

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, January 6, 2025 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 27 supervisors were present when Chair Tina Tryggstad 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	Present
12 Erickson, Randy	Present
13 Tryggstad, 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	Excused
21 Balduzzi, Dave	Present
22 Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23 Elam, Travis	Present at 06:13 PM
24 Vacant	
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 Tryggstad

- Supervisors interested in a tour of the airport should sign up.
- District 24 Vacancy Update – Interviews will be held on January 22nd and any Supervisor wanted to attend must be present by 5pm to participate.
- Supervisor Conference Reports – none offered.

Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp

PROCLAMATION JANUARY 2025 - HIGHWAY SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION MONTH

WHEREAS, the dedicated staff of the La Crosse County Highway Department work tirelessly around the clock, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to construct, maintain, and improve safe and reliable roads for residents, businesses, and visitors; and, **WHEREAS**, in 2024, the Highway Department replaced 23 failing culverts, paved 14.8 miles of roadway, and upgraded 5,200 feet of flex beam guardrail, all while overseeing the management of 280 miles of county highways, 157 miles of state trunk highways, and 72 county bridges; and, **WHEREAS**, the ongoing efforts of the Highway Department ensure the safety and mobility of all who travel through La Crosse County, reinforcing the County's dedication to the well-being of its residents and visitors alike. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims the month of January 2025 as La Crosse County Highway Safety and Transportation Month and recognizes the valuable contribution of all work to maintain and improve the safety and reliability of our roadways.

Motion by J. Pogreba/D. Ferries to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 2 excused - S. Doyle and T. Elam, 1 vacant - District 24.

- Review of Metropolitan Planning Organization – Due to a scheduling conflict, this report will be moved to the January 16th Monthly Meeting.
- Outline of La Crosse Regional Airport Minimum Revenue Guarantee Fund
 - Airport Director Jeffrey Tripp presented on the Minimum Revenue Guarantee Fund. Challenges facing LSE are the air service competition, operating environments, and securing new services. Delta used to have offer services to Detroit and Minneapolis, but Detroit was exited in early 2022 and Minneapolis was changed to 1x per say and exited in June 2023. LSE Air Service Goals include to re-establish the Delta service to MSP, add additional service to ORD with either AA or UA, establish United Service to DEN, American service to DFW, low cost carrier service to Florida (seasonal) and low cost carrier service to Las Vegas or Phoenix (seasonal). Initiatives to enhance air service would include airport incentive programs, Small Community Air Service Development Grant or establishing a Minimum Revenue Guarantee (MRG). MRGs are a common tool used to attract airlines, especially when initiating new routes or increasing service frequency. MRG money comes from three sources: Airport Incentive Program funds, Small Community Air Service Development Grant, and/or local private sector contributions. The goal is \$750,000 to match the \$750,000 SCASD Grant, if awarded. After every month, if ticket revenue does not meet or exceed the pre-negotiated level, the MRG fund compensates for the shortfall only during the two-year start-up period. Only a portion of the local funds are used during the initial drawdown of the MRG funds and that ratio includes primarily grant money and only a part of the local fund is used first. If enough tickets are purchased, the MRG is never used, and the funds are given back to the donors after the two-year period. Airport revenue may be used to fund costs of activities directed at promoting competition at an airport and a share of promotional expenses such as marketing and advertising designed to increase travel at the airport. Revenue may not fund destination or tourism marketing, general economic development not related to the airport, or marking/promotional activities unrelated to airports or airport systems.
- Overview of Outside Funding Requests
 - Associate Administrator Sara Koopman presented on outside funding requests. The purpose of this overview is to define the problem with the current process, provide historical information regarding the process as well as relevant statutes and guidelines, and provide recommendations and alternatives for further discussion. Any outside organization can submit requests to the County Administrator or County Supervisor at any time. Non-profits can make requests during public comment and any County Supervisor can make a motion during the annual budget meeting to add additional funding for organizations to the budget. Ordinance 4.07(6) has guidelines on how Fund Balance should be utilized with emphasis on capital, debt repayment and other non-recurring expenditures. A significant amount of time is spent by Supervisors, staff and non-profit

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organizations. \$273, 321 was added to the budget for various non-profits. In 2017, the Attorney General was asked if County Boards are authorized to appropriate funds to a nonprofit food pantry and the response was, they should not make such an appropriation. Based on actual amounts from 2023, every \$3 million reduction in our unassigned general fund balance would decrease the ratio of fund balance to expense by 7.2%. Changes to policy, practice and procedure can not eliminate last minute funding requests for board approval during the annual budget, only an ordinance change can do this. Staff recommendation would be for an ordinance change that indicates non-profits could only receive funding through contractual agreements as part of the normal budgeting/planning process by departments and the County Administrator. Funding could be granted to other governmental units.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by E. Anderson/G. Mathu to adjourn at 7:34 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 1 excused - S. Doyle, 1 vacant – District 24.

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 Monday, January 6, 2025 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 15 OF JANUARY 2025.