

**ORIENTATION SESSION
WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2000**

Chairman Joseph Maehl called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Fourth Floor, Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Supervisors were present: Kollath, Barker, Griesbach, Savas, Maehl, Koziczowski, Klitzke, Widener, Albrecht, Green, Reilly, Wingren, King, Norton, Nielsen, Robl, Eichman, Kline, Kramer, Schaidler, Spanbauer, Sievert, Arne, Diakoff, Brennand, Egan, Rankin and Rengstorf. Excused: Hert.

COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN'S PRESENTATION

Chairman Maehl described to the Supervisors that serving on the Winnebago County Board is comparable to serving on the board of directors of a \$121 Million corporation. He explained that each of them have an important and equal vote on the county's annual budget. He further explained that their control of the budget means that they are the ones who determine the direction that Winnebago County will take.

Chairman Maehl went over various aspects of the history of Winnebago County, noting that the first Winnebago County courthouse was built in 1847, one year before Wisconsin became a state. Chairman Maehl then stated that the size of the Board is the result of recommendations Thomas Jefferson made in 1787 regarding the Northwest Territory, which included the area that is now Wisconsin. Mr. Jefferson stated that this territory would never have slavery, there would be a school every 36 square miles and it would be based on the theory of "one man, one vote." Chairman Maehl explained that the "one man, one vote" theory does not allow for just a few people to govern or control many people.

Chairman Maehl explained that because of Winnebago County's financial record, it is one of a small number of counties in the United States that enjoys a Moody's AA2 rating. He stated Winnebago County is eligible to borrow up to \$361 Million, but currently has borrowed just 13% of that amount or \$46,775,000. He further stated that this rating is also affected by the fact that Winnebago County only bonds projects for ten years.

Chairman Maehl encouraged the Supervisors to attend seminars and educational sessions. He stressed the importance of continuing their education on issues that affect Winnebago County.

Chairman Maehl explained that the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) is a lobbying organization that represents all 72 Wisconsin counties. He encouraged the Supervisors to attend WCA seminars, training sessions and conferences.

Chairman Maehl explained Winnebago County's per diem system and made comparisons to other counties county board salaries and rates of pay. He also noted that the county follows the ethics code as it is prescribed in the State of Wisconsin statutes.

Chairman Maehl then went through the committees' descriptions section of the official directory. He also explained the roles of the Awards Committee, Industrial Development Board and the Speakers Bureau.

Chairman Maehl then explained to the Supervisors the proper way to fill out their per diem and expense report.

PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTY'S ETHICS HANDBOOK

John Bodnar, Winnebago County Corporation Counsel, told the Board that he is the legal representative for the county in all non-criminal legal matters. He explained that the services he provides to the County Board is primarily legal advice on county matters and drafting county board resolutions.

Mr. Bodnar explained that according to the County Board's rules, noon on the Wednesday prior to the County Board meeting is the cut off time for submitting resolutions for the agenda. Only resolutions that would have a negative financial impact on the county if they were not included on the agenda will be accepted after that cut off time.

Mr. Bodnar explained the importance and the consequences of the open meetings and open records laws.

Mr. Bodnar then went through the Ethics Handbook explaining the various examples and answering the Board's questions.

Motion by Supervisor Schaidler and seconded to adjourn until Tuesday, April 25th at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 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 their orientation meeting held on April 24, 2000.

Susan T. Ertmer
Winnebago County Clerk