

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, AUGUST 08, 2011**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, August 08, 2011 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 30 supervisors were present when Chair Tara Johnson 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 Richmond, Andrea	Present
2 Geary, Ralph	Present
3 Feehan, Bill	Present
4 Johnson, Jai	Present
5 Johnson, Karin	Present
6 Billings, Jill	Present
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
15 Mach, Beverly	Present
16 Sebranek, Gerald	Present
17 Meyer, Donald	Present
18 Johnson, Tara	Present
19 Keil, Robert	Present
20 Bina, Donald	Present at 06:28 PM
21 Manthei, Dennis	Excused
22 Ebert, Ray	Present
23 Gamroth, Tammy	Excused
24 Pfaff, Leon	Excused
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	Excused
34 Wehrs, Tina	Present
35 Bilskemper, Joe	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report – Tara Johnson

- September Policy Planning meeting date conflict with Labor Day – Due to Labor Day, the September Policy Planning date needs to be changed. One possibility suggested was Monday September 12, 2011. Having no objections from the Supervisors present, the September Policy Planning meeting will be moved to September 12, 2011.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Benrud met with the Secretary of Transportation, Mark Gottlieb. It was a very good meeting and we will be working together with the Department of Transportation.
 - Supervisor Sebranek gave an update on the County Board Picnic. The main focus is to get everyone to come and stay. There will be cards, bocce ball, horseshoes and socialization. It's a once a year time for all to come together in a non-formal setting. There will be live music by Dave Kirsch and boat tours of Lake Neshonoc. Supervisor Benrud thanked Supervisor Ebert who organized the boat rides.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION RE: AUGUST 2011 - 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, 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 A. Kader/S. Hampson to approve. Discussion ensued. Motion to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 30 ayes, 1 absent - D. Bina, 4 excused - J. Berns, T. Gamroth, D. Manthei and L. Pfaff.

- 2012 County Budget Overview and Challenges
 - Challenges are not just about the State budget, but in general and economic issues that are impacting La Crosse County. Budget meetings will start to take place this week and continue on throughout the month. Usually the Finance Department tries to get the budget document to supervisors in the middle of September, but this year you will have it by the end of September due to new budget software that is being used. A detail review of position openings continues to happen and limiting out of state travel. Human Services review of residential placements and right sizing of Juvenile Detention Facility. We continue to preserve reserves including interest stabilization. There had been no increase in health or dental premiums for 2nd year in row but may change plans to help control costs. This fall we will look at refinancing of the 2001 LEC debt. We will not be extending the term, only taking advantage of lower interest rates. We will also issue the 2011 short term highway debt that continues to be paid for by the Highway fund balance. The debt strategy to level G.O. debt levy over next three years is on track. The challenges over next three years are to level off debt to be approximately

(88-11/12)

\$4 million or less as far as the debt payment goes. The challenge will be in 2014 by using short term highway debt until big drop in 2015 when a big part is paid off of the first LEC debt. One of our biggest challenges budget wise is the large amount of debt for the LEC center. There is funding sources for each of the other piece of debt other than general property taxes. 2012 Budget Overview and Multiple Challenges: 0% levy limit next 2 years = four years 0% operating levy, only increase will be new construction; expect stagnant property values to impact tax rate; direct state budget cuts are mostly identified; shift of WRS to employees will lower costs in most areas and lower revenue in some others; and also impacted by economics - interest, demand for services and sales tax. We expect to hit our sales tax revenue. Indirect & other impacts are not yet clear: Highway Department operations and revenue – by changes in state law and what we are able to do with other counties and people are driving less miles and impacting gas revenue to about \$250 million, long term capital needs of our road system; mental health and medical needs in jail continue to escalate and will be an ongoing challenge; federal government cuts (Medicare rate cut of 11%); Lakeview challenges – major capital & WWC (Western Wisconsin Cares)–decisions the next county board will need to make; and the State MA (medical assistant) reduction, \$550 million cut in total biennium, Family Care Caps and regional IM (Income Maintenance). Any agency that receives aid may be impacted by that cut. Asking federal administration to not put a cap on family care. The complexity of a County budget is not as simple as to cut in one place. We are less reliant on property tax than many others. Largest increase projected in 2011 budget is \$400,000 in Human Services Clinical for use of care center. Mississippi Valley Health Services is an increase of \$258,420 on a rate to other counties. User fees are not additional taxes to La Crosse County taxpayers. It's a fee but not charged directly to someone. Top ¾ is directly to people that utilize the service. If you have questions about any particular fee, at the back of the budget book it shows when fees were changed. State Budget Cuts 2012: shared revenue will be \$1,006,010, general transportation aid will be \$152,818, courts aid which will be \$47,000, child support – \$52,000 cut spread over three years, to be covered by carry forward and federal incentives, no cuts to nursing home and no new costs to Solid Waste, and most complex impacts are in Human Services. Shift of WRS cost to employees will help mainly in General Fund, but not much in areas reliant on other revenues (nursing homes, solid waste and health). Lakeview Challenges: aging building will require major capital decisions; remodel and upgrade (2008 study; \$9.5 million); build new single structure or replace with multiple smaller buildings. There will be an impact on property tax if we decide to do any one of these options. Viability of multi-County collaboration (MVHS) is in jeopardy due to overuse by Western Wisconsin Cares (without reimbursement), while all MVHS members are struggling to control costs including use of Lakeview. State Department of Health Services approved a per diem rate for managed care organizations but not if they are members of WWC or a La Crosse County resident. There are 4 categories of clients in nursing home and facility for developmentally disabled; La Crosse County, La Crosse WWC, Other MCO, and Other MVHS. In July 2010, La Crosse County Human Services was at 63, WWC at 13, other MCO was at 4, and other MVHS was at 57. By July 2011 La Crosse has been able to manage budget and reduce their clients to 54, MCO was increased to 7, other MVHS particularly Juneau, Monroe and Vernon has dropped to 45 and WWC increased by 114% to 28. The total census has only dropped by 2% and this is shifting the reliance of who actually is paying for the clients back to La Crosse County. Within the first couple of months of 2013, we would be majority serving MCO and WWC clients and not MVHS members. There are a lot of challenges for the 2012 budget. The parameters are set that the tax levy for operating has

(89-11/12)

to be 0 and there are not a lot of easy ways to pay for all these challenges that we have.

- Human Services 2012 Budget Outlook – Jason Witt & Dean Ruppert
 - State budget was not particularly kind to Human Services. More than ever before we need to get ahead of the curve and prepare ourselves for what is coming and still be able to serve our clients. So many impacts of budget are unknown at this point. Services provided by Human Services are mandated by State and County administered: Family & Children, Mental Health, Chemical Health, Economic Support, Aging & Disability Resource Center, and Operations. Mission is “Enhancing Self Sufficiency and Quality of Life with Respect for the Dignity of the Person Served.” Family & Children service children who are unsafe due to abuse or neglect, youth involved in criminal or other delinquent behavior, and children and youth with developmental disability or mental health issues. Mental Health & Recovery serves adults struggling with mental health issues. Chemical Health & Justice Sanctions serves adults involved in the criminal system who are being monitored in the community and adults struggling with chemical dependency issues. Economic Support serves individuals and families with insufficient income to meet basic needs (food, shelter, health care). Aging & Disability Resource Center serves those adults and families needing information and assistance in accessing benefits and services to relating to aging, disability, mental health or substance abuse. The overall budget in 2011 was \$33.6 million but they are heavily reliant on state and federal funding sources. About 60% of the overall budget is comprised of state and federal revenue. How the state and federal budget goes really impacts their ability to provide services. 40% would be the tax levy and other various fees. If you look at the overall budget, the largest budget share of overall funding is in Children & Family. But in some service divisions like Economic Support there is very little tax levy, it is mostly state and federal funding as is Aging & Disability Resource Center. Looking at the 2012 budget, decreases are expected in shared revenue, 10% youth aids cut, decrease in general purpose revenue of 10% for MHRS and AODA services, and juvenile corrections rate increases. Expected net savings from employee contributions of 5.8% to WRS and 2% wage increase would be \$294,000. Looking at overall impacts of the state budget would be \$89,000 decrease to the Human Services budget. Unplanned impacts for the 2012 budget was the net decrease in Children’s Waiver funding due to rule changes for claiming (case management /administration costs), CARE Center deficit, standard contract adjustments, and standard salary and fringe adjustments. All of these impacts are offset by the Juvenile Detention Operations changes that would provide a savings of \$426,000 for an overall decrease of \$182,000. The risks for the 2012 budget for Human Services is the State MA budget reduction, impositions of Family Care Caps, and the transition to Regional Income Maintenance Administration Model, all of which is unknown for a significant impact. In summary, the state budget will cause an impact of \$89,000, unplanned impacts and operational adjustments with an impact of \$182,000, and the risks being a significant impact for a preliminary planning deficit of \$271,000. They will be using multiple strategies and being proactive and working ahead to position for change as it has been done in the past.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Chair Johnson reminded Supervisors that now is the time to start the budget talks on crunching numbers to save the County money.

(90-11/12)

ADJOURN

Motion by G. Sebranek/B. Brockmiller to adjourn at 7:30 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 31 ayes, 4 excused - J. Berns, T. Gamroth, D. Manthei, and L. Pfaff.

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, August 08, 2011 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 AUGUST 2011.