

**SPECIAL ORDERS SESSION  
COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2000**

Chairman Joseph Maehl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, Fourth Floor, Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

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

The following Supervisors were present: Kollath, Barker, Griesbach, Savas, Maehl, Klitzke, Widener, Lauson, Albrecht, Pech, Schwartz, Mathy, Sundquist, Wingren, Wagner, Warnke, Troxell, Robl, Eichman, Bellin, Crowley, Kramer, Schaidler, Finch, Spanbauer, Sievert, Arne, Diakoff, Brennand, Egan, Rankin, Rengstorf and Metzsig. Excused: 2 – O'Brien and Leschke. Absent: 3 – Footit, Koziczkowski and Bertrand.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, ETC.**

Information was received on the following seminars: DNR Brownfields Forum, various dates and locations in April; East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, "Working With Wisconsin's New Smart Growth Legislation," March 31, DePere; Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Farmland Preservation Agreement Training Sessions, various dates and locations in May.

A notice of claim from the EAA for damage to an underground phone line by a Wittman Airport crew was referred to the Personnel & Finance Committee.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Supervisor Barker encouraged the Board and the public to fill out their census surveys as soon as they get them and mail them back right away. She also reported that Winnebago County has received an \$11,000 grant from the State of Wisconsin to off set costs associated with the promotion of the census. Flyers, handbills and posters in different languages promoting participation in the census have been printed and distributed throughout the county.

Supervisor Barker asked that any Supervisor who would like something on the agenda for the next Legislative Committee meeting, get it to her by Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Rengstorf reported that all contracts for the new Sheriff's facility have been signed. Those contracts are: Kimme Associates for planning; Venture Co. for architectural work; and Boldt Construction Co. as the overseer of the entire project. Supervisor Rengstorf also reported that yesterday the jail population was 278, including the Huber facility pod that was recently converted to hold non-Huber inmates. This is too many inmates for both facilities, so 9 were transferred to Manitowoc County yesterday and 6 more will be transferred today.

Supervisor Albrecht, reporting on the NACo Transportation Steering Committee meeting in Washington, stated that the U.S. Senate has passed the Airport Restoration Reform Act, AIR 21. He pointed out the various ways that this will benefit Winnebago County and Wittman Regional Airport: multi-year airport improvement program; increased passenger facility charges; increased minimum entitlement grants; allows for a 90% federal share of project costs; increased the amount set aside for the small airport fund to help them meet the small airport certification standards; allows up to two airports per state per year to receive up to \$1.1 million for air traffic control tower construction; air service development program grants to under served airports; provides preservation of essential air service at dominant hubs; Chicago slot restrictions were completely eliminated on 3/1/2000; improvements to leased property.

Supervisor Wagner reported that 40+ acres of the Knapp Street property appear to have been sold for \$130,000. The potential purchasers are Kobussen Buses, Ltd.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

No one addressed the Board.

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

Chairman Maehl reported that on March 14, 1900, the City of Marinette passed an ordinance requiring that gates be placed at all railroad crossings. At that time, it was also suggested that the City of Neenah and Winnebago County do the same. Chairman Maehl commented on how this compares to the situation we face today in the City of Neenah.

### **RESIGNATION OF BURTON SCHMIDT, COUNTY TREASURER**

Chairman Maehl read a letter from Burton Schmidt, Winnebago County Treasurer, announcing his retirement as of April 18, 2000. He thanked the Board for the support they have given him during his tenure as County Treasurer.

### **CHANGE THE TIME OF THE MARCH 21, 2000 COUNTY BOARD MEETING**

Motion by Supervisor Bellin and seconded to start the March 21, 2000 County Board meeting at 5:30 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

### **COURTHOUSE SECURITY**

Judge Bruce Schmidt explained that a couple of years ago, the Supreme Court passed a rule that required all counties have a security committee, headed by one of the county's circuit judges. He has headed Winnebago County's Security Committee since that time.

It was the county's Security Committee that initiated the installation of security cameras and monitors in the courthouse and the placement of a full-time Sheriff's Deputy in the courthouse and safety building. Judge Schmidt explained that since its been decided that the courts will remain in the Courthouse, it is appropriate that more extensive security measures be taken.

Judge Schmidt stated that they have taken their responsibility very seriously. The committee toured both the federal and county courthouses in Milwaukee County. These facilities were selected because they are similar to our courthouse in construction and were a good example of the type security setup that Winnebago County would require.

The committee's proposal takes into account the recommendations of the architect and the U.S. Marshall and incorporates positive features from other facilities.

Judge Schmidt stated that the ever-growing file of threats and incidents that he has kept for the past year, is an indicator that something must be done about security at the courthouse.

Mike Elder presented the "Schematic Design Report for Security Improvements to the Winnebago County Courthouse" as developed by Architecture Network, Inc. He explained that because the courthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places, architectural changes must be reviewed by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the local historical review agency. Any architectural changes must fit the original design and character of the building.

The following security measures were recommended:

- provide a "single controlled point of entry" by constructing a new 25' x 40' security entrance on the existing "pedestrian bridge" over the sally port and Maintenance Department loading dock.
- at this entrance there will be a central security control station staffed by two or three security personnel, possibly Sheriff's officers
- all incoming visitors will go through a metal detector; brief cases, purses, files, packages, etc., will be x-rayed
- separate entrance and exit doors to keep a "clear separation of incoming and outgoing traffic"
- security control station will monitor alarms and all other entrances to the building via video cameras
- security control station will be manned from 6:30 a.m. until 12:00 midnight

- two tunnels connecting the courthouse to the safety building and administration building can only be used by employees with electronic pass cards
- replace current courtroom security system – new system would be monitored at the security control station; current second floor monitoring station will be eliminated
- duress alarms in the courtrooms will sound at the security control station
- a separate information booth will be located in the security entrance

Estimated cost for this project is \$550,000.

## **TRANSMISSION TOWERS**

Mike Elder reported that the transmitter site on Sand Pit Road and the recently acquired Fairview Tower in the Town of Clayton need to be upgraded. The Sand Pit Road tower is the hub for all emergency communications in Winnebago County and is the location that needs the most work. Mr. Elder stated that at the Sand Pit Tower there is an inadequate electrical generator with no “ups” (uninterrupted power supply); inadequate air-conditioning; an old gas cabinet heater that was probably used when it was installed; and an insufficient electric supply.

Mr. Elder has contracted with an architectural firm to design a building that will be able to house the necessary equipment to keep this tower in operation. He is estimating the cost to be approximately \$100,000.

Upgrades that are needed at the Fairview Tower facility in the Town of Clayton, the future site for a county communications tower, are: install an antenna; remove radar and ray dome; make various carpentry repairs; replace fascia, soffets, gutters and down spouts; replace furnace; install air-conditioning unit; install a security and equipment monitoring system; install a “ups” (uninterrupted power supply); upgrade electrical service and replace obsolete electrical panels; install a generator; paint the inside and outside of the building and the tower; install a water softener; and repair or replace the septic system.

The estimated cost for this portion of the project is \$200,000. This figure does not include the cost of equipment needed by the Sheriff’s Department.

Mr. Elder stressed that the Fairview Tower sits on the highest point in the county and that its location will eliminate numerous communication problems for the Sheriff’s Department and area police and fire departments.

Sheriff Brooks stated that the cost of purchasing the Fairview Tower property was comparable to the cost of locating a site to construct the tower, hiring an architect to design the facility and then completing the construction. He also reported that they hope to use this facility as a Sheriff’s Department substation. As a substation, there would be offices for the deputies to work from and to meet with citizens to take complaints or fill out accident reports.

Sheriff Brooks reported that the Fairview Tower will eliminate the communication problems that the county’s volunteer fire departments experience.

Supervisor Schaidler asked that when the request for funding this project is brought to the County Board that they present the costs for both an occupied and an unoccupied facility.

Motion by Supervisor Schwartz and seconded to adjourn until March 21 @ 5:30 p.m. **CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan T. Ertmer  
Winnebago County Clerk

I, Susan T. Ertmer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors for the adjourned meeting held March 14, 2000.

Susan T. Ertmer  
Winnebago County Clerk