



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

County Administrative Center
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Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: February 6, 2017

Re: February Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the February 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 should 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”

Rescheduled County Board Planning Meeting Monday February 13, 2017

Our agenda will include:

- Recognition of our Finance Department by the Government Finance Officers Association
- An update from our Marketing and Promotion work group to provide a consistent public relations image across all departments by unveiling a new County Logo and Tag Line.
- Update about the Premier Resort Area Tax: Public Information communication plan, budget and discuss next steps and concerns as we prepare for the April 4th Referendum.

*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

Planning, Resources & Development Committee February 2017

Register of Deeds Office

2016 Stats	Birth	Death & Marriage	Real Estate Documents	Transfer Fees
Jan.	485	1176	1178	\$116,235.00
Feb.	587	1138	1217	\$ 68,597.00
Mar.	589	1315	1232	\$76,014.60
Apr.	434	1332	1546	\$110,563.80
May	402	1280	2289	\$171,842.40
June	522	1447	1703	\$186,314.70
July	451	1149	1638	\$167,217.90
Aug.	601	1391	1749	\$150,864.00
Sept.	379	1211	1936	\$141,468.30
Oct.	411	1143	1746	\$254,664.00
Nov.	410	1223	1545	\$113,530.50
Dec.	314	1169	1467	\$ 90,078.00
Totals	5585	14,974	19,246	\$1,647,390.20

The Register of Deeds office survived the move! It took 4 days to move all of our records, cabinets, desks, books, etc, and we stayed open the whole time serving the public which is no minor feat. My staff worked exceptionally hard during the move as besides waiting on customers, recording documents and answering phones, we loaded all of the books in our office onto carts, pushed & pulled those carts around for facilities to move and then came over to the new building and unloaded all of those books. If you have ever been in our office, you know the books aren't small or light. They did an outstanding job and I am very proud and appreciative of them! We vacuumed and washed all of our shelving and cabinets prior to moving. We left many years of dust and dirt behind as I have been in the office for over 26 years and don't ever remember the shelving and file cabinets having been cleaned. We are now in our new office and still trying to find where things are and get organized. While everything is clean and new in our new office and the parking situation is much better, we really miss the actual amount of space we had in the old building. We miss our genealogy table that seated 5 or 6 people, we miss the counters in the real estate area as we didn't have to carry books out to tables every time we need to look in one like we do now, we had more counter space for waiting on customers and for the customers doing research. We do like it here, we just really miss having enough space!

On Jan. 3, 2017 all of the Register of Deeds offices in the State of Wisconsin started state wide issuance of vital records. So besides everything else that is going on, we are learning a new way of doing our vital records. ALL birth certificates can now be issued in any Register of Deeds office no matter where you were born in Wisconsin. Previously you had to contact the county where you were born to get your record. The process is a little slower for the customer standing at our counter as we have to contact the State Vitals Office to have them update records into the system that are previous to 1994. That usually takes about 15 minutes for them to do before we can then issue the record. Marriage, death and divorce are a little different as they are not making those available at this time like they are the births. Marriages prior to June 21, 2015 still have to be issued by the county where the marriage took place. From June 22, 2015 through present you can get a marriage record in any county no matter where the ceremony took place. Death records are the same only the dates are different. Prior to Sept. 1, 2013 you would have to contact the county where the

death took place, after that date you could get those records in any Register of Deeds office in Wisconsin. While this is great for customers it is also confusing for them since those dates come into play. They come here expecting to be able to get a marriage certificate from 2000 when they got married in Brown County and we just cannot issue that since it is before June of 2015.

We invite everyone to come take a look at our office and see what it is we do here. We welcome you!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. McBride
Register of Deeds

Zoning, Planning & Land Information

The Department has been busy with the move and our annual review of ordinances and etc. We just received notice this month that we were awarded grants to assist in the purchase of LiDAR in 2017. LiDAR is a product that will give us accurate elevation data and contour lines and will give us actual 2 dimensional building footprints for all of La Crosse County. We last flew LiDAR in 2007 and have been very happy with the product. As you probably know, technology is improving quickly and we feel that a LiDAR flight once every ten years will provide the public a great product for planning and development. This department, along with partner agencies and professionals that we work with will benefit significantly from this product and the grants will save La Crosse County taxpayers over \$125,000.

The Department's Move: Our staff worked very hard to make certain that public service during this move was without significant inconvenience or delay. Our clients have been pleasantly surprised, both by parking and access to necessary departments. The joint offices with Land Conservation have already created some conveniences for our service to the public. As with any new situation, there are some things that will take some time to get used to and settle in.

In 2016 this department had some staff turnover. We lost Annette Kirchoff to a different position, April Amman to her dream job with the State Department of Natural Resources and Dan Leis to his dream of retirement.

Ordinances up for review in early 2017:

1. Shoreland Zoning
2. Comprehensive Plan
3. Outdoor Advertising
4. Minor text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding single family home height

Annual Update from Zoning:

2016: Total number of zoning permits issued- 350 up 1.7% from 2015

Total Estimated Cost of Projects- \$36,270,403 up 0.7% from 2015

2015: Total number of zoning permits issued- 344

Total Estimated Cost of Projects- \$36,029,176

Charlie Handy, County Planner
Zoning, Planning & Land Information

La Crosse County UW-Extension

- The nEXT Generation project underwent two major modifications: changes in project structure, and changes in project leadership at the end of 2016, resulting in changes to the project timeline. The Integration Work Group (IWG) was tasked with completing the Options Assessment phase of the project between December and April. Chancellor Sandeen will be releasing some options at the WCA Legislative Exchange in February. County partners will have two months to provide input. The final approved plan is scheduled to begin implementation throughout the state on July 1, 2017. UW-Extension discontinued hiring for county faculty positions at the end of 2016, to allow time for determining how remaining staff can fit within the proposed plan for 2017. It appears the current Agriculture and 4-H Agent positions will remain vacant until the final plan is released. (MMS)
- Relocated the UW-Extension Department and storage to the new Administrative Center in December, and were prepared and staffed for the Open House held early in January. Remaining boxed items are being unpacked and filed as soon as Facilities has shelving prepared. (MMS)
- As Chair of the Committee of Professors for the Department of Family Development, conducted and completed the Committee review of documentation for two candidates who applied for promotion to the rank of Professor. (MMS)
- The 4-H Leaders Association held its annual adult volunteer leader recognition night in December. They honored 41 volunteer leaders, who when the years are added together, gave 460 years of volunteered time to the 4-H program. They also recognized the La Crosse Area Camera Club and Greg Scriver from Kwik Trip, Inc. as 2016 Friends of 4-H, for their dedication to the youth involved in the La Crosse County 4-H program. (JH)
- In 2016, La Crosse County 4-H had a total of 230 volunteers. Of this total 188 are adults and 42 are youth. The adult volunteers reported that they volunteered a total of 5,975 hours to 4-H. The youth of the entire program reported that they served 3,530 hours of community service. (JH)
- The FoodWise Nutrition Education program is now offering a strength training program called FitWise. The strength program series is held at Becker Plaza in La Crosse. The class is offered twice a week for an hour and includes an additional interactive nutrition education lesson one day per week. (KJ)
- A FitWise nutrition educator taught a series of five lessons to over 80 fifth grade students in La Crosse. The classes included information about healthy eating, using MyPlate guidelines, food label reading, and making healthy snacks. After tasting and participating in a lesson about vegetables, the students completed a survey showing 96% intended to do one new thing to increase their vegetable consumption in the next week. Intended changes included eating vegetables every day, eating vegetables for snacks, eating vegetables with meals, or eating more than one color of vegetable per day. (KJ)
- Assisted the La Crosse Promise Strategic Planning group in creating historical neighborhood data sets which illustrate neighborhood improvement impacts. (KG)
- Presented "Wisconsin's Educational Pipeline" to the 7-Rivers WISE Project participants. Program covers Wisconsin's college education statistics comparing/contrasting with other states. (KG)
- The Synergy discussion continues to move forward with, at the time of this writing, the majority of participating organizations signing resolutions supporting the Synergy White Paper. Implementation of white paper suggestions will be pursued following full board support (via resolution). (KG)
- Created county PRAT – related tourism commercial database. A memorandum was also prepared illustrating the methodology of this database. (KG)

JH – Jenny Holm, 4-H Youth Development Program Advisor

KG – Karl Green, Assoc. Prof., Dept. of Comm. Resource Dev., Community Resource Dev. Agent

KJ – Karie Johnson, Nutrition Coordinator

MMS – Mary Meehan-Strub, Prof., Dept. of Family Living, Family Living Agent / Dept. Head

County Surveyor

WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS ANNUAL INSTITUTE: Assistant County Surveyor John Krage and I attended the 68th annual surveyor's conference at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, January 25-27, 2017. We took in informative sessions and compared notes following the sessions. I was privileged to have a hand in leading two of the sessions. In one of those sessions, I had the pleasure of serving on a panel discussion regarding recent changes to AE 7 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. AE 7 dictates the minimum standards for property surveys in Wisconsin. The changes which were instituted last June have met with distain by many in the land surveying community due to a perception that it constitutes a regulatory overreach. Many indicated that the new rules have significantly increased the cost of land surveys in Wisconsin. Many in the audience voiced a desire to see the rules revised again to soften their impact. A direct result of the session is a committee which is being formed to reach out to the regulatory agency in charge of these rules and seek a remedy to the situation.

CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP REVIEW: For 2016, we had a total of 75 Certified Survey Map reviews. This is the most reviews we have done in my eight years as County Surveyor and would appear to be a sign of an improved economy. Assistant County Surveyor John Krage oversees this aspect of our work and he continues to provide excellent service to our customers.

OFFICE MOVE: The County Surveyor Department has moved to our new location at 212 6th Street North! We are on the first floor at the South end of the building in Suite 1300. Our neighbors in the suite are the Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department and the Land Conservation Department. This first floor arrangement works well for our customers who used to need to go to the third floor of our old building. We are thrilled with our new location and beginning to feel settled in. Special thanks to the Facilities Department for all their hard work to make our move an efficient and comfortable one.

FIELD WORK: As we look forward to spring and better weather, we are making plans for our field work for 2017. Our department goal is to perform maintenance visits on 5% of La Crosse County's 1405 Public Land Survey System corners. These markers, set at roughly ½ mile intervals in the mid-1800s, are the foundation of every land description in the County. La Crosse County invested heavily to re-establish this network of corners over three decades and it is vital that we maintain these corner locations for future use.

ONGOING RESPONSE: The County Surveyor's Office continually responds to our customers by assisting them with surveying and land ownership questions. These interactions take place via e-mail, telephone and face-to-face visits and can illustrate some very unique situations and raise some interesting and complex land ownership and title questions. These questions come from Township Officials, realtors, attorneys, title people, land surveyors and the general public. For most people, a land transaction is a rare occurrence. Our office can often serve as a resource to help our customers understand how the land transaction process works and we are pleased to be able to assist them in this way.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Meyer, La Crosse County Surveyor

Metropolitan Planning Organization

The LAPC is continuing to discuss ways to reduce congestion on area roadways through the coordinated implementation of "Transportation Demand Management (TDM)" measures. In November of 2016, the LAPC heard input from technical committees and prioritized a list of potential actions including:

- Public Policy
- Variable market-rate parking pricing
- Transit service to park and rides
- Regional bus service
- Preferential carpool/vanpool parking
- Fixed-route transit service
- Regional planning for transit and comprehensive plans
- Market-based solutions

The TDM actions were then grouped in the overriding themes of Public Policy and Land Use, Parking and Transit.

The LAPC will hold facilitated meetings in February, March and April to discuss existing and ongoing activities and present activities that each municipality will then commit to implementing over the next year. Follow up discussions and data gathering will gauge the success of these activities.

Tom Faella

Executive Director, La Crosse Area Planning Committee (LAPC)

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Public Works & Infrastructure February 2017

Solid Waste Department

Landfill

In 2016, higher than normal amounts of waste were received at the landfill reflecting favorable economic conditions and economic development throughout our community. The annual capacity survey was completed of the landfill indicating that the remaining site life of the landfill is between 21 and 17 years, depending upon compaction factors and waste loading. A landfill expansion is possible on the existing property. Since landfill expansions can take from five to eleven years, efforts to address a landfill expansion will be placed into the next five year capital projects improvements plan.

Landfill Operations

The January thaw made conditions at the landfill adverse. Icy roads and muddy conditions required special attention.

Annual meetings were held with the WDNR, the City of La Crosse Waste Water Treatment Plant, Host Communities and others to review Contracts, Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements. All parties to those agreements were satisfied with the activities at the landfill, compliance and adherence to contracts and operating procedures.

Xcel

Nearly 78,000 tons of solid waste was received at Xcel in 2016. A conversion rate to fuel of 78.9% was achieved. A total of 1,538 tons of ferrous and nonferrous materials were recovered from the waste stream and recycled. Transition with the new plant manager is proceeding according to schedule and has been smoothly executed.

Gas to Energy

Gas- to-energy performed slightly below expectations for 2016. Run time was approximately 86% with the goal being 90% or better. A lightning strike that occurred in August and significant down time for repairs and improvements to the Gundersen engine resulted in decreased gas sales to Gundersen. An annual review of the systems performance was conducted with Gundersen and adjustments and improvements are planned for operational activities in 2017 to increase reliability. In 2020, the buyback rate for the counties gas will need to be adjusted in accordance with the contract. The current contract is scheduled to run until 2027.

Landfill Site Entrance

Work continues on designing the landfill site entrance in collaboration with the City of La Crosse. Bids are expected to be let in February for a combined bid for the frontage and landfill site entrance roads. Bids will also be let for the purchase of two scales, and construction of the Phase VII Liner and Phase VIII Bedrock Excavation. In March, bids are expected to be let for construction of the Scale Office Building and related utility work for gates and camera systems. Current projections are to have the landfill entrance operational during the first week of October.

Environmental Objectives and Targets

As a part of our Environmental Management System (EMS), the Solid Waste Department reviews the impacts that the operation has on the environment at the end of each year. Based on this evaluation, environmental objectives and targets are set for the next year. For 2017 these are:

2017 Environmental Objectives and Targets La Crosse County Solid Waste Department

OBJECTIVE: Manage air emissions from anaerobic decomposition of waste within the landfill.

TARGET: Manage landfill activities, in 2017, such as covering, liming the active area, constructing horizontal gas wells, etc. to minimize odors resulting from release of landfill gas.

OBJECTIVE: Manage all construction on the site to improve traffic flow, maintain safety, provide surface water treatment and minimize environmental impacts.

TARGET: Actively manage all construction on site, in 2017, through inspections, signage placement, proactive communications and best management practices. Review progress at a minimum of quarterly.

OBJECTIVE: Continuously improve the diversion programs for waste generated in the La Crosse Disposal System.

TARGET: Seek opportunities to improve diversion programs; implement as practical.

OBJECTIVE: Manage changes in operations, due to entrance construction at HHM to improve operations and minimize environmental impacts.

TARGET: Actively manage all change processes, during 2017, at HHM to improve operations and minimize environmental impacts.

Household Hazardous Materials (HHM)

- **General Program**

In 2016 there were 9,735 residential users of the program. They dropped off 626,468 pounds of waste.

<u>2016 La Crosse HHM Household Users</u>	
Percent Change in users vs. 2015	-3%
Percent Change in waste received (lbs.) vs. 2015	-2%

There was nearly a 20% reduction in the number of VSQGs (small businesses) users in 2016. Even with a reduction in VSQG users, waste volume received increased by over 5%. Revenue from VSQG users increased slightly.

HHM staff have been concentrating on increasing the volume of usable materials that are identified to be given to the public via the Reuse Room. Last year 77,618 pounds of materials were distributed to the public, representing an increase of over 30% vs. 2015.

- **Future Funding of HHM**

The County Board approved a budget that included an increase (\$0.25) in the county's contribution to the HHM program to \$1.25/capita, provided all the municipalities agreed to the same increase. All 18 municipalities in the County have agreed this increase. Since the contract with the municipalities expires at the end of 2017, staff is exploring the program's funding needs for the future and developing recommendations for meeting these needs.

Sustainability

Tours/Events/Other

Tours normally slow down this time of year because of school schedules, less than 30 people participated in landfill tours over the last several weeks. A group from Logan middle school environmental studies came along with several potential UWL interns. Nick is working with a brand new group that is looking into creating a local aquaponics program. Many ideas have been discussed and will continue, currently they're looking for funding for a feasibility study for the project. There has also been some movement on the Ag plastic recycling front, Revolution plastics will be bringing 55 containers to the landfill for distribution to local farmers in early February. This should have a significant impact on the amount of Ag bag material showing up at the Xcel Energy plant. Earth Fair event and cleanup of the marsh and trails planning has begun. Nick also had a chance to attend the Wisconsin Local Food Summit at the Radisson on the 12th and 13th. Over 160 attendees discussed a myriad of issues from organic and locally produced food, to how to transport and market locally produced goods.

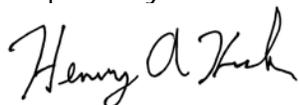
Eagle Scouts

Zachariah Mayer who's Eagle Scout Project was the boardwalk construction in the wetlands on the east side of the landfill will be officially recognized for attaining this highest honor for Boy Scouts on the 30th of January at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. The Solid waste Department is very proud of its outreach to the scouts and helping these young men attain this prestigious honor.

Sustainable La Crosse Commission

The Sustainable La Crosse (SLC) hosted the first Green Tier Legacy Communities (GTLC) meeting on the western side of the state on the 5th of December. The County joined the City of La Crosse as members of this organization. GTLC are municipalities that are working together to create opportunities for greater sustainability, efficiency, and resiliency throughout the state. The next meeting of GTLC will be on the 30th of January in Wisconsin Rapids. The annual indicators report is being worked on and information gathered for its compilation. This year Sustainable Analytics owned by local businessman Anders Olson will be compiling the data. This report should be ready sometime in early April. The commission hosted a transportation summit on the 18th of January with over 60 attendees participating. Discussion ranged from the DOT's new north south corridor to the need for upgrades to local mass transit and bicycle infrastructure.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Koch, P.E.

Highway Department

- Winter has been especially intense so far. Material usage is up when compared to recent winters and as a result of salt availability we are ceasing further sales of salt. Salt/sand is in good supply and readily available for our use and sales to other government entities.
- The County-wide Safety study is complete and we are now reviewing the results for inclusion into future Capital Improvement Plans as well as looking for funding opportunities that have been identified in the study.
- One of the projects scheduled for construction in the upcoming season is the CTH T High Risk Rural Roads Program (HRRRP) project. This is a project that was identified for study 4 years ago by the WisDOT. We okayed the study since it was at no cost to La Crosse County. The results of that study then identified a safety construction project for 90/10 Federal funding. That project has started with our forces removing the trees in advance of the let portion of the project, which will occur later this year.
- In addition to the above mentioned activities, efforts continue on the following projects in design. CTH SN (CTH S to Alpine Lane), CTH M (CTH O to CTH B), CTH HD (STH 53 to CTH MH) and CTH PI (STH 162 to Vernon County Line). We also have the following bridges on the following roads under design CTH J, CTH V, CTH B, CTH X, CTH M, and Drogseth Road.
- We have had several meetings with the Village of Holmen and Knight Engineers as we wrap up the design on next year's projects on CTH HD and DH. Please recall that these are cooperative efforts involving the jurisdictional transfer of portions of these roads to the Village of Holmen.
- CTH T (High Risk Rural Roads) and CTH SN (CTH S to Alpine Lane) projects are both entering the real-estate acquisition phase in preparation for construction in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Thank you for your continued support for Highway operations, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald Chamberlain

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Judiciary & Law February 2017

Emergency Services

Emergency Management (*Keith Butler, Coordinator*)

Many of the communities that experienced flash flood damages during the September 21-22, 2016 incident have completed repairs or have completed reimbursement arrangements with FEMA. The City of Onalaska has a single project with a \$153,000 price tag and the Highway Department has multiple sites with significant costs. The Town of Farmington is working with Wisconsin Emergency Management and FEMA to determine if any mitigation grant projects would help pay a portion of the expenses to elevate Herman Coulee Road and to enlarge culverts. This may help reduced the repetitive flood damage costs to that rural road with steep topography.

Other EM events of note:

- County EM participated in numerous FEMA briefings for the affected communities during November and December.
- All of the salvageable radio antennas on the old Administrative Center were removed during December, 2016. One of the multi-band Amateur Radio antennas that is used to contact emergency officials in Madison and other locations was damaged by lightning. A replacement antenna was purchased and will be installed in early Spring 2017. Roof-top antenna mounting issues remain for the New Administrative Center.
- County EM provided exercise evaluation services for Monroe County on December 7 for a simulated active shooter threat at a facility near Cashton.
- The Public Health and Human Services Departments partnered with Emergency Management to present a Community Partners meeting at the Chamber of Commerce building on December 8. Discussions included the roles of government and the public sector during disasters.
- County EM completed Microsoft OneNote training on December 13 – 14.
- Kish & Sons Electric came to the rescue of Emergency Management on December 21 when the generator power switch on the Communications & Command Vehicle failed (after over 25 years of service). A new switch was installed and the vehicle is back in service.
- County Public Health is collaborating with County EM to arrange for Advanced Incident Command System training for local responders and health officials. The courses will be held in March and April. A Public Information Officer course will be held in May.
- County EM has been appointed to a statewide steering committee to examine the local integration with the new State Emergency Operations Center software – WebEOC. Information gathered during these in-person and webinar meetings will be used to help guide the development of the County EOC in the basement of the New Administrative Center building.
- The Local Emergency Planning Committee is making arrangements to change the membership terms to better align with other County Board committee appointments.

Public Safety Communications

Last year saw a record-amount of 9-1-1 calls, as the Communications Center topped the 30,000 mark for the first time. This total is up 3% over last year and the emergency calls have risen for the most part, each year as the cell phones became more popular. Currently, 79% of all 9-1-1 calls are from wireless sources, which is up from 65% in 2009.

The busiest day for 9-1-1 calls was on Friday, December 23 with a165 calls. Most of the calls (110) came between Noon and 4 PM due to a concentrated snowfall. Temperatures were relatively warm, creating a wet snow that made roads extremely slippery. The snow came during a time many last-minute shoppers were out and just prior to the evening rush hour.

The second busiest day for 9-1-1 calls in 2016 was 160 on Thursday, August 4th. This was due to severe thunderstorms in the area, again demonstrating that severe weather is biggest factor in producing higher totals of 9-1-1 calls. It should be noted that the flash floods from September 21-22 was not among the top 10 9-1-1 call producing events in 2016.

In 2016, non-emergency calls were down slightly from 2015, as were public safety calls for service.

November

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,471 (average of 82 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 97.25%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.76%
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds
**1 call more than 30 seconds*

81% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 21,406 (average of 714 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,800
Fire Fighting	180
Emergency Medical	607

December

Telephone Calls

9-1-1 Calls 2,514 (average of 81 per day)
Answered within 10 seconds: 96.74%
Answered within 20 seconds: 99.44%
Average Answer Time: 4 seconds
** 4 calls of more than 30 seconds*

79% of 9-1-1 calls were from wireless phones.

Total Telephone Calls 21,905 (average of 707 per day)

Calls for Service

Law Enforcement	8,490
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Fire Fighting	193
Emergency Medical	658

*National Emergency Number Association Standards:

- 90% within 10 seconds (during the busy hour)
- 95% within 20 seconds.

*Jay Loeffler, Administrator
Emergency Services*

Corporation Counsel Office

1. Claims Update

- *Paul Heintz v. County of La Crosse*, ERD Case No. CR2016-1280.

On August 4, 2006 Equal Rights Division of the State of Wisconsin determined there was probable cause to believe that La Crosse County may have violated the Wisconsin Public Accommodations Law. This matter is still pending and set for a pre-trial hearing in mid-February.

- *Shelly K. Storsveen v. County of La Crosse*, ERD Case No. CR2016-02008.

On August 10, 2016 Shelly Storsveen filed an ERD Complaint against La Crosse County, alleging discrimination based upon disability due to her job related anxiety, degenerative joint disease and other physical issues. Storsveen left employment on November 20, 2015. The DWD/Equal Rights Division investigated and made a finding of "no probable cause". The case has been dismissed.

2. Ordinance Updates

- Our office recently worked on repeal and recreation of Chapter 20, Shoreland Zoning, to incorporate changes to statute and administrative code.

3. Department Assistance- Our office continues to provide legal counsel to various Departments as issues arise. Recent issues include:

- Finalized the extension of the contract between La Crosse County Solid Waste and Xcel.
- Finalized the Intergovernmental Agreement MOU with the City of La Crosse for International Business Park II.
- *Economic Development* – Closed on the loan to the Craft and Vendor Marketplace.
- *Facilities Department* – Working with Facilities on the sale of Lakeview property.
- *Personnel* – Our office continues to assist on various miscellaneous employee issues and labor matters.
- *Highway Department-* Work with the Highway Commissioner on various highway policies and legal issues, including remaining issues in the OA condemnation appeal cases.

- *Clerk of Courts* – Our office has been working with the Clerk of Courts and the Associate County Administrator to develop new contracts with court appointed attorneys/GAL.

4. Miscellaneous Matters

- Our office continues to respond to Open Records requests as received.
- Our office continues to be involved in issues related to the downtown development

5. Court

Our office continues to represent the Human Services Department and the Child Support Agency at all court proceedings, including child protection cases, termination of parental rights, mental commitments, guardianships and protective placement, paternity establishment, and child support establishment and enforcement.

6. Staffing

We recently recruited and have conducted interviews for the open attorney position in our office which we hope to have filled by mid-February.

7. Child Support Agency

Our office (CSA staff members and 2 attorneys) along with Sheriff's Department, Family Court Commissioners Office and Workforce Connections worked with a facilitator from the State Department of Children and Families to examine our current support collection process in November. We continue to implement changes to enforcement policy and procedure including "Most Wanted" on the Sheriff's Department Facebook page and increasing referrals to Workforce Connection for job training and needs assessment.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan L. DeVore
Corporation Counsel

Family Court Commissioner ("FCC") Office

GENERAL: We are a two-person office. The Family Court maintains five-set calendars every week. They are as follows:

Tuesdays: Domestic Abuse/Harassment Injunctions (morning)
Child Support (afternoon)

Thursdays: Paternity (morning)

Fridays: Default Divorces (morning)
Domestic Abuse/Harassment Injunctions (morning)

The FCC Office assists a constant influx of attorneys and litigants with filings related to those five-set weekly calendars in addition to the matters appearing on the general calendar. Many litigants appear pro se—without legal counsel.

UPDATES:

1. Family Round Table: The Family Law Roundtable is a forum designed to address current family law issues and their impact on families and the community. Others who attend this forum include family law attorneys, child development professionals, mediation office personnel, the WTC paralegal program chair, Judges, DA Office, and the Child Support Agency. Family Roundtables are held on the first Tuesday of the month.

None held in December or January due to holiday conflicts. A February meeting is scheduled.

2. Collaboration with Child Support Agency and Corporation Counsel: This Department continues to work with these two agencies to improve child support enforcement by, among other things, the implementation of referrals to Work Force Connections. Workforce Connections' contact information is provided to relevant litigants at the Child Support and Paternity calendars each week. Referral forms are completed while in the courtroom to facilitate future communications between the Child Support Agency and Workforce Connections about litigants' compliance with this programming. With the input of both agencies, the Family Court is now conducting Child Support calendars more in accordance with a treatment court model. More frequent hearings are scheduled to track the progress of a payor parent in making child support payments and in obtaining employment. Similar to treatment courts, the goal is to motivate change that leads to positive outcomes for litigants.
3. Security Meeting: FCC Wright is a member of the La Crosse County Courthouse Security Committee. She attended the meeting held on January 26, 2017.
4. The Parenting Place: FCC Wright signed an MOU to assist The Parenting Place in its quest to obtain additional funding. The Parenting Place is an important resource for the Family Court. The Parenting Place provides supervised visits and exchanges when there are issues, such as a high conflict divorce, domestic violence, a parent with AODA issues, or an absent parent seeking reunification with his/her children. No socioeconomic class is exempt from these problems. For this reason, FCC Wright frequently orders families to use this excellent program.
5. Follow-up on Kosovo Delegation: On November 14, 2016, FCC Wright along with Circuit Court Judges Gloria Doyle, Elliot Levine and Michael Rosborough met with a delegation from Kosovo to discuss Domestic/Gender-based Violence: Victim's Rights. Isuf Jahmurataj, a delegation participant and a senior legal officer in the Ministry of Justice-Government of Republic of Kosovo, was a guest columnist in the La Crosse Tribune on December 30, 2016. He wrote about his experiences in Washington, D.C. and La Crosse.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Wright, Family Court Commissioner*