

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, September 11, 2023 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 24 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	Richmond, Andrea	Present
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Pierce, David	Present
4	Freedland, Maureen	Present
5	Vacant	
6	Plesha, Roger	Present
7	Padesky, Gary	Present
8	Isola, Peg	Present
9	Wacek, Dawn	Excused
10	Cable, Kim	Present
11	Scheller, Patrick	Absent
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	Present
19	Cornforth, Rick	Excused
20	Doyle, Steve	Excused
21	Abraham, Rob	Present
22	Viner, Pamela	Present
23	Nikolay, Matt	Excused
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**

- County Board Picnic – The picnic will be on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at Swarthout Park in West Salem. Food will be served at noon.
- New Hearing Loop in the County Board Room – A hearing loop was installed in the Board Room to assist people with hearing problems. There is a listening device that can be checked out or most newer hearing aids are able to tap into the hearing loop.

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- Supervisor Interviews for District 5 – The deadline to apply is September 15<sup>th</sup> with interviews the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>. Let Chair Kruse know if you would like to participate with the interviews. The new Supervisors will be sworn in at the October 9<sup>th</sup> Planning Meeting.
- WCA Conference – Sept 18-19 – A list of Supervisors attending will be emailed out so Supervisors can try to carpool. Hotel reservations will also be resent.
- Chair Kruse read a thank you note from the Onalaska Community Days.
- Supervisor Conference Report Guidelines – Chair Kruse reviewed the conference report guidelines and noted the time limit is 2 minutes and please don't repeat what other Supervisors have already reported on.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Schlingen asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11.
  - Supervisor Abraham gave an update on Lake Onalaska Preservation and Rehabilitation Annual Meeting and noted the changing sediment and aquatic vegetation is causing concern for people who live on the lake.
  - Supervisor Hundt announced the La Crosse County 4H Equestrian Drill Team took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the State Fair for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.
  - Supervisor Tryggestad asked Supervisors to be aware of Blood Drives organized from the Health Department and attend if possible as attendance has been low. The next one will be November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Supervisor Cable and other Supervisors volunteered at the La Crosse County table at Pride in the Park and the event was well attended and very busy.

#### **Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp**

#### **PROCLAMATION SEPTEMBER 2023 - LIBRARIES & 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.

Motion by J. Pogreba/K. Cable to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 4 excused - R. Cornforth, S. Doyle, M. Nikolay and D. Wacek, 1 Vacant – District 5.

- General Update
  - Administrator Klekamp noted that Couleecap and Catholic Charities are following through and finding residents for Family Bridge Housing with an update planned at the end of this year or beginning of next year; Phil Stegemann from the Juvenile Justice Department is receiving the Frank Crisafi Recognition Award for his work; Maichor Lee from the Health Department is receiving the YWCA Outstanding Woman of the Year Award; Lanae Nickelotti received the Rising Stars Under 40 Award; Chanin Kelly-Rae will be conducting community focus groups at the end of September; and 53 applications have been received so far for the Childcare Grants.

- Indicator's Report
  - Anders Olson of Sustainability Analytics presented the 2023 Sustainability Indicators Report. County government operations will transition to 100% renewable energy and be carbon neutral by 2050. It is important to have a comprehensive measuring stick for tracking progress toward this goal. The Indicator's Report was expanded to include full GHG inventory. The total GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions in 2022 was 15,830 mt CO<sub>2</sub>e and includes electricity, stationary combustion, mobile combustion, fugitive methane, and fugitive refrigerants. Fugitive methane was the highest with 6,900. Ways to reduce fugitive methane emissions is to minimize deposits of biodegradable waste into landfill and continue to minimize active/uncovered area of landfill. Electricity was 2,195. Ways to reduce electricity emissions is to reduce electricity usage by increasing efficiency, on-site solar PV production, and future array opportunities at Hillview, LEC and Landfill. Stationary combustion was at 1,623 and can be reduced by improving building weatherization and replacing fossil fuel heating equipment with electric heat pumps. Mobile combustion was at 2,097 and can be reduced by increasing alternative transportation modes among employees (carpooling, public transit, bicycling/walking, telecommuting) and replacing vehicles with lower-emitting alternatives. GHG emissions have decreased in most sectors of County government operations since 2007. Ways to move toward carbon neutrality include reducing energy usage, producing clean energy on site, and switching to cleaner energy sources.
  
- Hillview Project Overview and Next Steps
  - A new vision for Hillview is necessary because the current funding/staffing model is not sustainable, the property is underutilized, and the building is aging and needs modernization. The first plan was to construct a new CBRF (community based residential facility) at Hillview but the estimate came in at \$21 million which was too high. Instead of building new, the new plan was to renovate the existing building to allow for sustainable long-term use and find new uses for the large areas of the building that are currently unused. Those used include CBRF, daycare, crisis stabilization beds, and bridge housing. This estimate came in at \$29.6 million which again was more than the County could afford without going to the taxpayers. The recommendation was to remove the SNR (nursing home) portion of the plan which was \$10 million. The nursing home would remain open, would receive upgrades, and residents would not be impacted. This plan would be paid for with \$12 million of remaining ARPA funding and up to \$8 million in borrowing. Bonds issued and serviced by Hillview's operations would close the gap and no impact to the tax levy. Three resolutions will come to the County Board at the September 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. One will be to approve the project, the second one will be to direct advertising/sale of general obligation bonds for construction, and the third resolution will authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds. If the Board supports this plan, the plans will be finalized, and bids will be solicited for the different components. Project timeline would be approximately 18 months.
  
- Overview of 2024 Administrator's Budget Recommendation
  - The budget is a balancing act between maintaining county services and protecting taxpayers while working within constraints of levy limits. There was an increase of \$1.3 million in the State shared revenue. The \$199 million balanced budget is down 4% from 2023 with no new borrowing and grows the fund balance. There is a property tax rate and debt reduction again with no increase in health insurance premiums and 3% raise for employees. This budget maintains and strengthens County services. The total expenses are \$199,553,034 and total levy of \$38,020,642. There are requests from outside agencies being recommended of \$859,279. Recommended requests include \$30,000 for the Holmen All Abilities Park, \$150,000 for the Onalaska Community Center, and \$225,000 to the La Crosse Center. Not recommended requests include \$200,000 for Blufflands, \$40,000 to the La Crosse County Historical Society, \$8,000 to the Mindoro Lions Club, and \$50,000 YWCA Child Care. Budget presentations will be presented to committees in October, a second budget presentation will happen at the October Monthly meeting, outside request

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documents were distributed to the Board, and the Public Hearing and vote on budget will happen at the November meeting.

- Budget Book Tutorial
  - The Budget book was presented, and the different components were discussed. A link to the pdf document was emailed to Supervisors and can also be found on the County website.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS** – none offered.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by R. Abraham/R. Erickson to adjourn at 7:55 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 1 absent - P. Scheller, 4 excused - R. Cornforth, S. Doyle, M. Nikolay and D. Wacek, 1 Vacant – District 5.

**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 11, 2023 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 25 OF SEPTEMBER 2023.**