

**SPECIAL ORDERS SESSION
COUNTY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012**

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 an invocation by Supervisor Lennon.

The following Supervisors were present: Konezke, Barker, Englebert, Eisen, Ramos, Miller, Roh, Smith, Hamblin, Albrecht, Gabert, Tews, Thompson, Lennon, Reynolds, Hardy, Wingren, Lautenschlager, Norton, Warnke, Robl, Singstock, Neubauer, Kline, Locke, Hegg, Finch, Sievert, Rasmussen, Brennand, Egan, Ellis, Snider and Kriescher.

Excused: Widener and Farrey.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

No one addressed the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervisor Norton invited the Board to attend the Winnebago County Specialized Transportation Council's May 8 meeting. He stated that because they will be discussing the county's rural transportation program, it would be most appropriate that supervisors from the county's townships and village attend.

Supervisor Finch asked for a legal opinion of John Bodnar, Winnebago County Corporation Counsel, as to whether or not Supervisor Brennand should have voted on Resolution No. 7-42012, "Approve Petition to the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid". Corporation Counsel Bodnar stated that he could not give Supervisor Finch an answer, because it was up to Supervisor Brennand to speak to Mr. Bodnar on this issue.

Supervisor Eisen reported on his attendance at the Winnefox Library System workshop, "Voicing Your Support" regarding being an effective advocate for your library. Speakers included Senators Jessica King and Luther Olsen and they shared "insights" on how best to work with your legislators.

Supervisor Eisen congratulated Chairman Albrecht on his election today to the Wisconsin Counties Association Board of Trustees.

Supervisor Robl, referencing Resolution No. 9-42012, "Appropriate \$2,200,000 for a Project to Resurface CTH H from CTH AH to the West County Line with the Town of Wolf River", reported that when Highway 10 was in the planning stage, the Winnebago County Highway Committee invited area legislators to discuss building a bridge across the Wolf River further south so people in that area wouldn't have to go north to Fremont to cross the river. However, the bridge was eventually built in Fremont, because there would be less disturbance of wetlands and a lower cost for construction.

Supervisor Smith reported that the Information Systems Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Supervisor Hegg reported that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will be holding a meeting to discuss US Highway 441. The meeting will be held at Butte des Mort Elementary School at 5:30 p.m.

In regards to Supervisor Finch's comments regarding the vote on Resolution No. 7-42012, Supervisor Hegg asked that in the future a decision on votes for agenda items be made before the item comes up for a vote. He also asked for a copy of the legal decision that was made on a previous vote regarding Wittman Regional Airport.

Supervisor Ramos stated that there will not be a Board of Health meeting in May.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Albrecht reported that Supervisors Farrey and Widener are excused from tonight's meeting.

TORNADO AWARENESS – LINDA KOLLMANN, WINNEBAGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Linda Kollmann, Winnebago County Emergency Management Director, gave a presentation on her department and how they prepare for a tornado emergency.

Ms. Kollmann explained and gave examples of how lives have been saved when communities, companies and individuals have a weather preparedness plan in place.

In 2011, there were 1,691 tornadoes in the United States and 550 fatalities as a result of those tornadoes. Ms. Kollmann explained that 550 fatalities is a very high number and includes the 158 fatalities from the Joplin, Missouri tornado.

Ms. Kollmann explained that the high number of fatalities in Joplin were because a majority of the residents did not immediately seek shelter when the tornado warnings were issued. She explained that in a study conducted on the Joplin tornado, it was determined that people needed "between two and nine risk signals to take action and seek shelter." In other words, they heard the warnings, but they went to other sources to find out what was happening—the internet, went outside,

turned on their television, etc. Taking the time to do these things cost people their lives.

Ms. Kollmann presented information on the number and variety of the county's 2011 weather events. One of those events was the April 10, 2011 tornado outbreak in Wisconsin. There were fifteen tornadoes in the state that day and two of them were in the northwest corner of Winnebago County. Ms. Kollmann stated that these tornadoes caused approximately \$1.2 Million in property loss in the county, of which 95% was covered by insurance.

Ms. Kollmann explained what her department does when severe weather breaks out in Winnebago County:

- Receives hazardous weather outlooks from the National Weather Service (NWS)
- If necessary, notifies various agencies—first responders, hospitals, etc., so they can prepare.
- When severe weather is imminent, the State of Wisconsin initiates a state-wide conference call with all emergency management agencies and the NWS.
- Ham radio operators are contacted.
- Weather spotters, off-duty Sheriff's officers and volunteer fire departments are deployed to watch for funnel clouds.
- Emergency Management Department relocates to their Operation Center in the 911 Center and coordinates with the 911 dispatchers and the NWS.
- Sirens are activated only when the NWS issues a tornado warning or if trained weather spotters see a funnel cloud and it's confirmed by the NWS. Sirens are also activated if there are winds in excess of 90 miles per hour.

Ms. Kollmann explained that the NWS warning system is based on a polygon system. The polygon system allows them to be more specific about the location of the warning. However it does cause some problems for Ms. Kollmann's department because the county's 52 tornado sirens don't match up with the NWS polygon system. Winnebago County's sirens can "sound" by the four different zones, all four zones at once, or by individual siren. Ms. Kollmann explained that trying to pick specific individual sirens to fit the NWS polygon would take too much time, so she will error on the side of caution and sound more sirens or more zones.

Ms. Kollmann explained that it's important for people to have multiple ways to get severe weather notification. She stated that Winnebago County's sirens are for notifying people who are outside. People need to have a way to get weather notifications when they are in their home. Ms. Kollmann said that her department promotes and sells the NOAA weather radio to county residents for \$24.90. People can also get weather alerts by text on cell phones and from various websites on the internet.

Ms. Kollmann then took questions from the Board.

CLARITY CARE UPDATE – TIM COOK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tim Cook, Clarity Care CEO, explained that Clarity Care is a non-profit organization that provides services to elderly and disabled persons in northeast Wisconsin. In 2004, Winnebago County made a loan to Clarity Care for \$1.1 Million so they could continue to provide these services to residents in northeast Wisconsin. Clarity Care paid off that loan in June 2009.

Mr. Cook told the Board that in 2004 they had 432 employees. Today they are close to 700 employees. Mr. Cook explained that these are good paying jobs with excellent benefits.

Mr. Cook also reported that:

- The programs that Clarity Care offers to their clients are "pretty exceptional". Since 2004, they were able to increase existing services, as well as, add new services.
- Clarity Care promotes independence for their clients so they can continue to live in their homes and communities. Mr. Cook explained that one of the things they have done is placed iPods and iPads in some of the residences so clients who can't speak, have difficulty speaking or communicating, can use these devices. He stated that this is "enlarging their world." There are also applications on these devices that they use for different types of therapies, literacy and email.
- Since 2007, they have worked with different groups and agencies in the community to find out "what are the gaps of services" in northeast Wisconsin and how to fill those gaps. Mr. Cook stated that one of the things they found was that some elderly people living in their own home are living in very isolated, unsafe conditions. Some of these people can't afford in-home services, but they also don't qualify for services because they have too many assets or their income is too high. To help people in these situations, they have created a new program called, "Help at Home". Help at Home services include: chores around the house, laundry, manage medication, shopping, getting to doctor appointments, etc. Clients using these services are charged based on a sliding scale and pay as little as \$3.00 per hour.
- Mr. Cook explained that availability of handicap-accessible housing is also a problem in northeast Wisconsin. To address this situation, they are partnering with North Fond du Lac High School's "build program", where students actually build houses. They have been doing this for about 20 years and have built 20 spec homes. In 2010 they had to suspend the program because their last two houses hadn't sold. Clarity Care has now partnered with them and they are building side-by-side, six bedroom duplex in North Fond du Lac. This project not only benefits Clarity Care's clients, but also the student who are participating in the project.
- Clarity Care, working with UW-Oshkosh, developed a program called, "Chance" that gives their clients a chance to do different things—go to a movie, go out to dinner, go fishing or bowling, bake cookies, go to sporting events, play bingo, etc. This summer they are collaborating with the YMCA and offering "Camp Chance", where participants will be able to

swim, canoe, baseball, hike etc. Clarity Care worked with UW-Oshkosh to establish a program for children under the age of 21 currently in the school system called, "Imagine". This is a mentor program similar to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization.

Mr. Cook thanked all the people at Winnebago County who have helped and worked with Clarity Care over the years, so they can provide these vital services to members of the community.

Mr. Cook then took questions from the Board.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE – DOUG GIERYN, WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DIRECTOR

Doug Gieryn, Winnebago County Health Director, distributed copies of the Winnebago County Health Department 2011 Annual Report, which will familiarize the Board members with the wide variety of services that his department provides.

Mr. Gieryn explained that they are currently in the process of consolidating the Winnebago County Health Department with the Health Departments from the Cities of Neenah and Oshkosh.

Mr. Gieryn updated the Board on their communicable disease program. He explained that there are some diseases that the state requires public health departments to report on, so that the sources of the diseases can be identified and prevent the spread of the disease. Mr. Gieryn stated that these diseases are, "typically diseases that can be spread from person-to-person or have some other significant public health impact."

Mr. Gieryn explained the April 2012 "Reports of Communicable Disease in All of Winnebago County" with the Board. The report is a twelve month breakdown of the various diseases and shows the number of occurrences in the county. The report is provided to area clinicians every month and also includes other types of information on health issues of concern—vaccinations, disease outbreaks in other parts of the country, etc.

Mr. Gieryn stated that the most commonly reported diseases are sexually transmitted diseases. They are also seeing increases in these diseases over the last few years in Winnebago County. They are focusing more attention on these diseases by putting together a community leadership team. This team will look more closely at this issue and look for ways to reverse or stop this trend.

Mr. Gieryn stated that the Board is welcome to stop in and take a tour of his office at any time. He then took questions from the Board.

UNANTICIPATED REDUCTION OF YOUTH AIDS IMPACT ON HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET DR. BILL TOPEL, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Dr. Topel introduced himself to the new members of the Board and explained that the Human Services Department is one of the county's largest departments. The Human Services Department is mandated by the State of Wisconsin to provide:

- child protection
- child welfare
- mental health services
- substance abuse services
- children's long-term care
- aging and disability resource center
- economic support – help people apply for Badger Care and Food Share

Dr. Topel stated that his department has a very complicated budget, so if new supervisors need additional information about the Human Services Department they should contact him.

Dr. Topel explained that at budget time, the State of Wisconsin usually lets county's know what kind of reduction they will see in their budget lines. Last year the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and the Division of Juvenile Corrections notified the county that there would be a two percent reduction in their allocation to the county. The county was then able to adjust for that two percent reduction.

Dr. Topel reported that in late January-early February, the Department of Corrections notified him that they were now going to reduce the Human Services allocation by twenty-two percent--\$393,000. No explanation for this change has been given. However, it appears that county allocations were reduced because the state required the Department of Corrections to reduce their budget by \$9 Million.

This \$393,000 reduction will impact the county's ability to provide alternatives for minors going into juvenile corrections. Dr. Topel wanted to notify the Board that his department is including this reduction in their new, adjusted budget projections for this year. He feels that with these adjustments, they will be able to cover most of this reduction. However, he did want the Board to know that if they have to ask for a budget transfer at the end of the year this will be, "the lions share of the reason for that transfer."

Dr. Topel then took questions from the Board.

In response to tonight's request from Supervisor Finch for a legal opinion on the Resolution 7-42012 issue, John Bodnar,

Winnebago County Corporation Counsel asked that he be called in advance so he can prepare an answer.

However, during the meeting, Mr. Bodnar went back to his office and looked at Resolution No. 7-42012 and determined that because the resolution was in regards to a petition to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for monies for improvements to the airport, specifically to construct an airport perimeter road, install security items, remove runway access roads, conduct a stormwater study and implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan and grade a runway safety area, but had nothing to do with what Supervisor Brennand previously felt was a conflict of interest. Previously, Supervisor Brennand felt he had a conflict of interest when the Board was considering purchasing property that was owned by his parents, but that property was not part of Resolution No. 7-42012.

Mr. Bodnar responded to Supervisor Hegg's question about the appropriateness of Supervisor Brennand abstaining from voting on the resolution to appropriate money for the county to purchase land owned by Supervisor Brennand's parents. Based on the facts Supervisor Brennand gave him, Mr. Bodnar felt it was appropriate for Supervisor Brennand to abstain.

Mr. Roh commented that he felt Resolution No. 7-42012 was asking for the Board's approval to send a list of requests to Madison for federal funding, which included property owned by four different individuals. Mr. Bodnar said that he doesn't have a copy of that document with him, but reiterated that if he had been asked in advance to comment on this issue tonight, he would have been able to review the document and give an appropriate answer.

Mr. Bodnar stated that even if the FAA approves this funding request, the Board will still have to vote on and approve the various projects.

Supervisor Roh stated for the record that he did not object to Supervisor Brennand voting on Resolution No. 7-42012. However, if he had been able to speak before the vote was taken on Resolution No. 7-42012, he would have brought up his concerns, as well as the land acquisition issue.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to adjourn until Monday, May 14, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. for the annual Winnebago County Board tour.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan 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 May 1, 2012

Susan T. Ertmer, Winnebago County Clerk