

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, October 24, 2011
Administrative Center, 400 N. 4th St., Room 3220
4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tara Johnson, Jill Billings (4:20 p.m.), Steve Doyle, Sharon Hampson, Roger Plesha, Andrea Richmond (for Don Meyer; exc. 5:00 p.m.) Charles Spiker

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Vicki Burke, Don Meyer, Marilyn Pedretti

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve O'Malley, Gary Ingvalson, Margaret Norden, Bill Shepherd, Bob Taunt, Mary Powell, Dave Holtz, Pat Killeen, Bev Mach, Sharon Davidson, Sara Koopman, Jim Speropulos, Jason Witt, Doug Mormann

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

OVERALL BUDGET, RESERVES, DEBT SERVICE AND FINAL TAX LEVY

Steve O'Malley reviewed the budget, which holds the line on property tax levy. He explained that the County does not set the tax rate, but does set the tax levy. The tax rate is set by taking the levy divided by equalized value. The tax rate per municipality can vary according to the municipality's equalized value. He provided further review as follows:

- General fund undesignated: The fund grew from 41% to 44% of the 2010 operating budget. O'Malley stated that there may be a need to look at fund balance for a long-term budget strategy.
- Debt service: There will be an accelerated debt payment this year, using debt reserve, not property taxes. The County's total debt declined from \$52.96 million in 2010 to \$43.59 million in 2011, and will decline in 2012 to \$38.80 million.
- Final tax levy: The final amount will depend on the number of changes in the budget.

O'Malley reported on the Moody's Bond Rating Scale, which gives La Crosse County an Aa1 rating, which is judged to be of high quality and a very low credit risk. Discussion was held regarding the highway machinery fund, the special jail assessment fund, and possible future debt impact from highway needs and County Administrative Center and Lakeview building needs.

REVIEW OF ANY DEPARTMENTS NOT DIRECTLY REPORTING TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Steve O'Malley asked for any questions pertaining to departments that had not previously been reviewed by the Executive Committee. Discussion was held regarding use of library funds, which is determined by the library board.

RESOLUTION RE: COMPENSATION FOR LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD 2012-2014 TERM

The Resolution states that a wage increase would compensate the Board for increased work load resulting from the reduction in Board size from 35 to 29 members. A 2% increase in the amount of \$403 per month would commence in April, 2012, and \$411 per month beginning in April, 2013. The County Board Chair's monthly wage would decrease from \$1,270 to \$893 per month in April, 2012, and \$911 in April, 2013. **MOTION** by Hampson/Plesha to approve the Resolution Re: Compensation for La Crosse County Board 2012-2014 Term. **Motion carried 5-1-3.** Spiker opposed; Burke, Meyer, Pedretti excused.

INDIRECT COSTS

Steve O'Malley stated that indirect costs at an increased dollar amount will be charged to departments. There were no questions.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Discussion was held regarding benefits of membership in the Chamber of Commerce and the International Trade Business Economic Council. Lengthy discussion was also held regarding the Wisconsin Counties Association, and dissatisfaction with some of their lobbying service, particularly with regard to highway cooperation and Income Maintenance. Chair Johnson will communicate with them, and invite representatives to make a presentation to the County Board. Further discussion was held about outcome-based vendors and listing those agencies under the department that pays for their services, rather than including them on the list of outside agencies. Chair Johnson suggested having an Executive Committee review of the benefits of multiple memberships in 2012.

RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF INCREASES TO CERTAIN LA CROSSE COUNTY PERMITS, FEES, AND CHARGES FOR 2012

The Resolution states that appropriate fees and charges keep property taxes at a minimum. The fees and charges will attempt to fairly allocate the full cost of services to users of that service, and will include consideration of waiving or reducing fees to youth, seniors, or others identified as requiring preferential consideration. Supervisor Spiker asked to have projected cumulative fees included in the fiscal note, and Gary Ingvalson responded that the Finance Department would be able to sum up that amount.

MOTION by Spiker/Doyle to amend the fiscal note to state, "The proposed fees, charges and permit fees of \$_____ have been included in the proposed 2012 budget." **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer, Pedretti excused.

MOTION by Plesha/Hampson to approve the Resolution Re: Authorizing the Approval of Increases to Certain La Crosse County Permits, Fees, and Charges for 2012, as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer, Pedretti excused.

RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATORS AND ADOPTION OF RATES FOR HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN FOR NON-BARGAINING AND BARGAINING EMPLOYEES FOR 2012

The Resolution addresses the need to establish third party administrators for the County's health and dental plans, and to fund at a level recommended by the administrators, as follows:

Gundersen/Lutheran PPO:	Single = \$719	Family = \$1,761
Franciscan Skemp PPO:	Single = \$719	Family = \$1,761
Dental:	Single = \$33	Family = \$92

Employee contributions will be 10% of the total health premium and dental rate. The retiree health plan is fully funded by retirees with a single plan premium of \$644 and family plan premium of \$1,572. **MOTION** by Doyle/Plesha to approve the Resolution Re: Authorization for Third-Party Administrators and Adoption of Rates for Health and Dental Plan for Non-bargaining and Bargaining Employees for 2012. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer, Pedretti excused.

HOUSEKEEPING AND CORRECTIONS, DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR NOV. 14TH MEETING

Steve O'Malley reminded committee members of upcoming meetings: November 7, 2011, 6:00 p.m., Policy Planning meeting; November 9, 2011, 1:00 p.m., Executive Committee meeting; November 14, 2011, 6:00 p.m., Budget Public Hearing before the County Board; November 15, 2011, 9:00 a.m. County Board Annual Meeting and Budget adoption. He stated he plans to take any final budget questions at each of the standing committee meetings in November. There was no further staff direction.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Spiker/Billings to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Margaret Norden, Recorder