

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MONTHLY MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting was held on Thursday, September 17, 2026 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	Allen, Kathy	Present
5	Anderson, Emily	Present
6	Mathu, Grant	Present
7	Piggush, Beth	Present
8	Isola, Peg	Present
9	Manke, Angie	Present
10	Cable, Kim	Present
11	Scheller, Patrick	Present
12	Erickson, Randy	Present
13	Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14	Duffrin, Steven	Present
15	Kruse, Monica	Present
16	Ferries, Dan	Present
17	Manock, Lia	Present
18	Drazkowski, Joanna	Present
19	McBride, Anna	Present
20	Doyle, Steve	Excused
21	Fimreite, Jeff	Present
22	Kovacevich, Joe	Present a
23	Carty, Joseph	Present at 06:05 PM
24	Tweed, Kristie	Present
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26	Clements, Beth	Excused
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 WCA conference next week and encouraged carpooling.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Piggush attended the UW Extension Reset all day renewable energy academy.

(51-26/27)

- Supervisor Allen attended the Bluffland Coalition meeting and they are finalizing an updated strategic plan.
- Supervisor Jacobsen noted the 9/11 anniversary and the lives lost and lives we continue to lose from this event.
- Supervisor Geary attended the La Crosse Center Board meeting and toured the buildings and the planned updates.
- Supervisor Kruse attended the Chamber luncheon on Leader Ethics.
- Supervisor Schlimgen shared a summary on the Workforce Development Board and asked for anyone willing to serve as a board member.
- Supervisor Cable noted the Haven on Main open house and ribbon cutting on October 8th at 10am.
- Supervisor Fimreite attended a UW Extension Workshop on Lake Onalaska and others who use the lake to address the issues facing the lake.
- Supervisor Wuensch attended a quarterly Towns Association meeting on August 27th and encouraged others to attend these meetings.

Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp

- UW Extension Overview – Director Sarah Torbert
 - Programs in UW Extension include 4-H Youth Development with leadership and inclusivity; Human Development and Relationships that supports individuals, families and communities with research based education to build healthy relationships and well being across all life stages; Agriculture and Horticulture that covers 4 counties and offers workshops on topics relevant to the area; Community Development Education to offer programs focuses on leadership, organizational growth, food systems, economic development, and local government; and Health and Well Being through FoodWise that partnered with schools, food pantries and farmer markets to promote healthy eating choices. The value of Extension in La Crosse County provides local presence and trust, building resilient communities and research-based education.
- La Crosse Regional Airport Report – Director Lauren Koss and Assistant Director JD Roberts
 - The airport is working on rehabilitating the airport fire station and closing the 3rd runway which is underused and too costly to make improvements. Air service at the airport has grown over the last few years due to funding from the County. The guaranteed funding was used as an incentive and brought Allegiant Air to LSE. They currently have 3 routes. United Airlines plans to start routes from LSE in October 2027 and the delays are due to construction at Chicago O'Hare and limitation on flights allowed there.
- Multi County Transit Commission Outcome Measure
 - MPO Director Bob Gollnick reviewed the new outcome measure being added to the strategic plan and being voted on at tonight's meeting.
- General Update
 - The La Crosse County WEC team received the 2026 Gold Breast Feeding Award of Excellence from the USDA; there are now 5 tenants housed from the Pathways Home Program; the Goose Island Bike Trail should be completed at the end of the month; Administrator Klekamp and Deputy Administrator Koopman participated in the Highway Safety Day at the Highway Department.
- 2027 Budget Overview
 - Strategic directions include continuous improvement, data driven decision making, exceptional communication, and invest in staff and grow future leaders. The total revenue is \$209,583,119 and that comes from Federal and State, property taxes, sales tax, public charges and fund balance. Funding goes to Human Services 36%, General Government 17.4%, Sheriff 8.01%, Long Term Care 13.13%, Highway 10.37%, Solid Waste 7.86%, Debt Service 3.21%, Health 2.62%, and Library 1.4%. 2027 budget facts include a \$209.6 million balanced budget (+.11% from 2026), departments working hard to keep spending

in check despite rising costs, pay will increase on average 4% for staff (3% step increase plus 1% across the board raise), contracting out Mediation Services with a savings of \$300,000, and employee health premiums will go up 30% along with significant increases in deductibles to deal with rising costs. 49.16% of the budget goes to salary and benefits, 39.13% to operating costs, 8.50% for capital improvements and 3.21% for debt. Highlights of the budget include 12.5 miles of highway construction, \$150,000 allocated for new website, \$150,000 to switch to priority-based budgeting for 2028, \$500,000 for new election equipment and software, and \$280,000 to support 3 new crisis positions at Integrated Support and Recovery Services. County debt has gone down \$49 million since 2021. 2027 Capital improvements include a robot mower at Hillview, Carroll Heights elevator replacement, secondary exit scale at Solid Waste, Goose Island shelter renovation, and HHS Building HVAC control upgrades. The next steps for the budget will be a link to view the Administrator's Recommended Budget online, budget presentations to committees through October, detailed budget presentation at October board meeting, and the public hearing and budget discussion on November 9th.

PROCLAMATION SEPTEMBER 2026 - LIBRARIES & UW EXTENSION MONTH

WHEREAS, La Crosse County residents rely on research-based educational programs that strengthen agricultural producers, businesses, local governments, communities, families, and youth; and **HEREAS**, the La Crosse County Library serves the community through its five locations in Bangor, Campbell, Holmen, Onalaska, and West Salem, providing welcoming spaces for learning and connection; and **WHEREAS**, UW-Extension delivers university research and expertise directly to La Crosse County through its work in Agriculture and Horticulture; Community, Natural Resources, and Economic Development; and 4-H & Youth Development; and **WHEREAS**, UW-Extension educators and local library staff share a mission to empower residents, foster life-long learning, and build a more informed and connected community. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims September as La Crosse County Libraries and UW-Extension Month.

Motion by P. Isola/E. Anderson to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by K. Cable/M. Kruse reappoint Allan Beatty, AJ Clause, Bradley Weber, Mike Burnin, and Cullen Bosworth to the Civilian Review Board for a term to end November 30, 2028. Motion by D. Jacobsen/D. Ferries to postpone the vote. Discussion ensued. The motion to postpone the vote failed on a voice vote with 26 nays, 2 ayes - D. Ferries and D. Jacobsen, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle. The motion to reappoint passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by G. Mathu/E. Anderson to approve the minutes of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting held August 10, 2026 and the Monthly Meeting held August 20, 2026 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle.

ORDINANCE NO. 233-9/26 TO AMEND S. 7.02 OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN REGARDING PARKING REGULATIONS

The County Board of supervisors of the County of La Crosse does hereby ordain as follows:

Section 1:

7.02 PARKING REGULATIONS.

(1) **NO PARKING EXCEPT FOR AUTHORIZED VEHICLES.** No person shall stop or park any vehicle in any County-owned area designated for vehicular parking except as authorized by the Facilities Department. Maps designating the parking areas shall be on file at the Facilities Department.

(2) **NO PARKING AREAS.** Parking is prohibited in the following areas:

(a) County Trunk B from a point .184 miles west of County Trunk M to a point .089 miles south of Marking Road.

(b) On the west side of County Road B (Bainbridge St) from a point .052 south of Elm St to a point .09 south of Elm St.

- (c) On the west side of County Road B (Bainbridge St) from a point .044 north of County Road BW (Goddard St) to the intersection of County Road B and County Road BW.
- (d) On the west side of County Road B (Bainbridge St) from a point .024 north of Clinton St to the intersection of County Road B and Clinton St.
- (e) On the west side of County Road C from 83' south to 113' south of the intersection with County Road D in Mindoro

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect the day after passage and publication as required by law.

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

PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Motion by J. Kovacevich/J. Fimreite to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-9/26 RE: ADOPTION OF CONTRACT FOR LEER/WPPA UNION EMPLOYEES FOR 2026, 2027 AND 2028

WHEREAS, La Crosse County and the representatives from the Sheriff Deputy Union have concluded collective bargaining negotiations; and, **WHEREAS**, the parties have reached a tentative agreement pending approval by the County Board and ratification by the Union members. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the tentative base wage adjustment will be 10% from January 1, 2026; 3% from January 1, 2027, and 4% from January 1, 2028, for all covered employees under the collective bargaining agreement. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that following the necessary approvals, the Finance Department and Human Resources Department are authorized to take the necessary actions to implement the contractual base wage increases, effective January 1, 2026. **FISCAL NOTE:** There is sufficient funding within the 2026 departmental budget and budget savings to cover the 2026 estimated cost of \$285,200. Additional costs are estimated at \$106,100 in 2027 and \$139,000 in 2028.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by D. Pierce/S. Duffrin to approve. Discussion ensued. Administrator Klekamp responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Engaged and Empowered Employees

- Previous Outcome Measure - Wages at or above market rate by 2029
- New Outcome Measure - Achieve and maintain an employee engagement score of 100% favorable by 2029, with questions tied to trust in leadership, supervisor support, communication, belonging, and intent to stay.

Healthy Infrastructure

- New Outcome Measure - Collaborate with the MPO to investigate "Multi-County Transit Commission," "Multi-Jurisdictional Transit Commission," or similar organization structure, as a means to establish fast and reliable public transportation alternatives to meet the needs of all La Crosse county residents, including those with mobility barriers. This organization would also gather perspective from municipal partners to act on the investigation's recommendation.

Sustainable and Affordable Housing

- Previous Outcome Measure - Complete housing study by 2026
- New Outcome Measure - Work with West Salem to implement phased approach to development of County Farm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion by D. Pierce/K. Cable to approve. Discussion ensued. Motion by D. Jacobsen/R. Rothering to retain the outcome measure for reliable high-speed internet by 2029. Discussion ensued. The motion

to amend failed on a roll call vote with 18 nays, 10 ayes - R. Erickson, D. Ferries, R. Geary, D. Jacobsen, J. Kovacevich, M. Kruse, A. McBride, R. Rothering, P. Scheller and K. Schlimgen, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle. Motion by L. Manock/K. Leibold to amend Healthy Infrastructure New Outcome Measure to read: Collaborate with the MPO to investigate "Multi-County Transit Commission," "Multi-Jurisdictional Transit Commission," or similar organization structure, as a means to establish fast and reliable public transportation alternatives to meet the needs of all La Crosse county residents, including those with mobility barriers. This organization would also gather perspective from municipal partners to act on the investigation's recommendation. Discussion ensued. The motion to amend passed on a roll call vote with 15 ayes, 13 nays - E. Anderson, K. Cable, S. Duffrin, D. Ferries, R. Geary, D. Jacobsen, J. Kovacevich, D. Mader, G. Mathu, R. Rothering, K. Schlimgen, T. Tryggstad and P. Wuensch, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle. The motion to approve as amended passed on a voice vote with 27 ayes, 1 nay - S. Duffrin, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle.

ZONING ORDINANCE NO. Z477-9/26 RE: PETITION NO. 2101 FILED BY MELISSA EMBRY TRUST TO REZONE FROM THE EXCLUSIVE AGRICULTURE DISTRICT TO THE RESIDENTIAL A DISTRICT FOR A FUTURE RESIDENCE IN THE TOWN OF HAMILTON

The La Crosse County Planning, Resources and Development Committee, having considered Petition No. 2101 to amend the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance filed by: Melissa Embry Trust, N7128 Walnut St, Holmen, WI 54636 and having held a public hearing on Monday, August 31, 2026 for a ZONING PETITION to rezone from the Exclusive Agriculture District to the Residential A District for a future residence in accordance with La Crosse County Ch. 17.21. Ordinance text amendments and zoning map amendments in the Town of Hamilton and described as follows: CSM No. 93, Vol 20 Lot 8, Sec. 26, T.17N, R.6W. Tax parcel 7-930-6. Property address: Old Highway 16, Town of Hamilton. And pursuant to s. 59.69(5)(e)2. Wis. Stats. and s. 17.21 Zoning Code: the Committee did publish and receive proof of a Class II notice of the hearing; did receive receipts of mailing of the notices to the affected Town Clerk(s); did hold a public hearing to hear testimony or correspondence from the people; and, did receive and consider action from the affected Town Board(s). The Committee, under s. 59.69(5)(e)4., Wis. Stats., along with the affected Town Board(s), under s.59.69(5)(e)3., Wis. Stats., have the authority to approve or to disapprove of the application. Having considered the entire record, the Committee's recommendation is to: By a vote of SIX (6) in favor (Schlimgen, Isola, Scheller, Duffrin, Allen, Wuensch), ZERO (0) in opposition, and ONE (1) excused (Cable), the committee recommended Approval of ZONING PETITION No. 2101 subject to no conditions. THE COUNTY BOARD took the following action this 17th of September 2026. Approved as outlined.

PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Motion by K. Schlimgen/P. Scheller to approve as recommended by the Committee passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by E. Anderson/G. Mathu to adjourn at 7:51 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 28 ayes, 2 excused - B. Clements and S. Doyle.

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 Thursday, September 17, 2026 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 18 OF SEPTEMBER 2026.