

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

1:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Billings, Vicki Burke, Sharon Hampson, Tara Johnson, Don Meyer, Marilyn Pedretti, Roger Plesha, Charles Spiker

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Steve Doyle

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Gary Ingvalson, Ginny Dankmeyer, Ron Chamberlain, Jim Speropulos, David Lange, John Parshall, Bob Taunt, Karl Green, Jason Witt, Lorie Graff, Brian Fukuda

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice-Chair Tara Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES CONSENT AGENDA: MARCH INVESTMENT REPORT, MONTHLY ACCOUNT TRANSFERS, CHECK REQUISITIONS

MOTION by Plesha/Billings to approve the April 14, 2011, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and to receive and file the March Investment Report, Monthly Account Transfers, Check Requisitions. **Motion carried unanimously.** Doyle excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORTS

None reported.

QUOTE/BID FORM RE: HIGHLINE EP SYSTEM EMPLOYEE SELF SERVICE MODULES

John Parshall presented a sole source bid for a Highline eP system of \$24,470.00 that includes license fee, maintenance, and 11 days of implementation services. The purchase will eliminate the need for printed paystubs and allow employees to view payroll information online, beginning in 2012. The purchase is budgeted. **MOTION** by Meyer/Pedretti to approve the purchase of a Highline eP system at \$24,470.00. **Motion carried unanimously.** Doyle excused.

LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES REQUEST FOR FUNDING

The historical societies in Bangor, Holmen, Onalaska, and West Salem, wrote to address the division of the \$6,837.00 that was set aside out of the total of \$25,000.00 for historical societies in the County budget. The La Crosse County Historical Society, which requested and was awarded \$18,163.00 out of the total amount, was not a co-signatory. The County Board decision at the time was to form a special committee to determine distribution of remaining funds. Supervisor Manthei held a meeting among the parties, and they jointly requested that the total be divided equally among the organizations. Lengthy discussion and several motions followed:

- Supervisors Billings and Plesha both commented on the lack of minutes or direction regarding organization needs or budget, and a representative to attend the Executive Committee meeting.
- Supervisor Pedretti stated that it could perhaps be awarded as it was presented in their joint letter, but future requests should follow the criteria set by the County Board, or it would revert back to the former precedent of awarding the full amount to the La Crosse County Historical Society.
- Supervisor Hampson stated she did not feel it was an equitable solution and felt the full amount of \$25,000.00 should be awarded to the La Crosse County Historical Society.

- Supervisor Burke stated her perception of the County Board's decision was to encourage cooperation among historical groups, including the La Crosse County Historical Society.
- Supervisor Plesha pointed out that the La Crosse County Historical Society's budget request of \$18,163.00 was increased to \$25,000.00 to be able to promote collaboration with the smaller groups.

MOTION by Hampson/Plesha to make the La Crosse County Historical Society whole by awarding them the entire \$25,000.00, and let them work it out amongst themselves if the La Crosse County Historical Society wished to do so.

MOTION by Plesha/Hampson to amend the previous motion to place the remaining \$6,837.00 in a designated fund that is available to the La Crosse County Historical Society to be distributed once they have met with other area historical societies. Steve O'Malley stated that the motions have no effect because they address what was already decided by the County Board in the 2011 budget. He also suggested that transferring the full amount to the La Crosse County Historical Society would be a full County Board decision. He suggested holding over the matter for further discussion.

MOTION by Plesha/Hampson to table the previous motions. **Motion failed 4-4-1.** Doyle excused; Burke, Meyer, Johnson, Billings opposed.

A vote was then taken on the Motion to make the La Crosse County Historical Society whole by awarding them the entire \$25,000.00 and to place the remaining \$6,837.00 in a designated fund that is available to the La Crosse County Historical Society to be distributed amongst the other area historical societies once they have met with them. **Motion failed unanimously.** Doyle excused.

MOTION by Pedretti/Burke to ask staff to communicate with the four area historical societies to have their representatives attend the June 8, 2011, meeting, and address their needs, budget and plans. **Motion carried unanimously.** Doyle excused.

DISCUSSION REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER DOORS BEING LOCKED AND ONLY THE SOUTHSIDE DOORS REMAINING OPEN

The item was referred to the Executive Committee at the request of Supervisor Medinger, who asked to have all doors to the Administrative Center remain open for County Board meetings. Jim Speropulos said they are electronic doors that would have to be reprogrammed by Facilities staff twice each month. Alternatively, they could enter into a contract with cleaning staff who could manually unlock doors. He explained that the current system of having only the south door remain unlocked, with signs posted at the other doors, has been in place for 10 years with no complaints from the public. Consensus of the committee was not to pursue change.

ORDINANCE TO CREATE S. 30.79 ENTITLED "WATERWAY MARKERS AND REGULATORY SIGNAGE REGULATIONS" OF THE GENERAL CODE OF LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

The Ordinance regulates placement and maintenance of waterway markers and signage in Pool 7 and Pool 8 of the Mississippi and Black Rivers in conformance with Wisconsin statutes. Karl Green explained that the Harbor Commission has a duty to ensure markers are correct when they issue permits, and the Ordinance would allow charging a fee for permits. The fee is to be set by the City-County Board of Harbor Commissioners and the County Board, and accrued to either the City or County as determined by the staff and administrative support for that calendar year.

MOTION by Meyer/Billings to approve the Ordinance to Create S. 30.79 Entitled "Waterway Markers and Regulatory Signage Regulations" of the General Code of La Crosse County, Wisconsin. **Motion carried unanimously.** Doyle excused.

RESOLUTION RE: CLAIM OF JOYCE JOSTAD AND WISCONSIN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

The Resolution states that Ms. Jostad and her insurance company allege that she was involved in a motor vehicle accident in which her vehicle was damaged by a La Crosse County Highway Department snowplow. The Resolution further states that

the claim for damages is disallowed. Ron Chamberlain explained that state law requires a 200 foot following distance behind snowplows and emergency equipment. **MOTION** by Plesha/Spiker to approve the Resolution Re: Claim of Joyce Jostad and Wisconsin Mutual Insurance Company. **Motion carried unanimously.** Doyle excused.

RESOLUTION RE: CLAIM OF ROBERT BAILEY AND STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANY

The Resolution states that Mr. Bailey and his insurance company allege that a traffic sign owned by La Crosse County rolled into traffic and Mr. Bailey sustained vehicle damage when he could not swerve to avoid hitting the sign. The Resolution further states that the claim for damages is disallowed. Ron Chamberlain explained that another motorist moved the sign, not County Highway Department crews. **MOTION** by Meyer/Pedretti to approve the Resolution Re: Claim of Robert Bailey and State Farm Insurance Company. **Motion carried unanimously.** Doyle excused.

RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CREATION OF A JOINT CITY-COUNTY HOUSING TASK FORCE (REVISED)

The Resolution was referred from the April 14, 2011, Executive Committee meeting to allow the City of La Crosse time to consider a joint task force. A fiscal note was added to the Resolution to state that there would be little cost to support the work of the task force, and would be benefits derived from reversing the declining City of La Crosse tax base. The task force will recommend programs, zoning options, practices to stimulate private investment, inspection code enforcement priorities, and capital priorities to address the aging and deteriorating housing stock in the City of La Crosse. Steve O'Malley explained that the new version of the Resolution reflects that the City proposed increasing the membership from 13 to 15 members. **MOTION** by Hampson/Billings to approve the Resolution Re: Authorizing Creation of a Joint City-County Housing Task Force (revised). **Motion carried unanimously.** Doyle excused.

RESOLUTION RE: SPECIAL STUDY COMMITTEE ON SUPERVISOR PAY

The Resolution was requested by Supervisor Geary, who asked to have it held over 30 days to allow time for a decision on the redistricting issue.

RESOLUTION RE: ECONOMIC SUPPORT CHANGE/CALL CENTER CONTINUATION

The Resolution authorizes the continuation of up to four limited term employees through December 31, 2011, to provide Economic Support services to La Crosse County and partner counties of Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, Monroe, Pepin, Trempealeau, and Vernon (Jason Witt reported that Jackson County has dropped out of the partnership). The Resolution was carried unanimously by the Health and Human Services Board. **MOTION** by Hampson/Plesha to approve the Resolution Re: Economic Support Change/Call Center Continuation. **Motion carried unanimously.** Doyle excused.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF ETHICS BOARD MEMBERS

The item was referred from the April 14, 2011, meeting. Steven Mader agreed to be reappointed as first alternate member on the Ethics Board. Roland Solberg declined reappointment to the Ethics Board. Supervisor Billings recommended Pastor Mark Solyst, but stated she had not spoken to him about it. Discussion followed about whether the County Ordinance required County Board approval, and having the agenda item added to the May 19, 2011, agenda without knowing if Pastor Solyst accepted appointment. Dave Lange reported that Ethics Board appointments are made by the Executive Committee and require County Board approval. **MOTION** by Hampson/Spiker to recommend to the County Board the reappointment of Steven Mader as first alternate member on the Ethics Board for a three-year term to expire April 30, 2014, and to recommend to the County Board the appointment of Mark

Solyst to the Ethics Board for a three-year term to expire April 30, 2014, if he accepts. **Motion carried unanimously.** Doyle excused.

NON UNION WRS EQUITY

Steve O'Malley provided a report that of 473 county employees that are non-union, 39% are staff, 41% are department heads, managers and supervisors, and 3% are law enforcement supervisors or elected officials. Union staff will be affected by the Governor's budget repair bill when it is published and will have their WRS contributions deducted from their paycheck. He recommended a one-time, temporary pay equity adjustment of 5.1% for all non-union staff after the publication of the budget repair bill. The adjustment will not be added to base wages, and will be discontinued as of December 31, 2011. The impact on law enforcement and elected officials is currently being reviewed and not included at this time. Supervisor Spiker raised questions about step increases, and Steve O'Malley responded that the pay equity adjustment does not take away step increases. Dave Lange explained that there are different interpretations regarding pensions for elected officials, whether pensions are to be considered as compensation, and if changes can be made before the end of the term. A pending lawsuit in Eau Claire County may set legal precedent on the question statewide. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Hampson to direct staff to draft a resolution reflecting the county administrator's plan for consideration at a special meeting before the May 19, 2011, County Board meeting, so this matter is before the full County Board that evening. **Motion carried 8-1-1.** Doyle excused; Spiker opposed.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION

Summaries of the county administrator evaluations received from department heads and County Board members were provided.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Supervisor Spiker asked about addressing the matter of not having appearances by parties who make requests of the committee, and it was suggested that Chair Doyle be asked to address the matter at County Board meeting. No other agenda items were requested.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Pedretti/Meyer to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Approved, June 8, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder