

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**JUNE 1, 1999**  
**SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS MEETING**

Chairman Joseph Maehl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Fourth Floor County Board Room, Winnebago County Courthouse, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation by Supervisor Wagner.

Roll call: 33 present: Kollath, Barker, Griesbach, O'Brien, Savas, Maehl, Koziczkowski, Klitzke, Widener, Lauson, Albrecht, Leschke, Schwartz, Montgomery, Bertrand, Sundquist, Wingren, Wagner, Warnke, Footit, Troxell, Robl, Lawson, Crowley, Kramer, Schaidler, Hue, Sievert, Arne, Diakoff, Brennand, Egan and Rankin. Excused: 5 – Pech, Payne, Finch, Rengstorf and Metzsig.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to adopt the agenda. CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

**COMMUNICATION, PETITION, ETC.**

Notice for a WCA seminar entitle, "The County Budget Process: Moving Towards Greater Accountability," was received. It will be held in Wausau on June 25. Registration for the seminar can be made through the County Clerk's Office. The deadline for registrations is June 18.

Various counties sent the following resolutions to the Board: Adams County – No. 29 – 1999, "Opposition to Governor's budget proposal to increase state administrative fee for sales tax collection"; No. 30-1999, "To encourage Wisconsin Counties Association to support legislative initiatives for tobacco settlement funds to be allocated to programs to reduce disease and death from tobacco products"; Columbia County – No. 29-99, "Allocation of Tobacco Liability Settlement Funds to Disease Prevention Services"; and Door County – No. 40-99, "Request Members of State Legislature Adopt or Enact Legislation to Address Concerns raised by the 'Morris V. Juneau County' Decision". All of the above resolutions were referred to the Legislative Committee. The two resolutions regarding tobacco settlement funds were also referred to the Health Board.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Supervisor Hue commented on an unsigned flyer he received that opposes the Sunnyview Speed Zone Raceway because of the noise and contains his name. He told the Board that he has no idea how his name got on the flyer, but that he has gotten four calls in response to it. He wants to assure his constituents that this matter is being monitored and their concerns will be considered.

Supervisor Arne also commented on the unsigned flyer and stated that he had also received 6 phone calls regarding the racetrack--three in favor and three against.

In commemoration of Memorial Day, Supervisor Montgomery expressed his thanks and appreciation to all veterans for their service & dedication to the United States.

Supervisor Lauson urged anyone who has a complaint about the Sunnyview Speed Zone Raceway to call Rob Way, the Winnebago County Parks Director. He stated that Mr. Way and the Parks & Recreation Committee will work to make sure that the decibel readings are at acceptable levels. Supervisor Lauson also stated that he understands not everyone enjoys auto racing, but that this track was built for the benefit of the whole county and that he hopes people will be tolerant for just a few hours once a week while the races are being held.

Supervisor Lauson also commented on the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new

Winnebago County covered horse arena that he attended last week. He said a horse show was going on and that the facility looked great. Supervisor Lauson also stated that he has, "nothing but high hopes for that facility for the continued future."

Supervisor Wagner reported on the American Jail Association Convention she attended in El Paso, Texas. They toured two jails--one of which had direct supervision. She stated that two important points were made by numerous people at the convention--don't build the jail to small and inmate classification is very important. She also stated that she was somewhat disappointed in the direct supervision facility, but that Winnebago County will be able to avoid some problems because of what was learned at this convention.

Supervisor Wagner also reported that they will be proposing a name change for the Maintenance Department and the Property Management and Maintenance Committee. The new name will be the Facilities and Property Management Department and the Facilities and Property Management Committee.

Supervisor Wagner reported that an offer has been received for the vacant property adjacent to the maintenance department's facility on Knapp Street. Because of the high-tension power lines that run through the property, the offer was lower than anticipated. However, they are still considering the offer.

Supervisor Barker stated that she was also impressed with the opening ceremonies at the new covered horse arena. She was also pleased with the Post Crescent's article on the frog pond at the Community Park; as well as, Supervisor Lauson's comments about the importance of the frog pond to the park and the wetlands.

Supervisor Barker told the Board that for the past few years she has attended the very impressive Memorial Day ceremonies in King, Wisconsin, and she urged others to do the same.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

No one addressed the Board.

## **COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Maehl complimented the City of Menasha on their wonderful 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration held on May 22.

Chairman Maehl congratulated Menasha High School for their award as a National Service Learning Leader School. They are 1 of only 70 schools across the United States to receive this award for their work in service-oriented achievement.

Chairman Maehl also commented on the nice article in the Oshkosh Northwestern about Supervisor Egan and the Waukau Creek Nature Preserve.

Chairman Maehl asked the Board to note the announcement in their packet about the group picture that will be taken at 5:00 p.m. on June 15. The picture will be taken on the front steps of the Courthouse.

Chairman Maehl announced that the Living in the 90's Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 8, and he invited the Board to attend.

Chairman Maehl extended "happy birthday" greetings to Supervisors Crowley and Lauson.

Chairman Maehl commented on the "exceptionally fine" article in the Post Crescent on Supervisor Diakoff's late husband Colonel George Diakoff. The article discusses the Colonel's career in the United States Air Force and the health problems he developed as a result of his exposure to radiation. Chairman Maehl recommended that everyone read this fine article.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Susan Huelsbeck, Director of the Public Health Department, addressed the Board on the role and importance of the Public Health Department. She explained that public health is a type of medical practice that's primary goal is prevention. She stated that "preventive types of services are not readily made public", until there is some sort of health or medical situation that makes the news.

Mrs. Huelsbeck explained that in Winnebago County there are five public health jurisdictions: the City of Oshkosh, City of Neenah, City of Menasha, City of Appleton and the Winnebago County Public Health Department. Ms. Huelsbeck explained that her department serves all the townships, the Village of Winneconne and the City of Omro, which comprises approximately 50,000 people.

Mrs. Huelsbeck explained that her department does provide some services that are not available from the cities' health departments. When those services are provided to the cities, those costs are covered by revenues from various sources, not from county levied money. She noted that the majority of her department's funding comes from the towns, Village of Winneconne and City of Omro, and that any county levied money is used strictly in her department's jurisdictional area.

Mrs. Huelsbeck provided the Board with a packet of information on the Public Health Department. She went through the department's table of organization and explained that they have a variety of health professionals to provide her department's services.

Mrs. Huelsbeck described the various public health programs offered by her department. They are: Winnebago County Corrections Program; Environmental Health Program; Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program; Medicaid Outreach Program; Workers' Compensation Case Management Program; Well Water Prevention Program; Winnebago County Tobacco-Free Coalition; Communicable Disease Program; Influenza Program; Housing Authority Program; and Lead Grant.

Mrs. Huelsbeck explained that the Families Unit is broken down into the following programs: Prenatal Care Coordination; Pregnancy Outreach; Maternal/Child Health; and Healthcheck/Well Child Clinic. The Older Adult Unit has the following programs: Health Promotion; Older Adult Screening; Nail Care Clinic; Long Term Assessments; and Personal Care Program.

Other programs provided by the Public Health Department are Immunizations; HIV Counseling and Testing; and Partner Notification.

### **PARK VIEW HEALTH CENTER REPORT**

Charlene Lowe, Park View Health Center Administrator, distributed copies of the Park View Health Center report that was presented to the Human Services Committee in March. Mrs. Lowe touched on some of the highlights of that report, including the mission statement that reads: Park View Health Center is dedicated to providing long-term care and specialized services to enhance the quality of life for Winnebago County residents in a compassionate, supportive and cost effective manner.

Also included in the report, is the history of Park View Health Center. Mrs. Lowe told the Board that Park View Health Center originated in the 1870's and, "was the first facility in the county that provided care to the people in need and that were indigent."

Mrs. Lowe explained that Wisconsin is unique in that its citizens felt it was important to have facilities close to home for people in need, so you find numerous county homes across the state. She explained that in many states, large, regional care facilities were built.

Mrs. Lowe explained that originally Park View Health Center was two facilities: the Poor Farm and the Insane Asylum. A fire in 1944 partially destroyed the Poor House and it was rebuilt as the County Home. In 1967 the County Home became a licensed facility and was called Pleasant Acres. In 1950, the Insane Asylum was rebuilt and renamed the Winnebago

County Hospital. In March of 1953, its name was changed to the Rehabilitation Pavilion. At that time, both of these facilities combined under the name of Park View Health Center.

Mrs. Lowe told the Board that now Park View Health Center has an annual budget of approximately \$15.8 million and employees approximately 300 people. She explained that it is a "very labor intensive business", requiring round-the-clock patient care.

Mrs. Lowe explained that additional revenue is generated by Park View Health Center's food service department. The food service department provides 2000 meals per day to their residents, 12 elderly meal sites, the county jail, the work release center and 4 child day care centers.

Mrs. Lowe told the Board that Park View has 239 licensed facility beds--155 at Pleasant Acres, 105 at the Rehabilitation Pavilion, and 19 in the Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded. She explained that Park View is the largest provider of long-term care in the county. She also noted that they have as many discharges as they do admissions every year, which indicates that people no longer come to nursing homes just to live out the rest of their lives, but to be rehabilitated and put back in their homes and community.

Mrs. Lowe continued going through the report explaining the types of residents at Park View Health Center, their specialized services, the different levels of care they provide, amount of medications distributed daily, as well as the types of diets that must be provided.

Also included in the report was the break down of Park View's 1999 revenue sources, of which 46% comes from Medicaid, 23% from intergovernmental transfer programs, 16% from private pay, 9% from Medicare, 4% from jail and Huber Facility meals and 2% from meal sites.

Mrs. Lowe explained that medical assistance is 58% federal dollars and 42% state dollars. It does not cover the cost of care--they lose approximately 35% on every medical assistant patient. She stated that this situation will not change, because they continue to cut Medicare. Mrs. Lowe touched on some of the complicated billing procedures that must be followed.

Mrs. Lowe explained that their number of residents has declined over the years because of the improvements in home health care. This has also resulted in Park View's residents being those people who are much sicker and in need of greater care. Also, the number of younger mentally ill people has declined, because of new treatment and programs in the communities. Mrs. Lowe stated that in the future Park View will become smaller and more like a hospital, which is all right because it indicates that people are staying in their homes longer and receiving appropriate care.

Mrs. Lowe explained that they are required annually to do a lengthy cost report for Medicaid and Medicare. This report determines what Park View's reimbursement will be from those programs. She explained that the "turn around" time for payment from Medicare and Medicaid for appropriate costs is about 18 months. This makes it very difficult for them together Park View's annual budget because they don't know what the rates will be or for what they will be reimbursed.

Other things covered in the report is the Intergovernmental Transfer Program (ITP), bed assessment revenue, Resource Utilization Group (RUG) III Classification System, food service revenues, total expenses for 1999, and a financial summary for 1999.

Mrs. Lowe told the Board that Park View is surveyed three times a year, once for each of their three licenses, and that there is over 500 areas in which they could be sited. She reported that in 1998 Park View had three perfect surveys.

## **WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND USE SURVEY**

Supervisor Schaidler told the Board that, "the Planning & Zoning Committee is committed to moving forward on both the farmland preservation front and the comprehensive land use plan front." He stated that it's time for Winnebago County to "get their act together" and present to the county a plan that will be good for the next 30-50 years. He then introduced Mike Koles, Community Resource Development Educator.

Mr. Koles explained that the purpose of the land use survey was to identify Winnebago County citizens' opinions are in regards to land use issues. Mr. Koles passed out information to the Board that outlined the areas that he would cover in his report: survey purpose; survey responses & significance; survey overview; and what's to come.

Mr. Koles explained that there are three purposes and seven points in the survey that he'd like the Board to remember.

The first survey purpose is to develop a vision of what we want the county to look like in 20 years. Mr. Koles pointed out that, 1. Winnebago County citizens are pro-planning & growth management.

The second survey purpose is to develop policies to get to that vision. Mr. Koles noted that: 2. again, people are pro-planning and growth management, but less than in developing a vision; 3. want to develop a county land use plan; and 4. some people are willing to compensate land owners for regulations put on their land.

The third survey purpose is what to do about the farmland preservation program. Mr. Koles noted that: 5. people want to keep and follow the program, but they want to make it work better; and, 6. they want to update the 1982 plan.

Mr. Koles reported that the responses to the survey were overwhelming and are a good indicator of what the county is thinking.

Mr. Koles stated that according to 70% of the people surveyed, their vision of the county for the next 20 years is to control taxes, manage the natural environment, preserve farmland, and control traffic congestion. In addition, a majority of those surveyed also feel it is important to preserve our culture & history, to develop parks, preserve open space and to maintain a rural character. Finally, an equal number of people feel that it is important to redevelop urban areas and have vital downtown center. Mr. Koles explained that this indicates, "the vision of Winnebago County is decidedly pro-land use planning and growth management."

Mr. Koles explained that in the policy section of the survey people are still pro-planning and growth management, but less than in the vision section. He told the Board that the survey asked whether people were willing to accept various restrictions on their land in an effort to obtain their visions. This is when some people became less pro-planning and growth management--when, "they realize they might have to give up a little bit."

Mr. Koles explained that there is a lot of "ambivalence" when it comes to policy. He stated that there are 30-40% of the people who are "consistently pro-planning"; 15-25% who are "consistently anti-planning"; with 35-45% of the people it depends on the issue; and 10-20% of the people are unsure.

Mr. Koles told the Board that the survey also indicates:

- approximately 75% of the people do want a land use plan developed.
- majority of the people would like to see a private market system developed where landowners would be compensated for regulations put on their land.
- only 42% would be in favor of a publicly funded system to compensate landowners for regulations put on their land.

Mr. Koles said that the average annual tax increase that people are willing to pay for preserve farmland, open space and the environment is \$7.04. When that is multiplied by the number of taxpayers, it is over \$1 Million. He also stated that people living in urban areas should be willing to pay this 7.04 in order to protect those areas that give the county "rural character".

Mr. Koles explained the survey's distribution was based on the percent of rural and urban residents--30% rural and 70% urban. They received approximately a 50% response from both

areas.

In regards to the third purpose for the survey, the farmland preservation program (FFP), Mr. Koles told the Board that people want the program, but they want it to work better. People don't want rezones to be allowed based on "development pressure." They want rezones based on "the environment, flooding, etc." and "emotions and private desires should not be heavily weighted when making a decision."

Mr. Koles stated that the survey also asked how well people understand the farmland preservation program and the results were as expected--5% "very well"; 27% "good"; 43% "fair"; 23% "poor"; and 2% didn't respond. He also explained between 27% and 43% of people were "not sure" when it came to specific questions about the farmland preservation plan. Some of the questions were

Is FFP unfair to farmers? 23% - yes & 43% - no  
Is it unfair to farmers if the county pulls out of FFP? 36% - yes & 25% - no  
Should the county withdraw from FFP? 14% - yes & 49% - no  
Does FFP need to be updated? 60% - yes & 8% - no

Mr. Koles told the Board that a specific question about what criteria should be used to allow rezoning out of exclusive agriculture indicates, that 78% and 77%, respectively, feel that the effects on drainage/flooding and environmental factors should be the first criteria. The least reason to consider rezoning out of exclusive agriculture is development pressures.

Mr. Koles summarized his presentation by stating that the survey showed:

- vision is decidedly pro-planning & growth management
- people are concerned about sprawl
- develop a land use plan
- possibly compensate landowners for regulations
- keep the farmland preservation plan
- use it
- update the plan
- increase education
- don't more too hastily
- increased public participation

Mr. Koles said he will be preparing a full report on the survey and that he needs to get the information out to the public in order to educate them on this issue. He asked that the Board invite him to any of their civic organizations to speak on this issue.

## **EXECUTIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

Executive Van De Hey announced that the Federal Government has agreed to sell the weather tower to the county for \$58,000. They will also take care of the removal of the asbestos.

Executive Van De Hey explained that this capital improvements program is the first step in the budget process each year, and that it is important because the debt service incurred each year affects the tax levy.

Executive Van De Hey stated that each project in this report has been evaluated first by the various committees of jurisdiction and their department heads, and then by the management team directed by the Executive.

Executive Van De Hey stated that they were looking at a 4% or less interest rate on the general obligation note and a 5% or greater increase in the equalized valuation.

Executive Van De Hey stated that they have limited the amount of debt service in each year of this program. This year they hope to bond for no more than \$4.5 Million, plus the \$2.2 Million for the Solid Waste Management Board, for which they are responsible. She explained that the bond amount is being limited because, "we have a real unstable situation with the state." As the state sets their biennial budget, substantial cuts are being made in funding for the circuit

court system, juveniles and workforce development. Because these cuts may cause increased operating costs for the county, it is also necessary to keep the bond amount low so there isn't a significant increase in the tax rate.

Executive Van De Hey explained that just because a project is put into the five-year plan, that doesn't mean it will stay there for five years. There are projects, such as the 911 system, the computer assisted dispatch and the records management system that are in need of replacement within the next few years. None of these projects were included in the five-year plan, the Sheriff's budget or the Information Systems' budgets. Executive Van De Hey explained that because those projects must be included, she was forced to do some difficult substitutions and eliminate some projects that aren't as critical.

Executive Van De Hey explained that this five-year plan will cause a .06 per \$1,000 increase in county property taxes. She's hoping that low total operational costs, plus the growth association with the infrastructure projects will keep it close to a "flat tax rate."

Executive Van De Hey then went through "1999-2003 Executive Capital Improvements Program Levy Supported Projects" as listed in the report. She explained that the two projects that had to be eliminated from this five-year program are the Community Park Master Plan and the UW-Fox Valley Theater/Performing Arts Center.

A motion was made by Supervisor Schwartz and seconded to adjourn until Tuesday, June 15, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Maehl reminded everyone to be in the front of the courthouse at 5:00 p.m. on June 15 for the group photo. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan T. Ertmer  
Winnebago County Clerk