

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, January 11, 2012  
Administrative Center, 400 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Room 3220  
1:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tara Johnson, Jill Billings, Vicki Burke, Sharon Hampson (1:03 p.m.), Don Meyer, Marilyn Pedretti (exc. 2:30 p.m.), Roger Plesha, Charles Spiker

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** None

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve O'Malley, Gary Ingvalson, Margaret Norden, Amy Twitchell, Maureen Freedland, Bob Taunt, Dave Lange, John Steers, Dave Holtze, Betsy Bloom, Jason Witt, John Medinger, Sharon Davidson, Donna Hanson, Jim Speropulos

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Chair announced that Supervisor Doyle has resigned from the committee due to recurring time conflicts.

### **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 7 AND DECEMBER 15, 2011, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Spiker/Meyer to approve the December 7 and December 15, 2011, Executive Committee Minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.** Hampson excused.

### **CONSENT AGENDA: OCTOBER INVESTMENT REPORT, MONTHLY ACCOUNT TRANSFERS, CHECK REQUISITIONS**

**MOTION** by Plesha/Pedretti to receive and file the November Investment Report, Monthly Account Transfers, and Check Requisitions. **Motion carried unanimously.** Hampson excused.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested.

### **CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORTS**

None reported.

NOTE: The Chair took the following item out of order.

### **DISCUSSION REGARDING PUBLIC INPUT AT COMMITTEE AND COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS**

Supervisor Medinger spoke about having public comment at committee and County Board meetings. He stated he would like to allow supervisors the opportunity to ask questions or clarify comments, as allowed under Robert's Rules, and that he found it frustrating that it was disallowed at County meetings. Discussion was held about the difference between clarification and debate, and the ability to correct misinformation that is being circulated as factual. Dave Lange provided handouts on public hearing procedures, information meeting procedures, and public comments at committee meetings, and reported that Robert's Rules had more to say about public comment at judicial hearings than legislative hearings. It would be up to the committee to decide how to handle public input. Steve O'Malley suggested that room configuration could have a lot to do with how the public perceives their ability to participate in discussion. Supervisor Pedretti suggested that a policy and procedure handout should be provided at any public hearing or meeting where public attendance is expected. Supervisor Hampson stated she would like any policy to include a mechanism for ending a meeting if comment becomes abusive or threatening. Chair Johnson spoke about the shared responsibility of the committee members to assist the committee chair in ensuring that procedures are followed and comments are appropriate. She also pointed out the need to codify recommendations. The item will be placed on the next committee agenda for further discussion.

**RESOLUTION RE: CREATING AN ECONOMIC SUPPORT SUPERVISOR POSITION IN LA CROSSE COUNTY FOR THE WESTERN REGION FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (WREA) INCOME MAINTENANCE CONSORTIUM**

The Resolution states that the eight-county membership of the Western Region for Economic Assistance falls under a single state/county contract between La Crosse County and the State Department of Health Services. A supervisory position has been vacated in another county, and filling the position in La Crosse County would maximize management/supervisory structure. The position cost would be covered by State and Federal dollars as part of the WREA budget and have no impact on County levy. **MOTION** by Hampson/Billings to approve the Resolution Re: Creating an Economic Support Supervisor Position in La Crosse County for the Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) Income Maintenance Consortium. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION RE: DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER COMPENSATION**

The Resolution states that deputy medical examiners currently receive on-call pay of \$1.50 per hour, and calls for an increase to \$2.00 per hour. Steve O'Malley stated that although the matter should have been considered during the budget process, he considered it appropriate, and noted there are adequate revenues. Bob Taunt said other County employees' on-call pay was \$2.00 per hour. John Steers reported that the amount has not changed since 1994. **MOTION** by Burke/Spiker to approve the Resolution Re: Deputy Medical Examiner Compensation

**RESOLUTION RE: APPROVE FUNDING SHARE FOR CONCEPTUAL ALTERNATIVE STUDY OF I-90 INTERCHANGE AT EXIT 3**

The Resolution calls for a delay of the USH53/I-90/STH35 interchange project (Exit 3) in order to conduct a study of realignment options to accommodate waterfront development for the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska. The Resolution states that the study would be funded jointly by the La Crosse Area Planning Commission (\$30,000), City of La Crosse (\$10,000), City of Onalaska (\$5,000) and La Crosse County (\$5,000). Steve O'Malley spoke about the entire I-90/US 53/State 35 resurfacing project, and stated that a redesign of Exit 3 would go forward as part of the entire project, but a study of design options could identify designs to benefit the adjacent communities. He clarified that the City of Onalaska Council did not support funding, but if the City of La Crosse does support, he would recommend that the LAPC pick up the City of Onalaska share. The City of La Crosse Committee of the Whole voted 14-1 in favor of funding a study. Discussion was held regarding the City of Onalaska's vote, and whether there would be further consideration once their Planning Committee was able to make a recommendation. Discussion was held regarding the purpose of the study, and the options for public access, river views and complementary redevelopment that a study could identify. Supervisor Hampson gave the example of the City of La Crosse's plan for an eagle viewing platform, which the State did not approve, but which could perhaps go forward with a redesign of the waterfront. Supervisor Plesha stated that beautification would benefit everyone by increasing the tax base and providing better planning of the entire area. **MOTION** by Billings/Meyer to approve the Resolution Re: Approve Funding Share for Conceptual Alternative Study of I-90 Interchange at Exit 3. **Motion carried 6-1.** Spiker opposed.

**ANNUAL REPORT ON NON-UNION RECLASSIFICATIONS FOR 2011**

Steve O'Malley provided a review of Non-Union reclassifications for 2011, including a summary comparison of the number of requests considered and approved for years 2006-2011. There were three requests and approvals with a total cost of \$796 in 2011. He reported that he expects there will be sufficient funding for any

reclassifications in 2012, and he does not expect the total cost to exceed \$25,000 to be paid from salary contingency.

### **REPORT ON TAX DELINQUENCIES**

Information was provided showing a comparison of taxes received by municipality and comparisons of unpaid parcels by municipality for the years 2009 through 2011. Steve O'Malley noted that past experiences with development special assessments and the economy demonstrated that it is important to monitor. Supervisor Pedretti suggested sharing the information with the townships so they could also monitor potential problems. The Finance and Treasurer's Departments will work together to provide that information. David Lange reported on the procedure for pursuing foreclosure, and stated that the Corporation Counsel office will work with the property owner to come up with payment plans. Supervisor Spiker asked about committee oversight, and O'Malley responded that issues could be considered by Public Works & Infrastructure, Executive Committee, and Economic Development Fund Board, depending on the property.

NOTE: The Chair took the following item out of order.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Discussion was held about a conflict with the February, 2012, meeting and the WCA Legislative Exchange. Committee consensus was to move the meeting to Thursday, February 9, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. Discussion was also held about moving the March and April, 2012, meetings to Thursdays, but no determination made, and it will be placed on the February agenda.

Other requests:

- Park Plaza update
- Discussion regarding public input at Committee and County Board meetings
- Changes to Ordinance governing standing committees
- Elected officials' salary

### **COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING TIME (PER DOWNSIZING COMMITTEE)**

The Downsizing Committee asked for standing committee input and recommendations regarding committee size and structure in anticipation of the County Board reducing its membership after the April, 2012, elections from 35 to 29 members. Supervisor Hampson summarized their recommendations, as follows:

- Retain Health & Human Services supervisor membership at six; reduce Judiciary & Law membership to five; reduce membership on Public Works & Infrastructure, Aging & Long-Term Care, and Planning, Resources & Development to six members each.
- Hold all standing committee meetings at 4:00 p.m. or later to allow greater public access.

Supervisors Plesha and Pedretti spoke about consideration of staff that would have to attend meetings during evening hours and have additional pressure of getting County Board meeting packets completed by the deadline if committee meetings were to be after hours. Supervisors Spiker and Meyer stated they are satisfied with the current time.

Supervisor Hampson also asked for input on the makeup of Executive Committee, which will be on the Downsizing Committee's next agenda. The current makeup was discussed, i.e. the County Board Chair, two Vice-Chairs, the previous County Board Chair, the chairs of the standing committees, and one at-large member. Chair Johnson suggested that if committee chairs continued to be appointed by the County Board Chair, the at-large member could be elected rather than appointed, which would make the appointed-elected ratio 5-4. Supervisors Pedretti, Spiker, and Billings agreed that they preferred to have strong, experienced leadership appointed to the chairmanship of committees by the County Board Chair, and to avoid a rancorous beginning to the new term.

Supervisor Hampson also addressed the County Board Chair's ability to appoint supervisors to complete a quorum, and said she will ask for committee chairs to have the same authority.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION AND WORK PLAN**

Steve O'Malley elaborated on his 2012 priorities and goals in the following areas:

- Budget
- Financial
- County Board support
- Labor Relations and Personnel
- Public Relations
- Strategic Planning & Capital Expenditure
- Sustainability
- Community Building
- On-going Learning
- Professional Development

Supervisor Billings asked about O'Malley's role in the City of La Crosse discussions about a city administrator, and O'Malley explained that he would fulfill his professional association membership obligation to support the profession by educating decision-makers on the role of an administrator and putting them in contact with experts in the field, and participate in and facilitate meetings.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Hampson/Meyer to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

**Approved,** February 9, 2012, Margaret Norden, Recorder