

## **LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS; TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Reorganizational Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 23 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:

<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1	Leibold, Kelly	Present
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Pierce, David	Present
4	Freedland, Maureen	Excused
5	Anderson, Emily	Excused
6	Mathu, Grant	Present
7	Padesky, Gary	Present
8	Isola, Peg	Excused
9	Wacek, Dawn	Present
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	Present
20	Doyle, Steve	Present
21	Balduzzi, Dave	Present
22	Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23	Elam, Travis	Excused
24	Tweed, Kristie	Present at 06:18 PM
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Absent
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**

- Chair Tryggestad reminded Supervisors of the blood drive on Wednesday and Thursday; the County received a letter from the Department of Health Services to congratulate the Health Department for being certified as a Level 3 Health Department; a letter was also received thanking employees for supporting the Great Rivers Untied Way; a reminder was given for the Memorial Day Parade.

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- County Farm Update – The Executive Committee decided there was not enough information to make decisions regarding selling the County Farm.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Kruse noted she was appointed to a WCA Committee that will be updating their constitution.

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

- General Update
  - Administrator Klekamp noted the Veteran's Service Department held their Veterans Expo and connections were made with approximately 80 veterans and their families; this week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; Telecommunicator Supervisor Heather Hawes was featured in the Coulee Region Women's Magazine this month; Emergency Services is getting an updated enterprise system; 50 farmers and land owners attended the meeting for phase 2 of the Bostwick Creek Watershed Project; Veterans Memorial and Goose Island Parks opened today; thank you to everyone who voted in the Spring Election and all the Municipal Clerks, Poll Workers and Clerks' staff for their hard work; a vendor was approved for the compensation study; the Family and Children's Section of Human Services will host the brat barn on Friday, May 16 at the Copeland Avenue Festival Foods.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by K. Cable/G. Mathu to approve the minutes of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting held March 10, 2025 and the Monthly Meeting held March 20, 2025 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 23 ayes, 3 absent - D. Jacobsen, P. Scheller and K. Tweed, 4 excused - E. Anderson, T. Elam, M. Freedland and P. Isola.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Motion by G. Padesky/D. Pierce to reappoint Jessica Beck, Andrew Alvaro Rasmussen, Mike Baroni and Margaret Larson to the Criminal Justice Management Council for a three year term to expire April 30, 2028; reappoint Beth Clements and Dillon Mader to the Health & Human Services Board for a three year term to expire April 30, 2028; reappoint Bryan Meyer, Margaret Larson, John Parshall, Mari Pietz, and Cory Lynch to the Land Information Council for a three year term to expire April 30, 2028; appoint Lisa Kind to the Land Information Council for a three year term to expire April 30, 2028; reappoint Ralph Geary, Jarrod Holter and Steve Hodgen to the Solid Waste Policy Board for a three year term to expire April 30, 2028 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 23 ayes, 3 absent - D. Jacobsen, P. Scheller and K. Tweed, 4 excused - E. Anderson, T. Elam, M. Freedland and P. Isola.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 1-4/25 RE: URGING CONGRESS TO NOT MAKE DRAMATIC CUTS TO MEDICAID AND THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT FUNDING IN THE PROPOSED RECONCILIATION BILL**

**WHEREAS**, members of Congress are considering which of the substantial cuts in federal Medicaid program will be included in a reconciliation bill; and **WHEREAS**, the reconciliation bill may move rapidly through Congress before details of the cuts are fully understood and before the public and members of local government have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the impact of the cuts; and **WHEREAS**, cuts to Medicaid could significantly reduce Medicaid reimbursements to the county for mandated programs such as Children's Long-Term Support, Adult Family Care, and long-term elder care; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County provides specialized skilled nursing services primarily funded through Medicaid for over 135 years to individuals with complex needs; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County provides WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) services to children and families who are often adjunctively eligible due to participation in Medicaid funded programs, specifically BadgerCare Plus. **WHEREAS**, Federal Medicaid funding cuts will leave states and counties with a negative impact on their budgets as costs would become the responsibility of the state or county. These cuts would impact the ability to provide services for the disabled, elderly, or mentally ill; and **WHEREAS**, cuts to Medicaid and the Older Americans Act programs will hurt vulnerable individuals and families, workers who provide these services, and the healthcare and crisis workers when citizens experience health crises; and **WHEREAS**, Aging and Disability Resource Center's (ADRCs) in Wisconsin offer a strong return on investment while significantly

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enhancing the well-being of individuals across the state. In 2023, every \$1 invested into ADRCs in Wisconsin led to a savings of \$3.88; and **WHEREAS**, Older Americans Act funding is necessary to continue the senior nutrition program, that includes home delivered meals and congregate dining. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors requests and urges elected representatives to preserve Medicaid and Older American Act funding in budget reconciliation bills. The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors urges citizens to contact their legislators to reject proposals that reduce federal Medicaid and Older Americans Act funding; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a copy of the resolution shall be sent to Wisconsin state and federal legislators and the Wisconsin Counties Association. **FISCAL NOTE:** No fiscal impact to La Crosse County.

#### **VETERANS, AGING AND LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

Motion by G. Padesky/R. Cornforth to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 23 ayes, 3 absent - D. Jacobsen, P. Scheller and K. Tweed, 4 excused - E. Anderson, T. Elam, M. Freedland and P. Isola.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Motion by K. Cable/M. Larson to reappoint Lynn Valiquette to the La Crosse County Ethics Board for a three year term to expire April 30, 2028 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 2 absent - D. Jacobsen and P. Scheller, 4 excused - E. Anderson, T. Elam, M. Freedland and P. Isola.

Motion by K. Cable/J. Kovacevich to reappoint Steve Mader to the La Crosse County Ethics Board as the 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate for a three year term to expire April 30, 2028 passed on a voice vote with 23 ayes, 1 abstention - D. Mader, 2 absent - D. Jacobsen and P. Scheller, 4 excused - E. Anderson, T. Elam, M. Freedland and P. Isola.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2-4/25 RE: SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF THE PRAIRIE SPRINGS SCIENCE CENTER COMPLETION PROJECT IN THE 2025-2027 STATE BIENNIAL BUDGET**  
**WHEREAS**, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL) has experienced consistent enrollment growth over the past decade, establishing itself as a high-demand institution among the Universities of Wisconsin campuses, with a strong capacity to fill critical labor shortages in the State of Wisconsin and the La Crosse region; and **WHEREAS**, the Prairie Springs Science Center Completion Project aims to increase UWL's capacity to educate students in crucial fields connected to healthcare, manufacturing, food processing, and education, which are vital to our regional and state workforce; and **WHEREAS**, the completion of the Prairie Springs Science Center will provide instructional spaces of varying capacities, from smaller classrooms seating 25 students to larger lecture spaces accommodating up to 150 students, in addition to collaborative spaces that will foster student engagement, research, and innovation; and **WHEREAS**, the Prairie Springs Science Center will replace the outdated Cowley Hall, a 54-year-old facility that no longer meets the educational and technological standards which are valued in contemporary science, technology, and math instruction; and **WHEREAS**, the estimated project budget, requested at approximately \$186 million in the 2023-2025 biennial budget, includes the demolition of Cowley Hall and construction of new facilities, thereby addressing critical space, functionality, and safety needs for current and future UWL students; and **WHEREAS**, UWL is actively collaborating with local economic and industry partners, including employers and manufacturers in La Crosse County, to align educational programming and planning with workforce needs, thus strengthening the economic foundation of our community and fostering opportunities for students to connect with regional employment pathways; and **WHEREAS**, the approval of this project would infuse state funds into our local economy, enhance UWL's role as a key local economic engine, and support the preparation of students for high-demand jobs in our communities and workforce; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board supports the inclusion of the Prairie Springs Science Center Completion Project at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in the 2025-2027 State Biennial Budget; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Tony Evers and the La Crosse state legislative delegation. **FISCAL NOTE:** No fiscal impact.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Cable/R. Cornforth to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 2 absent - D. Jacobsen and P. Scheller, 4 excused - E. Anderson, T. Elam, M. Freedland and P. Isola.

## ORDINANCE NO. 218-4/25 TO AMEND S. 4.02, "SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE" OF CHAPTER 4 ("FINANCE") 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. Section 4.02 is amended to read:

#### 4.02 SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE.

- (1) ELECTION TO PROCEED UNDER S. 75.521, WIS. STATS., IN RELATION TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF COLLECTION OF TAX LIENS. From and after February 18, 1982, the County elects to adopt the provisions of s. 75.521, Wis. Stats., for the purpose of enforcing tax liens in this County in the cases where the procedure provided by such section is applicable, and the County Treasurer need not, thereafter, proceed upon its tax sale certificates in cases where such section is applicable in any of the other methods provided by Ch. 75, Wis. Stats., or its charter provisions, but may do so at his or her option.
- (2) CHARGES FOR IN REM FORECLOSURES. In all cases where the County elects to enforce tax liens pursuant to s. 75.521, Wis. Stats., or any amendments thereto, a charge for the fees and costs incurred by the County in foreclosing the tax lien shall be assessed as a redemption cost and shall be determined by the County Board, subject to change from time to time.
- (3) DEFINITIONS. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except when the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
  - (a) **Beneficiary** shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Wis. Stat. § 851.03
  - (b) **Heir** means any person, including the surviving spouse, who is entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to an interest in property of a decedent. [See Wis. Stat. § 851.09]
  - (c) **Owner-Occupied, Single-Family Residence** means any single-family residential unit used by one family which owns the property as their permanent and primary residence and, upon request, is able to provide the County Treasurer with evidence establishing the satisfaction of these terms (e.g., a utility bill.)
  - (d) **Tax-deeded lands** shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in Wis. Stat. § 75.35(1).
- (4) ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TAX-DEEDED LANDS
  - (a) The County shall comply with the provisions of Wis. Stats. §§ 75.35, 75.36 and 75.69 in the disposition of tax-deeded lands.
  - (b) Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 75.35(2)(d), the County Board of Supervisors hereby delegates to the County Treasurer the power to acquire, manage and sell tax-deeded lands including the power to determine which properties to acquire
  - (c) Within 20 days of the County's acquisition of a tax-deeded land, the Treasurer shall notify the former owner, by registered mail or certified mail sent to the former owner's mailing address on the tax bill, that the former owner may be entitled to a share of the proceeds of a future sale of the tax-deeded land.
  - (d) Within 120 days of the County's acquisition of a tax-deeded land, the Treasurer shall determine the appraised value of the tax-deeded land. The appraisal may be made by a certified appraiser as defined in Wis. Stat. § 458.01(7).
  - (e) The following provisions in this Section (e) relate to tax-deeded lands that are owner-occupied, single-family residences. This Section (e) may, in the sole discretion of the Treasurer be applied to tax-deeded lands that are not owner-occupied, single-family residences.
    1. Within 60 days of the County's acquisition of a tax-deeded land, the Treasurer shall provide notice to the former owner, the former owners heirs or the former owners beneficiaries right to repurchase the tax-deeded land. Such notice shall be mailed to the former owner's last known address on file with the Treasurer.

2. If a former owner of tax-deeded land, or such former owner's heir or beneficiary, notifies the Treasurer of an intent to repurchase the tax-deeded land within 90 days of the date the County acquired the tax-deeded land, the Treasurer shall order a title report from a title insurance company showing all liens of record against the tax-deeded land in existence on the day prior to the judgment of foreclosure in favor of the County, the cost of which shall be paid in advance by the person notifying the Treasurer of the intent to repurchase the tax-deeded land.
  3. If the former owner, or such former owner's heir or beneficiary, provides proof of satisfaction of all liens of record as established in the title report within 30 days of the date of the title report, the Treasurer shall convey the tax-deeded land to the former owner, or such former owner's heir or beneficiary, by quit-claim deed provided the former owner, or such former owner's heir or beneficiary, has provided the County with funds necessary to satisfy all costs and expenses due the County as provided in Wis. Stat. § 75.35(3).
- (f) Unless a tax-deeded land is repurchased under Section (4)(e), within 240 days of the County's acquisition of a tax-deeded land or 180 days for tax-deeded lands acquired on or after January 1, 2026 the Treasurer shall publish on the County's website and either (i) publish a class 1 notice or (ii) advertise on a multiple listing service the availability of a tax-deeded land for purchase and the appraised value of the tax-deeded land, as determined in Section (4)(d). The publications shall include information regarding the method of sale to be utilized.

**Section 2.** This Ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication.

**TINA TRYGGESTAD, COUNTY BOARD CHAIR;  
GINNY DANKMEYER, COUNTY CLERK.**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Motion by K. Cable/D. Mader to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 2 absent - D. Jacobsen and P. Scheller, 4 excused - E. Anderson, T. Elam, M. Freedland and P. Isola.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 3-4/25 RE: URGING GOVERNOR EVERS AND THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE COUNTY COURTS**

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, the total cost to Wisconsin Counties for running all Circuit Courts was \$237 million. At the same time, the Court Support funding from the state to counties was \$28 million, 12 percent of the actual cost to run the local courts; and, **WHEREAS**, the Circuit Court system is intended to be a state-county partnership; and **WHEREAS**, the state's fiscal responsibilities include Judges, Court reporters, CCAP equipment, and the Circuit Court Cost Appropriation; and, **WHEREAS**, the Counties are fiscally responsible for the majority of other functions of the court, including, but not limited to the following: bailiffs and court security officers, courthouse building maintenance, phones and utilities, Clerk of Court and Register in Probate, staff salaries and benefits, jury costs, psychological exams, guardians ad litem and court-appointed attorneys, expert witnesses, interpreters and translation fees, court commissioners, law libraries, corporation counsel, courtroom technology and audio visuals, copying machines and other non-CCAP office technology, office supplies, furniture, recruitment and training, financial collection efforts, mail fees, printing costs, exhibit and file storage, access to state data, insurance, service of court documents, judicial staff attorneys, and equipment repair; and, **WHEREAS**, over the last 10 years, the increase in the county portion of cost to run the courts is nearly six times higher than the increase in Circuit Court Cost Appropriations provided to cover these costs, and counties now pay almost \$150,000,000 more than the state in unbalanced Circuit Court costs. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors that La Crosse County joins the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association (WCCCA) and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) in their efforts to increase the Circuit Court Cost Appropriation by \$70 million payable to Wisconsin Counties in the 2025/27 Wisconsin State Budget. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall be effective upon its passage and publication and a copy be sent to Governor Evers and all Wisconsin State Legislators representing La Crosse County. **FISCAL NOTE:** No fiscal impact.

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**JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE**

Motion by D. Wacek/G. Padesky to approve. Motion by S. Doyle/R. Geary to amend by adding the Joint Finance Committee to the list of places to send the resolution to, passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 2 absent - D. Jacobsen and P. Scheller, 4 excused - E. Anderson, T. Elam, M. Freedland and P. Isola. The motion to approve as amended passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 2 absent - D. Jacobsen and P. Scheller, 4 excused - E. Anderson, T. Elam, M. Freedland and P. Isola.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

- Supervisor Hundt asked for an update from the Lake District and to begin negotiations with the West Salem School District on the County Farm.
- Supervisor Geary asked for an update on Hillview.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by G. Mathu/J. Pogreba to adjourn at 6:24 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 24 ayes, 2 absent - D. Jacobsen and P. Scheller, 4 excused - E. Anderson, T. Elam, M. Freedland and P. Isola.

**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 Reorganizational Meeting held Tuesday, April 15, 2025 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 16 OF APRIL 2025.**