

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting was held on Thursday, January 19, 2023 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	Vacant	
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	Excused
17	Pogreba, Jack	Present
18	Baroni, Mike	Present
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	Vacant	
29	Schlimgen, Ken	Present
30	Mader, Dillon	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Monica Kruse

- Supervisor Conference Reports – none offered.

Administrator Report – Jane Klekamp

- Highway Commissioners Annual Impact Report
 - Highway Commissioner Joe Langeberg presented the highway funding and projects overview. La Crosse County has 282 miles of County highway, 72 bridges, and 157 miles

(109-22/23)

of State Trunk highways. Between 2012 and 2022, 62 miles of highway projects were completed. 5.6 miles on average are completed each year at a cost of \$4 million. Between 2012 and 2022, \$223,000 was spent on bridge work. Currently, about 103 miles of County highway need repair or rehabilitation. These are roads that generally have Pavement Rating of less than 5 and the estimated cost to repair all 103 miles is \$84 million. Projects completed in 2022 was CTH M (Volter Rd to CTH O), CTH TT (V to T), CTH B (B to Volter Rd) and CTH VP (Vets Park). That is a total of 5.47 miles.

- State funding hasn't kept up with costs. There has been a \$192,000 increase since 2000. Two projects have received funding from the Federal Bill, CTH ZM and CTH B. Several other projects have been submitted for funding; Bridge B320050 on CTH G, CTH YY in Barre, CTH OT between SN and 35, and three bridges and three roadways are planned for submittal. Increasing the yearly average of miles completed from 5.6 miles to over 9 miles would be a 60% increase and would result in 45 miles completed over five years. This increase will reduce annual maintenance cost over time. Eliminating unnecessary processes and staff changes are helping to reduce costs so more can get done. Rising wage and material costs along with state funding issues will continue to be a drag on progress.
- 2022 Highlights – Administrator Jane Klekamp.
 - In 2022, La Crosse County answered on average 95 9-1-1 calls a day, repaired 5.47 miles of roads, placed 40 children in permanent homes, helped 45 people graduate from treatment court, reused 85,000 pounds of household hazardous materials, served 85,413 meals to older adults, collected \$17 million in child support payments, sampled 2,453 wells and inspected 454 restaurants, and assisted with 4,500 feet of stream stabilization and 15 new dams. La Crosse County implemented a new emergency services records management system, determined location of final radio tower, partnered with community organizations to host outreach clinics off-site, and launched a crisis response collaboration with La Crosse Police to jointly respond to crisis calls. The unassigned fund balance at the end of the year is expected to be \$20.45 million or 52% of expenses (board policy is 25-50%). Outstanding debt was reduced by 14% to \$67.8 million with further decline projected in 2023. All areas are in a positive position with Human Services adding \$2 million to its fund balance and Health Department \$90,000. La Crosse County has the 5th lowest levy per person and Wisconsin averages \$554 which is \$247 higher than La Crosse County per person. Our levy is the 2nd lowest in the state among counties of a similar population. The 2023 mill rate is \$2.90 per \$1,000 and has continued to decline since 2017 when it was \$3.89. The total levy is \$37,458,167. We continue to have a Aa1 bond rating from Moody's. Sales tax was budgeted at \$13.35 million for 2022 and we have received \$13.90 million for the first 10 months. The increase continues a trend of increasing sales tax revenue over the past 5 years. The Board will continue to work on allocations of remaining ARPA funds and labor shortages will continue to impact our ability to hire.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by R. Abraham/K. Cable to reappoint Dan Hesse to the Agricultural Society for one year term to expire December 31, 2023; appoint Angie Martin to the Economic Development Board; appoint Alan Mask to the La Crosse County Library Board for a three year term to expire December 31, 2025; reappoint Dan Ferries to the La Crosse County Library Board for a three year term to expire December 31, 2025; reappoint Paul Albrecht, Jim Krueger, Tom Wright, Joshua Olson and Margaret Larson to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for a two year term to expire January 21, 2025; appoint Jill Billings to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for a two year term to expire January 21, 2025; appoint Lewis Kuhlman to the Solid Waste Policy Board for the remainder of a term to expire April 30, 2024; appoint Dewey Severson and Anthony Pfaff to the Solid Waste Policy Board for the remainder of a term to expire April 30, 2023; appoint Mary Bach to the Winding River Library System for a three year term to expire December 31, 2025; appoint Sam Bachmeier to the Wisconsin Pace Commission for a two year term to expire April 30, 2024 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 2 vacancies – District 1 and 28, 2 excused - D. Ferries and M. Larson.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by D. Mader/R. Plesha to approve the minutes of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting held December 5, 2022 and the Monthly Meeting held December 15, 2022 and the claims list for \$5,564,190.05 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 2 vacancies – District 1 and 28, 2 excused - D. Ferries and M. Larson.

ORDINANCE NO. 201-1/23 TO CREATE CHAPTER 34 "BROADBAND FORWARD COMMUNITY" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

The County Board of Supervisors of the County of La Crosse does ordain as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 34 entitled "Broadband Forward Community" is created to read:

34.01 BROADBAND NETWORK PROJECT APPLICATIONS

- (1) **Purpose and policy.** The purpose of this chapter is to encourage the development of broadband access in La Crosse County by reducing administrative obstacles to broadband service providers and coordinating the review of applications to ensure such applications are timely processed. This chapter shall at all times be construed consistent with the aforesaid purpose.
- (2) **Definitions.** In this chapter:
 - (a) "*Applicant*" means a person applying for a permit for a broadband network project.
 - (b) "*Broadband network project*" means the construction or deployment of wireline or wireless communications facilities to provide broadband communications services in La Crosse County.
 - (c) "*Permit*" means any local permit, license, certificate, approval, registration, or similar form of approval required by policy, administrative rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution with respect to a broadband network project.
 - (d) "*Written*" or "*in writing*" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other intangible medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.
- (3) **Point of contact.** La Crosse County shall appoint a single point of contact for all matters related to a broadband network project. The County shall provide on its public website the contact information, including the e-mail address, for the point of contact authorized to receive a broadband network project application.

34.02 ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

An applicant may sign and file all forms, applications and documentation related to a broadband network project electronically.

34.03 REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Notwithstanding any other provision in La Crosse County ordinances, resolutions, regulations, policies or practices to the contrary, the following process shall apply exclusively upon receiving a broadband network project application:

- (1) **Completeness review.** Upon receiving a broadband network project application La Crosse County shall:
 - (a) Determine whether an application is complete and notify the applicant of the determination by the County in writing within 10 calendar days of receiving an application. If the County does not notify the applicant in writing of its completeness determination within 10 calendar days of receiving the application, the application shall be considered complete.
 - (b) If the County determines that an application is not complete, the written notification to the applicant shall specify in detail the required information that is not complete. The applicant may resubmit an application as often as necessary until the application is complete.

34.04 APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF COMPLETE APPLICATIONS

- (1) Within 60 calendar days of receiving an application that is complete, or considered complete under sub. (1), La Crosse County shall approve or deny the application and provide the applicant written notification of the approval or denial. If the County does not notify the applicant of its approval or denial within 60 calendar days of receiving a

(111-22/23)

complete application, the application shall be considered approved and any required permit shall be considered issued.

- (2) If La Crosse County denies an application, the written notification of the denial under sub. (1) shall include evidence that the denial is not arbitrary and capricious.

34.05 FEES

Any fee imposed by the County to review an application, issue a permit, or perform any other activity related to a broadband network project shall be reasonable. An application fee that exceeds \$100 is unreasonable.

34.06 INITIAL APPLICABILITY

The treatment of this ordinance first applies to applications received on or after the effective date of this ordinance.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law.

**MONICA KRUSE, COUNTY BOARD CHAIR;
GINNY DANKMEYER, COUNTY CLERK.**

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Hoyer/G. Padesky to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 2 vacancies – District 1 and 28, 2 excused - D. Ferries and M. Larson.

RESOLUTION NO. 43-1/23 RE: SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING

WHEREAS, La Crosse County administers the Child Support Enforcement Program on behalf of the state, providing a holistic set of services to many La Crosse County residents including paternity establishment, assistance with finding employment, obtaining child support and establishing health insurance orders for children, and enforcing and modifying those orders; and **WHEREAS**, Child support is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in the state, with county child support agencies serving approximately 347,000 children and collecting roughly \$906 million in financial support for Wisconsin families in 2021; and **WHEREAS**, Child support is proven to reduce childhood poverty rates, lead to better educational and behavioral outcomes for children, and have a positive effect on food security, health and housing stability; and **WHEREAS**, County child support agencies work closely with both parents to ensure that they have the help they need to be successful, including assistance with finding employment, referrals to other social service programs and right-sizing orders for individuals impacted by substances use disorders or other challenges; and **WHEREAS**, State funding for county child support services has failed to keep up with county agency costs, which have steadily increased due to a high number of caseloads per worker, increased complexity of cases, inflation and new regulations; and **WHEREAS**, an abrupt federal interpretation change in June 2019 eliminated \$4.2 million in federal birth cost recovery matching funds for Wisconsin; and **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's strong performance in child support is at risk without additional funding. The state has already dropped from 2nd in the nation for the collection of current support in 2016 to 6th in the nation in 2021; and **WHEREAS**, without additional state funds, county child support agencies may need to eliminate positions, further increase caseloads, or reduce services, further impacting federal performance measures, which would result in the loss of additional federal funds; and **WHEREAS**, the individuals most impacted by insufficient funding for child support are the children and families served by county child support agencies, who will need to seek out public assistance programming absent the financial security provided by the child support program; and **WHEREAS**, State investments in child support are amplified by a generous federal match. Every \$1 of state GPR invested in the Child Support Program generates roughly \$2 in federal matching funds; and **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's Child Support Enforcement Program is incredibly cost-effective, collecting an average of \$6.43 in support for every dollar invested in the program. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$5 million GPR in each fiscal year of the 2023-25 Wisconsin state budget, which will generate approximately \$9.7 million in additional federal funding each year. This investment will ensure that Wisconsin counties can continue to effectively provide economic support to our children. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing La Crosse County, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Administration, and the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration. **FISCAL NOTE:** La Crosse County's Child Support operations are tracked in the 100.110.1060 division within the County financial system. 2023 budgeted expenses and

(112-22/23)

indirect costs total \$1,315,935. 2023 budgeted revenue to be received from the State of Wisconsin are \$1,073,801, with the remainder covered by levy and public charges.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/T. Tryggstad to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 2 vacancies – District 1 and 28, 2 excused - D. Ferries and M. Larson.

RESOLUTION NO. 44-1/23 RE: AUTHORIZING ADVISORY REFERENDUM QUESTION ON ABORTION BAN

WHEREAS, On June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court made the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, eliminating people’s constitutional right to access a safe and legal abortion. Given this reversal of a 50-year precedent, individual states now dictate access to reproductive care; and, **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin Statute s. 940.04, enacted in 1849, bans abortion at any stage of pregnancy without exception for rape, incest, or health of the patient.; and, **WHEREAS**, polling consistently shows that the majority of people in Wisconsin, and across the United States, oppose the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*; and, **WHEREAS**, the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* disproportionately affects communities of color, low-income communities, people who are disabled, immigrants, young people, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. This is an attack on reproductive care and sets a dangerous precedent for other questions of bodily autonomy; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that pursuant to Wisconsin Statute s. 59.52(25) the La Crosse County Board hereby directs the County Clerk to place the question set forth below on the April 4, 2023 ballot as an advisory referendum:

Advisory Referendum Question:

“Should the Wisconsin legislature repeal or keep the state’s 1849 abortion ban that provides no exceptions in cases of rape or incest nor to protect the health of the mother?”

- a. REPEAL
- b. KEEP

FISCAL NOTE: Approximately \$5,000 for the preparation and noticing of the referendum ballot.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/P. Scheller to approve. Discussion ensued. Motion by K. Hoyer/K. Schlimgen to amend the 2nd Whereas by removing the words “or health of patient” and in the question to remove “nor to protect the health of the mother”. Discussion ensued. The motion to amend failed on a voice vote with 18 nays, 5 ayes - R. Geary, D. Hesse, K. Hoyer, J. Pogreba and K. Schlimgen, 3 abstentions - R. Abraham, D. Hundt and D. Jacobsen, 2 vacancies – District 1 and 28, 2 excused - D. Ferries and M. Larson. Motion by S. Doyle/G. Padesky to amend the question by adding the words “or keep” after repeal and changing the YES vote to REPEAL and the NO vote to KEEP. Discussion ensued. Corporation Counsel responded to questions from the Board. The motion to amend passed on a roll call vote with 12 ayes, 9 nays - K. Cable, R. Cornforth, M. Freedland, D. Hesse, P. Isola, M. Kruse, J. Pogreba, T. Tryggstad and D. Wacek, 5 abstentions - R. Abraham, K. Hoyer, D. Hundt, D. Jacobsen and R. Plesha, 2 vacancies – District 1 and 28, 2 excused - D. Ferries and M. Larson. The motion to approve as amended passed on a roll call vote with 16 ayes, 10 nays - R. Abraham, M. Baroni, R. Geary, D. Hesse, K. Hoyer, D. Hundt, D. Jacobsen, R. Plesha, J. Pogreba and K. Schlimgen, 2 vacancies – District 1 and 28, 2 excused - D. Ferries and M. Larson.

RESOLUTION NO. 45-1/23 RE: APPOINTMENT OF JANE KLEKAMP AS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

WHEREAS, following the former County Administrator’s retirement, a nationwide search was conducted for candidates to apply for the position of County Administrator for which over 70 individuals applied; and, **WHEREAS**, on December 14, 2022 the Executive Committee interviewed three finalists; and **WHEREAS**, the Executive Committee selected Jane Klekamp as the finalist based on qualifications and experience; **WHEREAS**, on January 9, 2023 the full board interviewed Ms. Klekamp and recommended the Executive Committee make an offer of employment to Ms. Klekamp as the next La Crosse County Administrator; **WHEREAS**, a conditional offer has been made to Jane Klekamp following the approval of this resolution and contingent upon approval of the La Crosse County Board; and, **WHEREAS**, Corporation Counsel has prepared a Contract of Employment for the County Administrator containing the terms and conditions of the offer of employment which is attached to this resolution to be approved and finalized by the Executive Committee to be approved by the County Board on January 19, 2023; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Jane Klekamp be appointed by the County Board as County

(113-22/23)

Administrator as of this date, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the terms for an employment contract hereto attached be drafted as the agreement regarding wages and benefits between La Crosse County and the County Administrator. **FISCAL NOTE:** County Administrator wages and benefits costs are tracked under the 100.130.1000 division within the County financial system.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/R. Erickson to approve. Discussion ensued. Human Resources Director Stephen Conrad responded to questions from the Board. Corporation Counsel explained that the contract cannot be amended as it has been negotiated and accepted already. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 2 vacancies – District 1 and 28, 2 excused - D. Ferries and M. Larson.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Geary asked for presentations during Planning Meetings of items coming up.
- Supervisor Cornforth asked for revisiting ARPA funding for the workforce readiness.
- Supervisor Hundt asked for a discussion on how to replace board member that resign.

ADJOURN

Motion by P. Scheller/G. Mathu to adjourn at 7:30 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 2 vacancies – District 1 and 28, 2 excused - D. Ferries 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 Monthly Meeting held Thursday, January 19, 2023 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 2023.