

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, November 3, 2025 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 29 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	Present
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	Present
21 Balduzzi, Dave	Present - Remote
22 Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23 Elam, Travis	Present
24 Tweed, Kristie	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

- Chair Update – An email will come out next week with the administrator’s evaluation, please make sure to respond; the deadline to sign up for WCHA Winter Road School is December 5th; Hillview Tours will be Tuesday from 3-4:30pm; the public hearing for the SMRT Bus will be Thursday at 4:30pm; the public hearing for the budget and annual meeting will be on Monday, November 10th at 5pm; if you have any budget amendments, please make sure you get them to the clerk prior

to the meeting; and let the Chair know if any supervisor is interested in serving on the WRLS Board.

- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Isola attended the Economic Indicators at UWL and the topic was on housing updates.
 - Supervisor Jacobsen attended the Towns Association meeting with State Representatives and encouraged the towns to reach out to legislators when applying for grants.
 - Supervisor Pogreba acknowledged the first responders, highway department and Sheriff Deputies regarding the detour from an accident earlier in the week.
 - Supervisor Kruse attended a LADCO sponsored Dairyland Power event, the Chamber of Commerce Woman's Leadership Summit, she distributed a brochure from the La Crosse Lighthouse that provides support for people going through substance abuse crisis and also attended the Economic Indicators and encouraged filling out the survey included in the County Connections.

County Clerk Report – Ginny Dankmeyer

- Campaign papers were distributed to supervisors and Clerk Dankmeyer explained the forms and deadline for filing.

Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp

PROCLAMATION NOVEMBER 2025 - VETERANS MONTH

WHEREAS, the La Crosse County Veterans Service Office is dedicated to honoring and supporting veterans and their families in recognition of the service, bravery, and sacrifices made by veterans for La Crosse County, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States; and, **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County holds a deep respect for the achievements and sacrifices of veterans, acknowledging their contributions to our nation; and, **WHEREAS**, the Veterans Service Office upholds a strong commitment to leadership and advocacy on behalf of veterans in La Crosse County, ensuring their needs and well-being are prioritized; and, **WHEREAS**, the commitment to service excellence is demonstrated through tireless efforts to assist veterans with accessing vital state and federal programs, meeting the highest standards of care and dedication. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims November 2025 as La Crosse County Veterans Month and encourages all residents to honor and recognize the invaluable contributions our veterans have made to our collective future.

Motion by K. Cable/P. Wuensch to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - R. Cornforth.

- Veterans Services Overview – Presented by Veterans Service Officer Jane Brannan Tamboli
 - Total VA expenditures in La Crosse County in FY23 was \$103,572,000 and in FY24 it was \$116,918,726. That was an increase of \$13,346,726. The fiscal year runs from October 1 – September 30 and these numbers don't include Home Loan Guaranty money. The Veterans Service Office averages 663 calls per month, 245 in person contacts, and 49 outreach/community office hours per month. Some of the outreach includes 11 recurring community office hours sites, Veterans Expo, 2 veterans benefit checkups, YMCA Wellness Warriors, Bee Well Senior Fair, Festival Foods Hero's Café, Heats On La Crosse, Tomah VA Medical Center Town Hall, Congressman Van Orden Veterans' Roundtable, ADRC Senior Fair, and 7 presentations at assisted living facilities.
- Budget Overview – Administrator Klekamp and Associate Administrator Sara Koopman
 - SMRT Bus – Regional bus service started in 2012 with 13 routes connecting Prairie du Chien, Viroqua, Tomah, and points in between to the City of La Crosse. This was funded by state, federal and local sources, is administered by La Crosse County and operated under contract by Running, Inc. SMRT Bus projected expenses for 2026 are \$747,716. La Crosse County Board committed to \$30,000/year and contributions in 2025 went from \$30,000 to \$120,000. Projected costs in 2026 are \$157,000 for La Crosse County and that does not include staff time. Ridership is down 12.5% in 2025 with 30 daily riders on average across all 13 routes at a system cost per one-way ride being \$43. Funding is not

included in the Administrator's 2026 budget. Many partner counties, municipalities and organizations have removed funding from 2026 budgets, and none are willing to administer the SMRT Bus. Running Inc has been given the 90-day notice of our intent to not renew their contract, the Wisconsin DOT has been notified, public notice has been given and a public hearing will be held on November 6th at 4:30pm. The Board will vote on the budget on November 10th.

- Budget Questions – La Crosse County received \$23 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in 2021 and had to have all funds obligated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. Family Bridge Housing was identified as a top priority. In October 2022, an RFP was released with responses from Catholic Charities and Couleecap with letters of support from New Horizons and the YWCA. In December of 2022, the County Board approved a resolution for \$3 million for Family Bridge Housing to purchase, rehab and maintain scattered-site housing. In March 2023 the Executive Committee approved the agreement and in June 2025 the committee approved the revised MOU with future approvals to go through Health and Human Services Committee. The revised MOU allows the County to determine who enters the rentals and how much rent is paid. Community partners wanted to choose renters based on income. The County negotiated a 55% HUD fair market rent guarantee based on projected costs and the County already budgets for family assistance. No money has been spent this year and \$150,000 has been budgeted for 2026. 2025 includes \$23,692 in rental costs to Catholic Charities and Couleecap and have yet to be paid. 16 properties have been purchased with 13 units occupied and housing 56 individuals.
- Use of General Fund Balance – Use of General Fund Balance in 2026 includes \$820,000 for Facilities capital; \$360,088 for 911 radio upgrade; \$462,052 for Sheriff capital; \$200,000 for the La Crosse Center; \$100,000 for Goose Island bike trail; \$92,000 for IT capital; \$40,000 for Emergency Services Tower lease; and \$33,000 for MPO rail crossing study. Outside requests must meet four criteria: is a government entity, County has supported similar projects in the past, meets needs of County, and County is not the primary source of funds. Year 1 allocation for the Opioid Plan is \$689,9000. Pathways Home is a 5-year plan, not a line item and is a plan for existing budgeted resources.
- Discretionary Funding – The 2026 budget includes \$208,809,400 in expenses with a total levy of \$38.7 million which is an increase of 2.1% from last year. Discretionary funding allocated in the 2026 budget is \$67 million and the total amount in the budget for Human Services is \$70.2 million with 65.8% of that coming from Federal and State funding. The 2026 budget maintains exceptional service to the public, reduces debt while keeping a strong fund balance, supports more than 1,000 family wage jobs, and advances Strategic Plan initiatives to strengthen the economy, improve housing access, promote sustainability, and support public safety.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by E. Anderson/G. Mathu to adjourn at 7:44 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - R. Cornforth.

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, November 3, 2025 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 NOVEMBER 2025.