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**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, AUGUST 09, 2010**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, August 09, 2010 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. The County Clerk, Linda Stone, took roll call. 31 were present when Chair Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:03 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	Richmond, Andrea	Present
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Feehan, Bill	Present
4	Johnson, Jai	Present; Excused at 08:07 PM
5	Konkel, Bradley	Present; Excused at 08:13 PM
6	Billings, Jill	Present at 06:06 PM
7	Plesha, Roger	Present
8	Freedland, Maureen	Present
9	Hampson, Sharon	Present
10	Wood, Margaret	Present
11	Kader, Audrey	Present
12	Flood, Bridget	Present
13	Brockmiller, Bill	Present
14	Medinger, John	Present; Excused at 08:13 PM
15	Mach, Beverly	Present
16	Sebranek, Gerald	Excused
17	Meyer, Donald	Present
18	Johnson, Tara	Excused
19	Keil, Robert	Present
20	Bina, Donald	Present
21	Manthei, Dennis	Present
22	Ebert, Ray	Present
23	Gamroth, Tammy	Present
24	Pfaff, Leon	Present; Excused at 07:20 PM
25	Schroeder, Jeffrey	Present
26	Burke, Vicki	Present
27	Pedretti, Marilyn	Present
28	Doyle, Steve	Present
29	Kruse, Monica	Present
30	Spiker, Charles	Present
31	Ferries, Dan	Present
32	Benrud, Arlene	Present
33	Berns, Jim	Absent
34	Wehrs, Tina	Present
35	Bilskemper, Joe	Present

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Steve Doyle

- County Board Picnic: Be sure to notify Arlene if you are attending the picnic so the caterers can be given a count.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

- **PROCLAMATION: AUGUST 2010 - COUNTY AGING MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the County Aging Unit provides information and assistance to all county senior residents; and, **WHEREAS**, good nutrition is important to the community and is ensured through two dining programs; and, **WHEREAS**, home-delivered meals provide an opportunity for a low cost first intervention to allow residents to remain living independently in their own homes; and, **WHEREAS**, quality of life of aging residents is ensured through transportation programs, caregiver support and organized activities as well as assistance in filing forms and applying for benefits; and, **WHEREAS**, all staff of the La Crosse County Aging Department work together to provide a healthy and safe environment in the aging community. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of August as Aging Month and urges all residents to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of persons dedicated to ensuring that the aging residents of La Crosse have the opportunity to live a healthy and productive life.

Motion by B. Brockmiller/S. Hampson to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 31 ayes, 2 absent - J. Billings and J. Berns, 2 excused - T. Johnson and G. Sebranek.

- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting: Administrator O'Malley presented the plaque awarded to La Crosse County by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report, which is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, to Finance Director Ingvalson's staff members, Sharon Davidson, Shawn Handland and Jonathon Edwards. This is the fourth year in a row that La Crosse County has earned this award.
- Independent Auditor's 2009 Report: Renee Messing addressed the Board and went through a slide presentation, explaining the audit process and findings. She covered the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Governmental Funds, Net Assets, Enterprise Funds, Internal Service Funds, the Audit Communication Letter, Internal Control and Management Letters. In closing she reported that La Crosse County has healthy fund balances, its financial records are maintained in good order and the staff performs accurately, timely and with high integrity. The only adjustment recommended was more detail in journal entry documentation. Her firm received full cooperation from County staff during the audit process. The entire presentation and report summary can be viewed in the County Clerk's office. Ms. Messing responded to questions from the Board.
- Binding Arbitration: Personnel Director Robert Taunt gave a brief overview of Binding Arbitration. It is part of the Municipal Employment Relations Act (MERA), which was adopted in 1971 to promote labor peace, prevent strikes in the public sector and provide a means of resolving issues quickly without lengthy court appeals. It can be found at 111.70 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Either the employer or the union can petition the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) for alleged violations of the union contract or for resolution of collective bargaining impasses. The WERC appoints a mediator to facilitate, which often results in an agreement. If no agreement can be reached the mediator will certify the issue for arbitration. The parties are provided with a random list of 5 WERC arbitrators and alternately strike to pick one of them. Each party pays \$400 and the issue is set for hearing, after which the arbitrator makes a written decision that is binding upon both parties. While this process is shorter than Court, it can still take 9 - 12 months to complete. While the arbitrator must take into account many factors including legal limitations like levy limits and comparable wages,

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hours and conditions of employment, he can still make binding monetary awards that will be difficult to afford. In conclusion, he noted that the process has both advantages and disadvantages, but it is always preferable to reach a voluntary settlement. With arbitration, there is no certainty of result for budgeting and planning, employee morale suffers and there is a considerable waste of cost and time. Taunt responded to questions from the Board.

- **Outside Agencies:** Administrator O'Malley spoke on the list of outside agencies currently in the 2010 budget for a total of \$425,000. The money for this funding varies by agency; it comes from the tax levy, excess sales tax, the general fund balance or the Human Services fund balance. Unless directed to do so by the Board, he is not removing these donations from the 2011 budget because in past years any attempts to do so have been over-ridden at the Annual Budget Meeting. He took questions and comments from the Board.
- **Indirect Costs:** Finance Director Ingvalson explained that the La Crosse County Central Services Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) is prepared by Maximum using federally accepted practices. Federal management Circular A-87 is the prescribed guideline for identification of costs, both direct and indirect, allowable under federal awards. In order to recover indirect costs, the State and Federal government requires an approved A-87 county-wide cost plan annually to identify all indirect costs eligible for reimbursement. Central service departments are those administrative units that generally provide services to other county departments rather than directly to the general public. Some examples of grantee (direct) departments are Highway, Lakeview, Library, Hillview and Solid Waste. Examples of central service (indirect) departments are Administrator, Finance, Personnel, I. T. and Corporation Counsel. Ingvalson stressed that costs are currently only allocated when a source of reimbursement is available. It would be too labor intensive and unwieldy to do it for departments where there is no financial benefit. Ingvalson and O'Malley responded to questions and comments from the Board.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

**Policy Planning Meeting:** The September Policy Planning meeting will be Monday, September 13, 2010 due to the Labor Day holiday.

**Executive Committee Meeting:** Chair Doyle noted there will be extensive budget discussions in Executive Committee meetings between now and the November Annual Meeting and all supervisors are welcome to attend. There will also be a closed session on the Skipperliner situation at the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Supervisor Ebert asked for a similar closed session at the full Board meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Wisconsin Counties Directory:** Supervisor Geary wanted to express his disappointment in the Statewide County Directory created & distributed to every supervisor in the state by WCA. He did not feel it was a wise use of our membership dues as it is apparently an expensive book and all of the information in it can be found on the internet.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by D. Meyer/V. Burke to adjourn at 8/9/2010 8:14 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 absent - J. Berns, 5 excused - T. Johnson, L. Pfaff, J. Johnson, G. Sebranek and B. Konkel.

**STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE )**

**I, Linda Stone, 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 09, 2010 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2010.**