

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting was held on Thursday, August 17, 2023, in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. 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	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	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	Present
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26	Hundt, David	Present
27	Hesse, Dan	Present
28	Silva, Leonardo	Present
29	Schlimgen, Ken	Present
30	Mader, Dillon	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Monica Kruse

- Chair Announcements
 - Pride in the Park will be on September 9th and a sign-up sheet for volunteers was passed around. The Hmong New Year will be celebrated on September 23rd and a sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers.
 - Great River United Way Kickoff breakfast will be on September 14th at Celebrations on the River at 7:30am. If interested in attending, please sign up with the County Clerk.

(62-23/24)

- County Board Picnic – The picnic will be on September 22nd at Lake Neshonoc. Cost will be \$20/person and deadline to sign up with Clerk is September 8th.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Padesky asked for a moment of silence for Maui.
 - Supervisors Jacobsen, Hoyer and Pogreba attended a listening session from the US House of Representatives on the 2023-2028 Farm Bill.
 - Supervisor Isola and Freedland met with Austin Lesmeister at the Xcel Energy Plant on French Island. He is the environmental analyst to this area. On August 9th the Mississippi Valley Health Services met to reduce the per diem rate but a quorum was not present.
 - Supervisor Hoyer attended a presentation put on by Enbridge Pipeline Company. They are doing an educational tour around Wisconsin.
 - Supervisor Cable participated in the Point in Time count of the unsheltered on July 27th. There were 114 people sleeping on the streets and another 89 people in the shelter. That number is similar to the numbers counted last year at this time.

Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp

- Debt & Levy Limits Presentation
 - Finance Director Lanae Nickelotti presented on the debt and levy limits. Property tax dollars are dollars received from County taxpayers to fund County services and the property tax mill rate is the County property tax dollars spread across County property value. Levy limits limit the increase in the operating tax levy to the change in net new construction. Operating (subject to levy limits), library and debt equals the total County property tax dollars. Annual budget complexities include employee raises, increase in cost of goods and services, department needs, and capital needs and replacement. Types of debts are General Obligation (GO) Bonds and Revenue Bonds (Solid Waste). Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, the County's total general obligation debt may not exceed 5% of the County's taxable property value. Prioritization is critical in the budget process to make a recommendation that is most fiscally responsible.
- Debt Review Presentation – Brian Della of PMA Securities
 - PMA provides Municipal Advisory and Investment Products and Services for their public sector clients. La Crosse County is currently rated "Aa1" by Moody's. Existing levy supported debt service and debt service projection were reviewed. Debt that was issued to finance projects at Hillview Terrace and Lakeview Nursing Home is repaid by revenues generated by these Enterprise Funds. The County's operating levy currently represents 76.3% of the County's total levy and is limited in its ability to grow by the percent net new construction. The \$5.0 million annual borrowing keeps debt service relatively the same from year to year. If the operating levy grows at 1.0% annually, the debt service levy is essentially flat and the County's total levy would increase slowly over time. If the operating levy grows at 1.0% annually, the debt service levy stays the same, and the County's TID-Out Equalized Value grows at 3.0% (below trend), the County's mill rate would continue to decline.

APPOINTMENT

Motion by K. Hoyer/D. Pierce to appoint Kathryn Wood to the Board of Adjustment for the remainder of a term to expire June 30, 2025, to replace David Eilertson passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - M. Baroni.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by R. Plesha/G. Mathu to approve the minutes of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting held July 10, 2023, and the Monthly Meeting held July 20, 2023 and the claims list for \$3,422,221.96 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - M. Baroni.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 1224 FILED BY THE TOWERS, LLC O/B/O MICHAEL K & MARY E DRUGAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MOBILE SERVICE SUPPORT STRUCTURES AND CLASS 1 COLLOCATIONS IN THE TOWN OF HOLLAND

The La Crosse County Planning, Resources and Development Committee, having considered an application filed by: The Towers, LLC o/b/o Michael K & Mary E Drugan, 750 Park of Commerce Drive, Suite 200, Boca Raton, FL 33487 and having held a public hearing on Monday, July 31, 2023 for a CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT for 28.05 Siting and Construction of New Mobile Service Support Structures and Class 1 Collocatoins. in the Town of Holland and described as follows: Prt NW-SW, Sec. 13, T.18N, R.8W. Tax parcel 8-952-0. Property address: Sylvester Road, Town of Holland. And pursuant to s. 59.69 Wis. Stats. and s. 17.36 Zoning Code: the Committee did publish and receive proof of a Class II notice of the hearing; did receive receipts of mailing of the notices to the affected Town Clerk(s); did hold a public hearing to hear testimony or correspondence from the people; and, did receive and consider action from the affected Town Board(s). The Committee, under s. 91.48(1), Wis. Stats., along with the affected Town Board(s), under s. 17.36(4), have the authority to approve the application with integral conditions or to disapprove of the application. Having considered the entire record, the Committee's recommendation is to: By a vote of SIX (6) in favor (Hoyer, Hundt, Erickson, Silva, Schlimgen, Cornforth), ZERO (0) no, and ONE (1) excused (Scheller), the committee recommended Approval of CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT No. 1224

subject to the following FIFTEEN (15) conditions:

1. The owner(s) of the property to which this CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT is issued will abide by all representations and commitments made during the permitting process as well as before the Committee, in accordance with all conditions to the conditional use permit, taken as a whole, as approved by the Planning Resource and Development Committee and the County Board.
2. This approval does not preempt permittees' obligation to comply with all other applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
3. This approval is granted specifically to The Towers, LLC, acting o/b/o Michael K & Mary E Drugan, W7665 Sylvester Rd, Holmen, WI 54636 to construct a 165-ft tall self-support tower within a 100-ft x 100-ft leased area on part of tax parcel 8-952-0, Town of Holland.
4. If not already submitted, an information report as required under LCO s.28.07 shall be submitted by the applicant to the La Crosse County Zoning, Planning & Land Information Department within 45 days of County Board approval.
5. If not already submitted, a copy of the FAA report indicating findings that no hazards exist shall be submitted to the La Crosse County Zoning Department prior to issuance of a Zoning/Occupancy Permit authorizing construction. All other conditions listed under s.28.05(9) shall be met before construction may commence.
6. The applicant shall obtain any required Erosion Control and/or stormwater permits through La Crosse County Land Conservation Department before a Zoning/Occupancy Permit can be issued.
7. The tower shall be designed and constructed to accommodate a minimum of four (4) wireless carriers.
8. A minimum setback distance equal to or greater than the fall zone listed in the engineering certification shall be maintained from all property boundaries and road right of ways.
9. The tower shall be removed, and the site restored at the expense of the tower owner as required under LCO s.28.08(1).
10. A bond or other acceptable instrument in the amount of \$20,000 shall be provided to La Crosse County and maintained without lapsing over the life of the tower to guarantee removal of the support structure as required in LCO s.28.08(2).
11. No advertising is allowed on the support structure or fenced compound except for a sign attached to the fence shall be required with contact information and phone numbers in case of an emergency.
12. Abandonment is considered discontinuance of use for 24 consecutive months or longer. If the structure has been abandoned, the owner of the tower shall affect removal within 180 days of abandonment, and the structure must be removed within 12 months of discontinuance.
13. This permit is transferrable, but acceptable financial guarantee for abandonment shall be received by La Crosse County from the new owner within 60 days of transfer.
14. As requested by Village of Holmen, decorative vinyl or panel fencing rather than chain link fencing must surround the tower. No barbed wiring.

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15. As requested by Town of Holland, a red beacon light that complies with all other applicable standards of all applicable regulatory jurisdictions must be installed on the top of the tower. THE COUNTY BOARD took the following action this 17th day of August 2023. Approved subject to conditions as outlined.

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Hoyer/D. Ferries to approve as recommended by the Committee passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - M. Baroni.

FIRST CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 207 TO AMEND S. 8.04 ENTITLED "DRIVEWAY ACCESS TO COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAYS" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Motion by P. Viner/M. Nikolay to move the first reading. Discussion ensued. Highway Commissioner Joseph Langeberg responded to questions from the Board. The ordinance will be held over for 30 days and is on file and open for public inspection in the office of the County Clerk and on the La Crosse County web site at: www.co.la-crosse.wi.us. Upon adoption and publication, it will be incorporated into the La Crosse County General Code of Ordinances.

FIRST CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 208 TO AMEND S. 7.04 ENTITLED "SPEED LIMITS" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Motion by P. Viner/M. Freedland to move the first reading. The ordinance will be held over for 30 days and is on file and open for public inspection in the office of the County Clerk and on the La Crosse County web site at: www.co.la-crosse.wi.us. Upon adoption and publication, it will be incorporated into the La Crosse County General Code of Ordinances.

FIRST CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 209 TO AMEND S. 7.08 ENTITLED "ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Motion by P. Viner/J. Pogreba to move the first reading. Motion by D. Mader/G. Padesky to amend section (4)c3 by adding "the application then will go to the full Board for final approval. After full Board approval" passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - M. Baroni. Motion by K. Schlimgen/G. Padesky to amend section (5)k by changing 5am to 7am failed on a voice vote with 27 nays, 2 ayes - R. Cornforth and K. Schlimgen, 1 excused - M. Baroni. The ordinance will be held over for 30 days and is on file and open for public inspection in the office of the County Clerk and on the La Crosse County web site at: www.co.la-crosse.wi.us. Upon adoption and publication, it will be incorporated into the La Crosse County General Code of Ordinances.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-8/23 RE: APPROVE USE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (APRA) FUNDING FOR GRANTS FOR CHILD CARE PROJECTS

WHEREAS, La Crosse County was allocated \$22,923,224 through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which must be obligated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026; and, **WHEREAS**, the County Board has reserved funding for eight project priority areas as outlined in Resolution #55-1/22, including \$3.3 million for a child care neighborhood model; and, **WHEREAS**, at the February 2023 meeting, the County Board reiterated its support for a child care grant project; and, **WHEREAS**, proposed plans to redevelop Hillview Healthcare Center include an intergenerational day center, a community based residential treatment facility, housing, and crisis beds for individuals with dementia that require additional funding; and, **WHEREAS**, the 2023 – 2025 state biennial budget discontinues the Child care Counts program that has, as of June 2023, made \$15,721,615 in payments to providers in La Crosse County through programs designed to stabilize the sector by increasing wages and benefits which was launched with federal support in 2020; and, **WHEREAS**, the scale of spending by the state to support the sector

demonstrates that long-term direct payments to providers by La Crosse County would not be sustainable; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse county recognizes that other factors impact providers, such as access to capital to fund improvement projects that may allow for increased quantity or quality of services; and, **WHEREAS**, the proposed capital grant program is designed to fund these capital improvement projects up to \$25,000 that may allow providers to increase capacity and would cover spending on learning materials, furniture, outdoor equipment and landscaping, fencing, structural remodeling, education courses, computer hardware or other office equipment, business software, food preparation and storage materials, training or one year of liability insurance; and, **WHEREAS**, should applications exceed the allocated amount, preference would be given to providers in underserved areas outside the City of La Crosse; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby approves the allocation of \$500,000 of American Rescue Plan Act dollars as reserved in Resolution #55-1/22 for projects that meet the requirements outlined in the grant application, which include grant use, amount required, and follow-up detailing the impact of the grant; and, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the community development specialist and UW Extension community development educator will lead the grant process, with final grant approval from the Economic Development Fund; and, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Administrator, County Board Chair, Finance Director and County Clerk are authorized to take all appropriate actions to effectuate the purpose of this resolution subject to approval as to form by the County Corporation Counsel; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Executive Committee shall serve as the oversight committee for approving funding for child care projects; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if funds are not obligated to child care projects by June of 2024, the County Board may reallocate the remaining funds to another American Rescue Plan Act eligible use of funds. **FISCAL NOTE:** Costs up to \$500,000 will be tracked in division 295.770.3744 within the County financial system, Account 60300.04.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/R. Cornforth to approve. Discussion ensued. Chair Kruse responded to questions from Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - M. Baroni.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-8/23 RE: APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR MATCHING FUNDING OF \$10,000 FOR HARVESTING OF AQUATIC VEGETATION IN THE LAKE ONALASKA BOAT TRAVEL CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, Since 2016 the Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District [Lake District] has been working with local groups and partner agencies to identify ways to improve access to Lake Onalaska and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge; and **WHEREAS**, increased flowage into the Mississippi River and Lake Onalaska have increased sediment and nutrients entering into the water systems causing an increase of filamentous algae, duck weed and rooted aquatic vegetation like wild rice. Although vegetation is a source of food for wildlife it also greatly impedes boat travel and traps more sediment reducing overall water depth; and

WHEREAS, harvesting aquatic vegetation in the boat travel corridor will preserve the habitat for fish and wildlife while allowing boaters to travel on designated corridors to access Lake Onalaska and the Mississippi River; and **WHEREAS**, the opening and maintenance of the travel corridors will improve safe boat travel; protect watercraft from undue damage; and reduce the need to rescue stranded boaters; and **WHEREAS**, access to and the use of the Lake Onalaska and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge benefits not only La Crosse County but the entire region by providing access to outdoor recreation and by contributing to the local economy specifically in the area of outdoor recreational equipment, particularly marine and fishing equipment; and **WHEREAS**, the Lake District is requesting a contribution of \$10,000 for the purpose of harvesting aquatic vegetation in the Lake Onalaska boat travel corridor. This amount would be a matching fund to the amount in the Lake District's harvest account as well as to private donations and fund raising efforts; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the La Crosse County Board hereby approves the request by the Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District for matching funding in the amount of \$10,000 for harvesting aquatic vegetation in the boat travel corridors of Lake Onalaska. **FISCAL NOTE:** Funding for the Lake District project will come from line item 100.205.2130 Account 60200.01.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/D. Ferries to approve. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Cable noted a correction in the Now Therefore Be It Resolved clause remove the word "dollars". Administrator Klekamp responded to question from Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - M. Baroni.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-8/23 RE: ACCEPTING "FAMILY KEYS" FUNDING FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO ASSIST CHILD WELFARE-ENGAGED FAMILIES WITH HOUSING NEEDS

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), under the "Family Keys" housing collaborative, has awarded La Crosse County a grant under a pilot program to assist with the housing needs of child welfare-engaged families who are experiencing housing instability to ensure that the lack of access to housing is not a reason for separating children from their families or a barrier to reunification; and, **WHEREAS**, in October of 2022, the County accepted the initial grant funding of \$120,000 to be used to cover hotel costs, short-term rent and a variety of other expenses associated with finding and maintaining housing (Resolution #20-10/22); and, **WHEREAS**, for State fiscal year July 2023-June 2024, La Crosse County has been awarded an additional \$144,500 to continue the program and to expand the program to longer-term housing alternatives; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby accepts the \$144,500 in DCF Family Keys funding and the County Administrator is authorized to execute any documents to effectuate this resolution, after approval of Corporation Counsel; and, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Finance Department is authorized to make any necessary and appropriate account transfers related to accepting this additional funding. **FISCAL NOTE:** Total grant award is \$144,500, with no County match required, and the award period ending June 30, 2024. Operating costs related to this grant are tracked under Org. 210.420.5235.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Motion by T. Tryggestad/A. Richmond to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - M. Baroni.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by G. Mathu/P. Isola to adjourn at 8:01 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - M. Baroni and M. Nikolay.

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 Monthly Meeting held Thursday, August 17, 2023 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 18 OF AUGUST 2023.