

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, August 5, 2024 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 27 supervisors were present when Chair Tina Tryggestad 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	Leibold, Kelly	Present
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Pierce, David	Present
4	Freedland, Maureen	Present
5	Anderson, Emily	Present
6	Mathu, Grant	Present
7	Padesky, Gary	Present
8	Isola, Peg	Present
9	Wacek, Dawn	Present
10	Cable, Kim	Present
11	Scheller, Patrick	Excused
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	Present
19	Cornforth, Rick	Excused
20	Doyle, Steve	Present
21	Balduzzi, Dave	Present
22	Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23	Elam, Travis	Present
24	Hoyer, Kevin	Present
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26	Hundt, David	Present
27	Wuensch, Paul	Present
28	Rothering, Ron	Present
29	Schlimgen, Ken	Present
30	Mader, Dillon	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:
County Board Chair Report - Tina Tryggestad**

- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Chair Tryggestad noted that Overdose Awareness Day will be Thursday, August 7th and there will be a panel from 5-6pm at Fire Station #4.
 - Chair Tryggestad announced there will be a Blood Drive on August 7th and 8th and encouraged Supervisors to sign up and donate.

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- Any Supervisor who is interested in getting business cards printed up should contact Clerk Dankmeyer no later than Friday.
- Supervisor Hundt asked for clarification on what is going on with the County Farm.
- Supervisor Leibel took a tour of the entire Hillview Campus.
- Supervisor Padesky noted the VALTC is meeting tomorrow at Hillview and tours will be offered after the meeting.
- Supervisor Kovacevich attended the XeteX groundbreaking in Holmen.
- Supervisor Freedland took a tour from the WI Wildlife Federation of Hixon Forest.
- Supervisor Jacobsen noted the recent Counties Magazine has an article on what Brown County is doing to fight overdoses.

Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp

PROCLAMATION AUGUST 2024 - AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCES MONTH

WHEREAS, the Aging and Disability Resources Center of La Crosse County (ADRC) provides information and assistance to seniors, people with disabilities, caregivers, and family members in order to maintain the highest quality of life possible; and, **WHEREAS**, the ADRC provides congregate and home-delivered meal programs that allow residents to remain living independently in their own homes; and, **WHEREAS**, the ADRC works collaboratively to offer transportation services, caregiver support, organized activities, and educational options to assist persons in remaining as independent in the community as possible. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of August as Aging and Disability Resources Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to ensuring that all residents of La Crosse County live a healthy and productive life.

Motion by D. Ferries/J. Pogreba to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused – R. Cornforth, M. Larson and P. Scheller.

PROCLAMATION AUGUST 2024 - CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, La Crosse County recognizes children as our greatest resource; and **WHEREAS**, children living in La Crosse County should always have the financial and emotional support they need in order to be successful; and **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's Child Support Program ensures that parents take responsibility for the care and well-being of their children, supports the involvement of parents in their children's lives, and provides important services to both custodial and noncustodial parents; and **WHEREAS**, the La Crosse County Child Support agency collected more than **\$16 million** in child support in 2023; and **WHEREAS**, upholding the Child Support Program is an effective investment in Wisconsin's future as the program increases self-sufficiency, reduces child poverty, and has a positive effect on children's well-being; and **WHEREAS**, increased public awareness of the importance of providing children with the support they need and the services offered by the Child Support Program, through its county and tribal-child support agencies, benefits Wisconsin's children and families: **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of August as Child Support Enforcement Awareness Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to ensuring children receive the financial and emotional support they need to be successful.

Motion by M. Kruse/P. Isola to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused – R. Cornforth, M. Larson and P. Scheller.

- 2023 Financial Report – Finance Department
 - The Finance Department has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 18 consecutive years and Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for 9 consecutive years. The Finance Department is responsible for payroll, purchasing, budget, accounts payable, general accounting, annual audits, grant reporting and compliance, insurance, and debt management. Some highlights from the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) include the Enterprise funds showing positive financial results, Hillview Nursing Home incurred loss as expected, governmental fund balances showed positive financial results, the level of

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general obligation debt is in compliance with state statutes, and as of 12/31/2023 the general fund unassigned/available fund balance was at 50.4%. The overall general fund balance increased by \$1.8 million which is better than expected.

- Highlights from the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) include Education and Health Services as the largest non-farm employment at 23%, La Crosse County's equalized value has increased 69.3% over the last 10 years, the La Crosse area has maintained a lower unemployment rate than the State and Federal rates for the last 10 years, and La Crosse County owns and maintains over \$197 million of capital assets. La Crosse County's latest credit rating was "Aa1" – high quality and low credit risk to investors. This is the second highest debt rating.
- Single (Grant) Audit Highlights. There were \$24,989,473 in Federal Grant expenditures in 2023 and \$14,217,541 in State Grant expenditures in 2023. The largest federal grant was \$8.6 million for Medicaid and the largest state grant was \$2.8 million for Children's Long-term Support. \$3.9 million in ARPA dollars were spent and \$646,138 of Federal DOT grant for the West Salem Bike Bridge.
- Presentation of 2023 Annual Audit – Presented by Andrea Jansen of Baker Tilly
 - Audit of the County's financial statements for the year ended 12/31/2023 in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. An unmodified opinion was issued, and emphasis of matter related to the implementation of GASB No. 96, SIBTAs. Compliance and controls related to the Federal and State Grant expenditures were complete with the Single Audit with low-risk auditee status and fieldwork, testing, and reporting substantially completed. No deficiencies were identified that were material weaknesses and no uncorrected misstatements and no material audit adjustments were identified.
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Report
 - On April 21, 2021, a resolution was passed by the County Board declaring racism as a public health crisis. The DEIB report was designed into 10 goals, 47 objectives, 165 initiatives, and 496 performance measures. Goals from the plan include leadership, operations and services; plans, policies and budgets; workplace and workforce; inclusive community partnerships; communication and education; facility and system improvements; human services; justice and public safety; accessible technology and digital inclusion; and environmental equity. The next step for the report is to review and assess all 165 initiatives and determine if it is possible with the current resources, what the impact will be, how much effort is needed, how to engage the community, what additional funding is needed, and how much time will it take to implement these changes. For feasible initiatives, prioritize and determine who or what is responsible for each. If funding is required, Board approval would be requested.
- American Rescue Plan Act Report
 - The ARPA bill was signed into law on March 11, 2021. The goal was to aid economic recovery from the pandemic. \$350 billion was allocated to local governments. La Crosse County's portion was \$22.92 million which created a huge opportunity and huge challenge. Funds were required to be obligated by the end of 2024 and spend by the end of 2026. Areas of focus selected by the Board included sustainability and environmental protection, housing, child care, local economy and aging. The projects selected were COVID Response - \$705,000, Bridge Housing/Families - \$3,000,000, Skilled Trades Training - \$2,000,000, County Solar - \$1,500,000, Housing Redevelopment Grants - \$1,000,000, Stormwater Infrastructure - \$2,000,000, Community Events - \$90,000, Broadband Consultant - \$100,000, and Child Care Grants - \$500,000 for a total of \$10,895,000. Funds allocated for the Hillview Project were Hillview CBRF - \$5,000,000, Adult Bridge Housing - \$3,000,000, Intergenerational Center/Child Care - \$2,500,000, Veterans - \$500,000, and Housing Redevelopment Grants \$1,000,000 for a total of \$12,000,000. The projects funded will expand housing, increase sustainability, protect homes and infrastructure from

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flooding, improve workforce readiness, plan for broadband readiness, and transform Hillview.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Geary asked for an update on the County Farm and Village of West Salem.
- Supervisor Hundt asked for an update from the childcare providers who received ARPA Funds.
- Supervisor Jacobsen asked for an update on the small grants process for the budget.
- Supervisor Schlimgen inquired about a grant writer for the County.

ADJOURN

Motion by G. Mathu/K. Leibold to adjourn at 7:45 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 3 excused – R. Cornforth, M. Larson and P. Scheller.

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, August 5, 2024 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 6 OF AUGUST 2024.