

**SPECIAL ORDERS SESSION
COUNTY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2007**

Chairman David Albrecht 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 prayer.

The following Supervisors were present: Barker, Griesbach, Hotynski, Ramos, Maehl, Koziczkowski, Pollnow, Widener, Hamblin, Albrecht, Anderson, Thompson, Lohry, Lennon, Hall, Wingren, Jacobson, Norton, Drexler, Robl, Kline, Locke, Eisen, Schaidler, Finch, Farrey, Sievert, Arne, Diakoff, Brennand, Egan, Ellis, Rengstorf and O'Brien. Excused: Schmuhl. Absent: Sevenich and Warnke.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to approve the agenda for this evening's meeting with the change of order of the meeting's presentations. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, ETC.

Resolutions from other counties:

- Brown County - "Resolution Requesting Federal Action to Enforce Existing Immigration Legislation" referred to the Legislative Committee.
- Forest County - "support the adoption of the constitutional amendment that was proposed in the 2007 Wisconsin legislature to create Section 11 of Article VIII" referred to the Legislative Committee.
- Langlade County - "Support Senate Bill 122" referred to the Legislative Committee.
- Langlade County - "Encourage Governor James Doyle and the Wisconsin State Legislature to Include \$44 Million in the 2008-09 State Budget for Locally Controlled Alternatives to Incarceration Programs Under the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Program" referred to the Legislative Committee.
- St. Croix County - "Resolution in Support of Senate Bill (SB-122) Relating to Business Property Tax" referred to the Legislative Committee.
- Waushara County - "Resolution Requesting Repeal of Wisconsin Act 420" referred to the Legislative Committee.

A Notice of Claim was received from Clyde and June Miller for damage to their vehicle caused by a county highway vehicle splashing paint on it was referred to the Personnel & Finance Committee.

A Notice of Claim was received from Darwin R. Wiese for damage to his vehicle caused by wet road line paint splashing on his vehicle was referred to the Personnel & Finance Committee.

A Notice of Claim was received from R.D. Halliday for a broken window at his home caused by a county lawn mower was referred to the Personnel & Finance Committee.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Albrecht read Supervisor Farrell's letter of resignation from the Board effective July 1, 2007.

Chairman Albrecht reported that Supervisor Schmuhl is excused from tonight's meeting.

Chairman Albrecht read thank you notes from two recipients of the county's 2007 Scholarships--Jerard Stroik and Erica Ehlers.

PUBLIC HEARING

No one addressed the Board.

**EAST CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT
ERIC FOWLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Eric Fowle, Executive Director of East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, presented their 2006-2007 Annual Report. He explained that the commission has an annual budget of approximately \$1.8 Million of which 40% comes from the tax levy of the 7 member counties--Calumet, Menominee, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago. Winnebago County's share in 2006 was \$217,000.

Mr. Fowle explained that there are seven main things that the commission does for the member counties:

1. Help solve regional problems.
2. Help develop awareness and knowledge in planning issues.
3. Share resources and provide support for county planning staff.
4. Utilize local levy to leverage additional money from state and federal agencies.
5. Provide advocacy for regional cooperation between member counties/communities.
6. Facilitate economic well-being; building the region's economy and create and retain jobs.

7. Help local governments plan for the future--develop a regional plan.

Mr. Fowle presented ECWRPC's "Summary of 2006 Activities & Accomplishments" which outlines the various programs that they have provided assistance for to Winnebago County. He explained that many of these programs are required by federal or state government. These programs are:

- Public Information
- Regional Comprehensive Planning
- A-95 Clearinghouse Review
- State Data Center Affiliate
- Regional Transportation Planning (Fox Cities/Oshkosh MPO)
- WDNR Wood Products & Timber Utilization
- Sewer Service Area Planning
- EDA Economic Development
- Regional Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation
- Regional Open Space & Recreation
- Environmental Management
- Geographic Information Systems
- Local Assistance

Future & Potential (?) Regional Activities include:

- Regional Plan Implementation
- Regional Transportation Model Expansion
- State Groundwater Management Zone Planning/Administration
- 2010 Aerial Photography Program
- Regional Agricultural Preservation Program (PDR/TDR)
- Regional Revolving Loan Fund Program
- USH 41 Safety & Security Planning

Mr. Fowle stated that when he became the Executive Director two years ago, he inherited a lot of political and financial problems that he has had to address. He has been working to rebuild relationships with communities and counties and asked that if anyone has concerns that they call him directly.

Financially, revenues (tax levy or funds from federal/state agencies) have not increased, but costs associated with employee wages and health insurance and other expenses have gone up. They have gone from 24 to 20 employees, which has had an impact on their ability to provide assistance to member communities and counties. They are estimating a 2.5% to 2.75% increase for their 2008 budget. They will have their budget ready by the end of July.

Mr. Fowle then took questions from the Board.

A copy of his report is on file in the County Clerk's Office.

HUBER FACILITY REPORT - SHERIFF MICHAEL BROOKS

Sheriff Brooks explained the history of the county jail and the decision to build the Huber Facility, which was completed in 1995. This facility was built to only house prisoners that have been sentenced by the court and given Huber privileges (work-release privileges). When the Huber Center opened, it housed 60+ inmates immediately, which helped to reduce the number of inmates in the county jail. By February of 1996, the county jail population was back up to 90+ inmates, which is close to capacity.

In 1997, a space-needs study was done on the Safety Building and jail and it was determined that a larger jail was needed. In 1999, after much planning, it was decided that the new jail would be a 347-bed facility, with a need to expand it after 10 years or 2009.

Sheriff Brooks explained that there are a couple of things that have already made the situation at the county jail worse. In an effort to reduce his budget last year, he closed the Huber Facility. Fifteen of these inmates had to be transferred back to the county jail, which is equivalent to one year's growth in jail population.

Sheriff Brooks stated that he will be taking steps that will allow him to decrease the number of beds needed over the next two years, pushing back the overcrowding issue another two years.

In 2011, the current jail will be at capacity. By 2010, they will end all contract housing of state prisoners.

Sheriff Brooks explained that the county will lose approximately \$1,035,000 annually when it no longer takes state prisoners. The reduction in expenses for these inmates will only be approximately \$136,000. This gives a net loss of approximately \$899,000 in revenues that he will need to make up. Sheriff Brooks gave various scenarios on how to do this:

- Close one pod - Savings = \$462,595, less lost revenues of \$29,621, less additional costs of \$190,160 = Net Savings = \$242,814 (\$655,889 still needs to be recovered.)
- Close second pod - Savings = \$668,462, less lost revenues of \$29,621, less additional costs of \$1,216,173 =

Net Loss of \$577,332

- Canceling contracts and closing two pods will result in a combined net loss of \$1,233,221

Sheriff Brooks explained that the revenue generated by taking in state prisoners is very important, so it's equally as important that the county takes steps now to find a solution to the jail population problem. Sheriff Brooks stated that there are two solutions to the problem--retrofit the Huber Center or add on to the jail.

Sheriff Brooks explained that when the current jail was built, the core areas--kitchen, property room, booking area, etc--were designed to accommodate additional pods.

Sheriff Brooks explained that if the Huber Center is retrofitted, it would provide an additional 144 beds for a total of 491 beds, which is the projected number needed only until 2016.

Sheriff Brooks presented estimated revenue and expense information on the three options--retrofitting the Huber Center; adding two pods to the current jail; doing nothing at this time. Because these are estimated costs, Sheriff Brooks recommends that the firm that designed the jail be consulted to get accurate cost estimates for expansion of the current jail.

After his presentation, Sheriff Brooks took questions from the Board.

COUNTY ROAD A DESIGN PROJECT - JOHN HAESE, HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

John Haese, Winnebago County Highway Commissioner, discussed the proposed improvement project for County Road A from Indian Point Road north to the city limits of Neenah. He explained that there are capital improvement funds budgeted for the design of this portion of County Road A. Mr. Haese explained that it is important that the design of this project be completed so that right-of-way properties can be secured in the future.

Mr. Haese stated that this segment of highway is approximately four miles long and had an overlay done to it three years ago hoping that it would last for 15 years. However, the old roadbed has caused the highway to deteriorate faster than anticipated. Once this portion is done, the reconstruction of County Road A from Oshkosh to Neenah will be completed.

Mr. Haese stated that this portion of County Road A will be a two-lane rural road with a bike/pedestrian path. The cost to design this project with the path is approximately \$340,000, without the path is approximately \$220,000. Both options were offered to the committee and they recommended that the path be included in the design because it will be an extension of the path that was included in the previously completed section of the highway. This path will then be connected to the County Road Y project, which connects to various other trails/paths in the area.

Mr. Haese stated that the design of the project is necessary so they can determine how much of the right-of-way will be impacted. The project design will also let them study County Road A's intersections with County Road G and County Road GG. Mr. Haese feels that these intersections may be good locations for roundabouts.

Mr. Haese stated that there are some areas along this portion of County Road A that have drainage problems that need to be addressed. He explained that once the design has been completed, it will answer a lot of the questions that residents have about the project.

Mr. Haese reported that the Highway Committee has approved a budget transfer for the design project and it will be presented to the Personnel & Finance Committee in August and then to the County Board at their August 21 meeting.

Mr. Haese then took questions from the Board.

Chairman Albrecht called for a brief recess at 7:45 p.m. The Board reconvened at 7:54 p.m.

OPEN RECORDS LAW/SUPREME COURT DECISION - JOHN BODNAR, CORPORATION COUNSEL

John Bodnar, Winnebago County Corporation Counsel, spoke to the Board about a recent Wisconsin Supreme Court decision and their interpretation of the open records law. Mr. Bodnar explained that according to the Supreme Court, municipalities (which includes counties) need to be a great deal more specific with regards to issues listed on their meeting agendas. He explained that "novel issues" or "non-routine action" would require more specific notice or clarification on an agenda. Mr. Bodnar recommended that if anyone has a question about an agenda item and whether it is specific enough, they should contact him for an opinion.

Mr. Bodnar took questions from the Board.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to adjourn until Tuesday, July 24, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan T. Ertmer
Winnebago County Clerk

State of Wisconsin)
County of Winnebago) ss

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 Special Orders Session held July 10, 2007.

Susan T. Ertmer
Winnebago County Clerk