations. Consultants, Madison Solar Consulting and Hoffman Planning Design & Construction, were hired to assess financial and feasibility of PV systems on County buildings. Costs after incentives would \$1,940,000 and a reduction of 1054 tons of CO2 emission. System costs and energy cost savings were reviewed for each of the County buildings. Next steps are to develop and RFP and bring resolution to County Board for funding in October. Bids would be reviewed and ranked and presented to the committee. A resolution to dedicate ARPA money to the project would be brought in December or January with plans to install PV systems in 2023.
- Overview of 2023 Interim Administrator's Budget Recommendation
 - The budget team includes department leaders, management team, administrative team, finance team and County Board. The County entered 2023 budget process in a strong financial position resulting from conservative budgeting, higher than expected revenue from sales tax and increase in equalized values. There is economic uncertainty with inflation and increased interest rates as we move forward. Guiding principles for this

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budget were to maintain the county's strong and sustainable financial position, minimize impact of inflation/increased costs on taxpayers, retain employees through competitive wages/salaries, and maintain and enhance the public services we provide. The budget will have no new outside borrowing for the first time since 2003, it will decrease the county debt by 12.5% compared to 2022, increase spending on highways using reserves and levy, property tax rate (mill rate) is decreasing on average by 9.6%, levy increase of 1.8%, and 3% raise for employees with no increase in health premiums. The recommended operating levy will be \$28.599 million, \$2.394 million for the Library, \$6.465 million for debt for a total of \$37.458 million. The mill rate will be \$2.90 per \$1,000. Revenue comes from Federal and State Grants 26.36%, property taxes 18.26%, public charges 30.52%, ARPA 8.81%, sales tax 7.69%, fund balance 4.96%, long-term borrowing 3.12%, and miscellaneous .29%. Expenses are broken down by Human Services 28.56%, general government 21.60%, long term care 16.65%, highway 10.14%, ARPA 8.81%, Solid Waste 7.10%, debt service 3.46%, Health 2.52%, and Library 1.17%. Resolutions on fees and charges, employee health and dental insurance, employee compensation increase, 2023 budget and tax levy, and personnel resolutions for increase/decrease of staff will all be brought to County Board.

- Budget Book Tutorial – Senior Accountant Renee Nugent presented the budget book and gave an overview of the online budget book on how to view the different sections and navigate to the different department budgets and schedules.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Konradt asked for an update on the recruiting efforts for the Administrator.

ADJOURN

Motion by T. Tryggestad/D. Ferries to adjourn at 7:22 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - M. Baroni, 3 excused - R. Cornforth, S. Doyle and M. Larson.

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, September 12, 2022 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 21 OF SEPTEMBER 2022.