



*Office of County Administrator
County of La Crosse, Wisconsin*

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Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: March 4, 2010

Re: March Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the March Monthly Report to the County Board, providing monitoring information about department activities to the full County Board instead of reporting only to governing committees.

REMINDER Monthly Reporting by roughly half the organization every other month. While you will receive this report each month, the reports do not cover every department each time.

February, April, June, August, Oct. & Dec.

Planning, Resources & Development
Public Works & Infrastructure
Judiciary & Law Enforcement
Corp Counsel & Child Support

January, March, May, July, September, November

Health & Human Services
Aging & Long Term Care
County Clerk, Finance, IT,
Printing, Personnel, Treasurer

“OF INTEREST”

Hillview Assisted Living Facility Timeline updated

After consultation with WIPFLI CPA and Consulting, and extensive market study research, HV staff recommends there is a need for a high quality, affordable, moderate income assisted living facility in the County.

The conclusions of the WIPFLI study will be presented to the County Board at the March 8th, 2010 Policy Planning meeting. Consideration of Hillview Assisted Living will be the main topic of presentation and discussion that evening. Also, the County Board will be asked to consider for a vote the resolution authorizing the concept of expanding Hillview's services to include Assisted Living.

Earlier that morning, the Aging and Long Term Care committee will briefly discuss the size, scope, budget and potential timeline for construction of an Assisted Living Facility on the Hillview campus. Hillview staff has completed their analysis of these issues which has been reviewed by WIPFLI. The County Administrator and Finance Director have not completed their review and evaluation of the operating & capital budget for the project, along with preparing final recommendations on debt service options for the facility.

If the County Board approves the concept at the March 8 Policy Planning meeting, a Resolution to seek bids for the project will be presented to the April Aging & Long Term Care Committee and County Board.

*If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail.
County Administrator direct line: 785-9789, cell phone 608-385-3316
or e-mail steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Aging & Long Term Care March 2010

Lakeview Health Center

MVHS Membership Grows

Mississippi Health Services Commission has been up and running (in various forms) since 2008. Up until this time, the commission has consisted of eleven member counties, most in this regional area.

Recently we have been approached by Outagamie and Winnebago Counties regarding joining our commission. This is a positive for MVHS as Lakeview has the capacity to serve additional members, and these are two large counties with the potential to refer multiple residents to Lakeview. Obviously this benefits our current members as it "spreads out" the costs for all.

We are currently in the process of convening a special MVHS board meeting to approve the potential admission of these two counties pending their county board approval to join us. We will continue to keep you all updated on any items of interest related to the commission.

Veterans Service Office

- The demobilization and reintegration of the almost 3200 members of the WI National Guard's 32nd Brigade Combat Team was completed by the end of January. CVSO's, state and federal VA staff were all involved in the process of getting these new veterans outprocessed at Ft. McCoy. Almost 40% of returning soldiers filed VA claims or had prior benefits reinstated. Most soldiers had a fairly safe tour training the Iraqi Army or taking care of detainees in Iraq.

The next step will be to meet with unit members, one by one, at their weekend drills over the next few months. I am scheduled to meet with the Onalaska unit members on the weekend of March 13th and 14th.

- There are about 1600 veterans and attending school at Western Technical College, UW-L, Globe University or Viterbo for this spring semester. Reasons for this are a poor job market and improved educational benefits for most veterans released from active duty after 9/11/01. The Veterans Service Office works closely with veteran certifying officials at each school to insure that veterans are applying for the right GI Bill program and are receiving the maximum benefit (there are 6 different VA educational programs). GI Bill education benefit processing has been slow due to the number of veterans attending school nationwide, but the VA is starting to reduce the backlog and most veterans receive their benefits within a few weeks of the first day of class.

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Health & Human Services March 2010

Human Services Department

CARE Center Opening

The Human Services Department and its contracted agency, Tellurian UCAN, will be opening the new CARE Center on April 12. This crisis center, dealing with psychiatric and substance abuse emergencies, will be located at 4647 Mormon Coulee Road with Tellurian leasing the property.

The Human Services Department submitted a proposed budget to contract for the CARE Center to County Administration and to the Health & Human Services Board. The Director and Mental Health Recovery Services Manager have been meeting with the hospital foundations and administration of the two health care systems to gain community funding to assist the first year operation of the center.

For more information on the CARE Center and mental health crisis services, please contact Mental Health Recovery Services Supervisor Donna Gunnarson at 785-6118 or gunnarson.donna@co.la-crosse.wi.us.

Economic Support Shared Services Proposal

Eight counties in western Wisconsin have been working with the state Department of Health Services to create a regional call/change center for many of the public assistance programs administered by the counties. The state Department of Health Services has requested several counties and regions to test more efficient ways for administering public assistance programs.

Under the proposal submitted by the western region, the La Crosse County call/change center will become a regional call/change center for eight (8) counties. The state would provide the funding and software to the region to test the pilot for a period of 8-12 months with the state's intention that if the pilot provides efficient operation of the economic support programs, the regional proposal could be sustained.

For more information on the Economic Support Shared Services proposal, please contact Economic Support Manager Lorie Graff at 785-6061 or graff.lorie@co.la-crosse.wi.us.

The Children and Family Safety Review (CFSR)

La Crosse County has been selected by the state Department of Children & Family Services to be part of the federal Children and Family Safety Review. The federal government since the year 2000 has reviewed state compliance to key outcome indicators of children's safety and permanency. Sauk, Columbia and Milwaukee counties also have been chosen to participate in these federal reviews which will be conducted the week of April 12. Following the federal reviews, the State of Wisconsin will be required to submit a Program Improvement Plan related to the key outcome indicators required by the federal government.

For more information on the CFSR and La Crosse County's review, please contact Jerry Huber at 785-6054 or huber.gerald@co.la-crosse.wi.us.

Alternative Response Pilot

La Crosse County was chosen to pilot a new program in Wisconsin called Alternative Response in Child Protective Services. This program has been implemented in most states and provides an alternative approach in addressing the needs of families referred to Child Protective Services. Cases which would be referred to Alternative Response would be most cases of child neglect and less egregious cases of child physical abuse. The pilot is intended to last two years.

For more information on the Alternative Response pilot program, please contact Family & Children's Supervisor Janet Holter at 785-6070 or holter.janet@co.la-crosse.wi.us.

Health Department

During the last two months, the La Crosse County Health Department has been involved in the following activities:

- H1N1 prevention related activities have been successful in that no deaths have occurred in La Crosse County with six hospitalizations. In conjunction with area health care providers, approximately 28,000 immunizations were provided along with significant community education about ways individuals can prevent the transmission of disease. The Health Department provided approximately 7,000 of the total 28,000 vaccinations given.
- Year-end reports describing the accomplishments required in approximately 20 separate contracts for public health service delivery were completed.
- Approximately 20 new contracts for the delivery of public health services in 2010 as proposed in the 2010 budget have been signed, and work is under way. Program areas include Maternal and Child Health services, lead poison prevention, radon detection, child safety seat education, tobacco control programming, public health preparedness training and equipment purchases, mosquito control services, nutrition education services, Safe Walk to Schools and other exercise programs, home health service delivery, laboratory services for area municipalities, hotel, restaurant and other inspection services, cardio vascular disease control and others.
- The Western Region Public Health Preparedness Coalition has been established with 17 counties in western Wisconsin.
- Progress is under way to close out the 2009 budget and complete the appropriate year-end reports.
- Health Department staff has participated in the development of two papers describing successful results of Health Department programming that were published for national review.
- The results of various activities of the Department in 2009 are shown in the table below.

LA CROSSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT - 2009 OBJECTIVES

DIV	GOALS/OBJECTIVE	4 th QUARTER	Obj. Met
	GOAL #1 Provide public health services to meet changing needs.		
Admin	1.a. Maintain La Crosse County Annual Years of Potential Life Lost among the lowest third in the state.	Met Goal in 2008, data for 2009 not yet available.	YES
Env	1.b. By Dec. 2009, conduct at least 100 consultations, inspections or orders for homes suspected to have radon, lead or mold exposure.	Env = 40, Lead – 11, Mold - 28	YES
PHN/ Ed/Env/ Vector	1.c. By Dec. 2009, complete over 700 communicable disease follow-ups on 83 reportable diseases or conditions.	Env = 60, VC=59, Ed=105, VC=10	YES
HC	1.d. By Dec. 2009, provide home health nursing and Personal Care services to 75% of referral received.	100% of referrals were admitted	YES
PHN	1.e. By Dec. 2009, there will be a 3% increase from 2008 rates of infants residing in La Crosse County who turn 24 months of age during the contract year will have received the primary series of immunizations.	Currently at 78%; HIB vaccination is not included per state recommendations, as reinstatement of 4 th dose may skew reports.	YES
Lab	1.f. By Dec. 2009, have the monthly testing of 10 area municipal drinking water systems show the systems to be safe.	100%	YES
Nutr	1.g. By Dec. 31, 2009 more than 70% of infants whose mothers were enrolled in the La Crosse WIC Program prenatally will be breastfed	Breastfeeding incidence of mothers on La Crosse WIC prenatally-70.6% compared to 67% statewide)	YES
Nutr	1.h. By Dec. 31, 2009, 5 schools in the County will have implemented Safe Routes to School Programs	Currently 5 have: Hamilton, State Road, Franklin, Irving Pertsch, Northern Hills	YES
Nutr	1.i. By Dec. 31, 2009, assist 100 uninsured individuals enroll in the BadgerCare Plus Prog.	378 full applications completed in 2009	YES
PHN/ Nutr/ Ed	1.j. By Dec. 2009, provide employee wellness services to 25% of all La Crosse County employees.	Ongoing – Data not compiled.	Not known – data not compiled.
Vector	1.k. By Dec. 2009, less than 3 reported cases of mosquito-borne West Nile or La Crosse Encephalitis.	None Reported	YES
Admin	1.l. By Dec. 2009 meeting the 2009 budget goals for the dept.		Not known – data not compiled.
Admin	1.m. For the year ending Dec. 2009 in an effort to receive 95% of signed doctor's orders within the 20 calendar day limit, clerical staff will attempt three contacts with physicians' offices to request return of the orders to the Health Department.	Analysis for the 4th quarter not compiled	Not known – data not compiled.
	GOAL #2 Utilize technology to improve public health services.		
PHP	2.a. By Dec. 2009, establish an electronic reportable disease-case report system.	Health Educ. Staff received training and are entering data.	Partial Completion
Vector	2.b. March and April thru November Surveillance, trapping, and control activities for disease carrying mosquitoes and ticks in La	Completed	YES

DIV	GOALS/OBJECTIVE	4th QUARTER	Obj. Met
	Crosse County and contracted areas.		
All	2.c. By Dec. 2009, the Business Continuity Plan will be tested	HC=On schedule. The BCP is being tested with H1N1-Incident Command established.	YES
Admin	2.d. By Dec. 2009, complete initial planning for a department-wide electronic health record system.	Planning delayed because of H1N1 related activities.	NO
	GOAL #3 Maintain the current State of Wisconsin designation as the highest-level public health agency.		
Admin	3.a. Report each quarter on the range of high priority services needed to maintain status of Level III HD.	Reporting system in place, services are being delivered.	YES
	GOAL #4 Expand partnerships to develop public health services in high priority areas.		
Admin	4.a. By Dec. 2009, expand the current partnership with dentists to increase persons covered by MA that receive dental care to over 25%.	Committee did not meet in the quarter because of H1N1 related activity.	NO
	4.b. By Dec 2009 HD employees will participate in the following partnerships:		
Admin	Coulee Region Public Health Preparedness Consortium	Last meeting of group held.	YES
Ed	La Crosse Area Health Initiative	Last meeting of group held	YES
Lab	WI Public Health Laboratory Network	Continue working with Lab Network	YES
Nutr	Coulee Region Childhood Obesity Coalition	12 meetings held in 2009	YES
Nutr	Safe Route to School Task Force - SRTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of La Crosse • La Crosse County 	City of la Crosse Task Force met 1 time this qtr. STRTS task force for county to be organized in 2010 as West Salem & Holmen still finalizing plans.	YES
PHN	La Crosse Area Immunization Coalition	3 meetings held with H1N1 focus.	YES
PHN/ Ed	La Crosse Area Communicable Disease Coalition	Ed – meeting cancelled due to H1N1 activities.	YES
HC	La Crosse Long Term Care Coordinating Committee	On target for scheduled meetings.	YES
Admin	ECO-County Plan for Sustainability	No participation due to H1N1 activity.	YES
	GOAL #5 Hire and retain high quality staff by providing a positive work environment.		
All	5.a. By Dec 2009, all staff will have had a performance review.	Lab, Env, Nutr.Vector –current, HC-2 behind schedule	NO
All	5.b. By Dec 2009, all staff will have the opportunity to meet with mgmt at least quarterly.	Lab Env, HC, Vector current, Nutr staff monthly, nutritionists 2 times/month	YES
All	5.c. By Dec 2009 all staff will have the opportunity to attend 30 hours of continuing ed.	Lab, Env, Nutri HC, Vector-current	Partial Completion

DIV	GOALS/OBJECTIVE	4th QUARTER	Obj. Met
All	5.d. By August 2009, all staff will have an opportunity to offer suggestions for the 2010 budget that could improve the potential to reach the HD Mission.	Env, Nutri, HC, Vector done,	YES
All	5.e. By Dec 2009, assure that all staff meets basic licensing certification and accreditation requirements.	Env done, Lab Certified, Nutri, HC, Vector current	YES

DIV. KEY: **Admin** Administration **Ed** Health Education **Env** Environmental Health
 HC Home Care Nursing **Lab** Laboratory **Nutr** Nutrition
 PHN Public Health Nursing **Vector** Vector Control

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MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Internal Departments March 2010

Personnel Department

Jan. 2010

1. Collective Bargaining

SEIU – Contract for 2010

Local 150 – Hillview has approved a one year contract for 2010. This will put all Union contracts on the same renewal schedule. All contracts will expire 12/31/2010. Hillview will receive the same 2%/1% wage split increase as all other county employees.

2. Vacation Change

Following approval by the Executive Committee, the Personnel department has been working with IT and Payroll to convert the antiquated vacation accrual system to one that accumulates vacation each pay period. This system involves far less administration time to monitor and update. A system of earn-as-you-work is easier to understand for recruitment and new employees. But the change-over has required a lot of work to accomplish.

Work for the Personnel Dept. involved:

- Creating Memorandums of Understanding for all 8 Union groups
- Creating letters introducing the new system
- Creating new contract language for all contracts and MOU's
- Meeting with Union groups to explain the change over and answer questions
- Distributing explanation letters to employees with individual balances
- Meeting with Dept Heads and Non-Union supervisory groups to explain
- Work with Payroll and IT on change over programming and payroll conversion

The change will take place for about half the county on Jan 1, 2010, and the remaining employees during 2010, culminating work that began before July 2009.

3. Vacation Buy Up and UTO –saving money for the County

The Personnel Department has also worked with IT and Payroll to continue the Administrator's UTO (Unpaid Time Off) system and to implement a new voluntary Vacation Buy Up system for 2010. Both programs allow employees to request up to 5 days off without pay, thus reducing County payroll and budget. Vacation Buy Up encourages unpaid time off, by allowing employees to deduct the cost each pay period from the employee's paycheck. An equal amount of vacation is added to their vacation balance. This program dovetails into the new vacation earning system, which new system is required before Vacation Buy Up is allowed.

Work for the Personnel Dept. involved:

- Creating the Vacation Buy Up/ UTO policy for input by IT and Payroll
- Creating forms for requesting the leave
- Meeting with Union groups to explain the new program and answer questions
- Working with IT and Payroll to implement the new program

4. Health Insurance

We have been following the proposed options or changes from the National government. There is not enough clarity yet to proceed with a revision to our Health program. One concern is that the national legislation controls, restricts, or taxes Insurance companies, which are targeted regarding abuses. The County is SELF FUNDED for Health and Dental.

The tax penalties assessed to insurance companies also apply to self funded plans, which have eliminated the insurance company and charge premium mostly based on the cost of claims paid for participants. A tax penalty on such plans makes little sense. Our insurance agents are watching the emerging changes also. Please remember that for 2010, the County self funded plan saw only a 1% increase in premium. Since we bargained into all contracts a 3 tier drug plan the County will see significant savings on prescription drugs, as staff purchase generic and less expensive drugs. Most plans today have a 3 tier plan design, which reduces the impact of the advertising of brand name or 'designer' drugs on radio and TV.

The department is currently looking to engage a professional service which will monitor the performance of the County Pharmacy Benefit Manager to ensure that we receive all discounts and rebates that we are entitled to in the very complex prescription pharmacy world.

5. Employee Training

The Personnel Department implemented training software called the TLC (Training Learning Center) which provides computer based, desk top training for many county employees. This method of communicating with and training employees is the currently preferred method of reaching the largest number of employees for the least cost. In 2009, the following programs were presented for employees:

- Innoviant 3 Tier Drug Plan
- Fire Safety
- Holiday Stress
- Insurance Changes for 2009
- Phone Interpreter Services
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- New Empee Orientation-
Benefits
- New Empee Orientation-Policies
- Sexual Harassment
- Time Management
- Severe Thunderstorm &
Tornado Safety
- Performance Evaluations

- Manager Training Courses
- Employee Discipline & Union
Grievances
- Family Medical Leave Act
- Labor Relations & The Union
Contract
- Recruitment, Interviewing &
Selection
- Management Roles
- Supervision

In addition, Bob, Mary and Diana Cukla developed and provided live training to several groups of new managers as part of the New Manager training program. Management training courses and accompanying tests will be available on the new Training & Learning Center (TLC) software for future reference by managers.

We continue to work with Jerry Huber and the Human Services department to build a larger training network for Human Services and all employees.

5. Assisting People at Work

A large portion of staff time in the Personnel Dept. is spent working through issues with department heads, managers, and employees. In 2009, we provided issue management with most departments, in many areas. These included: Human Resource legal entitlements (like FMLA, FLSA, ADA, Work Comp, Equal Opportunity) and County pay & benefits issues; counseling managers in handling employee disciplinary problems; working with unions on issues between co-workers; managing supervisor-employee disputes; Union grievances; administrative claims, and grievance arbitration. It was also necessary to work with external attorneys in several cases to protect the interests of the county in administrative hearings. One of the most difficult tasks is working through discipline to termination of an employee. There were a number of terminations in 2009 after attempts to correct behavior in discipline. These resulted in more productive, less stressed departments. These terminations were resolved without major administrative or legal action. An important task of the Personnel Dept. is to maintain fair treatment of employees through development of employment policies that apply to all. In 2009 policies were drafted for things like H1N1 Flu Policy; Military Leave Benefits; and Vacation Buy Up.

Mary Marco was requested by many departments to provide facilitation for process improvement or conflict resolution, as learned from national educator Ken Miller. She has become recognized for her expertise in the Miller process, and was able to help large groups reach consensus on department policy and direction. This has become a valuable process for facilitating change in the County.

6. Record Numbers of Replacement positions

2009 is close to a record year for recruitments of new and replacement positions. The past record for a calendar year was **350 requests to fill** a position in 2008. Through December 2009 Recruitment Coordinator, LaVonne Johansen, has recorded **287 requests to fill** a position. Despite tight budget, reduction in forces through attrition, and a hiring freeze on new positions, there is still great need for position replacement. Each recruitment requires much effort in posting, drafting job descriptions and job ads, advertising, screening applications, scheduling interviews, physicals, tests and otherwise setting up the employee for County payroll and benefits by the Personnel Department staff.

LaVonne has been using the new hiring process developed by the process improvement team she was part of. This requires more up-front time with department heads and managers, but saves time and confusion in the long run. A time calendar for each recruitment is developed with the manager, so that the department can see how far the recruitment has progressed and when the position should be filled. Departments have commented very favorably on the new process.

CONCLUSION

Although there was little collective bargaining this year with the Unions, it was nonetheless a busy year for the County Personnel Department staff to manage the employment of an average of 1387 County employees in 2009.

Robert B. Taunt
County Personnel Director

Treasurer's Office

I have just finished the February Tax Settlement and the Treasurer's Office is now collecting all the Taxes except the City of La Crosse and they collect the 2009 Taxes though July 31, 2010. There is more delinquency's for 2010 but the 5 day grace period did help some tax payers. We did not pay the Specials in full so we will be paying the specials each month plus the interest. The delinquent taxes are \$2,565,013.13. We are working on the Foreclosures with delinquent 2006 taxes. There are some tax payers that are on a monthly tax payment plan to get the taxes paid up.

See TAX Collections below for the year 2009.

DELINQUENT

MONTH/YEAR	TAX	INTEREST	TOTAL	SPECIALS	INT
Jan-09	188,943.60	49,746.85	238,690.45		
Feb-09	114,917.76	27,907.26	142,825.02		
March-09	134,409.82	48,146.30	182,556.12		
April-09	85,134.79	24,218.63	109,353.42		
May-09	76,145.75	23,894.18	100,039.93		
June-09	61,785.54	20,633.57	82,419.11		
July-09	112,570.35	44,483.82	157,054.17		
Aug-09	112,351.15	36,763.33	149,114.48		
Sept-09	611,415.29	100,713.50	712,128.79		
Oct-9	349,669.33	63,119.53	412,788.86		
Nov-09	281,468.64	61,923.37	351,299.52	7,194.88	712.63
Dec-09	431,855.89	88,361.22	538,379.11	16,363.80	1,798.20
Total	2,560,667.91	589,911.56	3,176,648.98	23,558.68	2,510.83

CURRENT YEAR

MONTH/YEAR	TAX	INTEREST	TOTAL
Feb-09	307,303.69	2,967.34	310,271.03
March-09	583,683.22	11,946.90	595,630.12
April-09	303,123.45	7,345.52	310,468.97
May-09	300,489.60	7,272.73	307,762.33
June-09	1,094,118.72	6,154.90	1,100,273.62
July-09	12,583,771.28	12,752.06	12,596,523.34
Aug-09	3,061,538.79	37,252.84	3,098,791.65
TOTAL	18,234,028.75	85,692.29	8,319,721.04

Reported by Donna Hanson, County Treasurer

County Clerk Office

Elections

February 16th Primary: Turnout for the Spring Primary was even lower than I predicted. Despite the fact that we had a local judge running for Court of Appeals, voter turn-out county-wide was less than 5%. The Bangor School District referenda questions did bring out almost 27% of their registered voters, and County Supervisory District 23 had a 26% turn-out. Since most of County Supervisory District 23 is in the Bangor School District, it's hard to say which of those two contests brought the voters to the polls, because County Supervisor District 29 only had a 9% turn-out.. Another surprise was the Town of Onalaska; despite having a Town Board Supervisor contest only 417 of their 4,685 registered voters came to the polls (8.9%).

Breaking the Tie: There was a tie for 2nd place in County Supervisory District 29. That figure did not change after the official canvass so the tie was broken with a coin toss. Neither candidate attended that event, but it was witnessed by members of the news media. Jake Speed won the toss and Hubert Hoffman did not request a recount.

Election Cost: The County is responsible for the cost of State and County elections, so we will only recoup about \$500 total from the Town of Onalaska and the Bangor School District for their share of the applicable ballots. Fortunately it was a small ballot with an expected low turnout, so we only ordered 19,000 ballots; the total cost, including publications, was only about \$4,200. This does not include staff time, which is considerable.

April 6th Spring Election Ballot Preparation: We have already compiled the contests and candidates from all the Municipalities and School Districts and created our draft ballot proofs. There are 74 ballot styles this election. The State has until March 2nd to send us the certification of candidates (ballot order for the Court of Appeals contest) and March 15th is the deadline for us to deliver the ballots to the Municipalities. Because of the short time frame, we have all the ballot proofs created & are awaiting approval by the State and all the municipalities and school districts. Then we can just plug in those last two names and send our proofs off to the printer. Our goal is to get our proofs to the printer before Dane County does; that will greatly improve our turn-around time. However, we were just informed today that the Village of Rockland needs a referendum question on their ballot. Even though the deadline has passed, we will have to pull their ballot proof, reprogram and recreate it. This takes some time but hopefully they will get the ballot language to us today, and maybe their ballot proof can be ready in time to send to the printer with the rest of the order. If not, the cost per ballot will be higher and that additional cost will have to be passed on to the Village.

Marriage Licenses

This is traditionally a slow time for marriage licenses. We issued only 43 licenses, 1 waiver of the waiting period and 1 Domestic Partnership so far this year for total revenue of \$1,130.00.

County Board

New Computer Program: The I.T. Department, with input from me and the County Board Chair, is working on an in depth program that will tie the agendas, Board actions and minutes together. That is proving to be quite a challenge for the programmer because there is more to the actions of the Board than simple yes or no votes on each item. However, despite the complications on my end, the Board should find that it is much simpler, more user friendly and more reliable. We hope to "go live" at the April Planning Meeting.

Dog Licenses

We will be mailing about 5500 Courtesy Reminder notices to La Crosse County dog owners (outside of the City of La Crosse) who have not licensed their dogs yet. This notice reminds dog owners that their 2009 dog tags expired Dec. 31st and they should purchase the 2010 tag now. It also warns them that if they purchase the tags after April 1st, there is an additional \$25 late fee, and that the fine for failure to license dogs by mid-year, when we process citations, is

\$200.50. (Last year it was \$186; that amount is determined by the Courts). This mailing always generates a large volume of phone calls from customers who no longer have their dog or have moved away.

Filling our Vacancy

We are excited to welcome Amy Twitchell to fill the vacancy created when our most recent hire moved out of the area after being with us for only a year. Amy transferred from the Register of Deeds office and will be a great asset to our office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Stone, County Clerk