

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

1:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Doyle, Jill Billings, Vicki Burke, Sharon Hampson, Tara Johnson (3:20 p.m.), Don Meyer, Marilyn Pedretti, Roger Plesha, Charles Spiker

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Gary Ingvalson, Linda Stone, Bill Shepherd, Mary Marco, Jim Speropulos, Jim Hill, Jenny Kuderer, Ginny Dankmeyer, Todd Restel

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Steve Doyle called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 3, 2010, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Plesha/Spiker to approve the November 3, 2010, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson excused.

CONSENT AGENDA: OCTOBER INVESTMENT REPORT, MONTHLY ACCOUNT TRANSFERS, CHECK REQUISITIONS

MOTION by Plesha/Hampson to approve the Consent Agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested under the agenda item.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORTS

None reported.

QUOTE/BID FORM RE: MICROSOFT SQL SERVER

Gary Ingvalson recommended approval of renewing Microsoft SQL Server to be purchased through the Wisconsin State Contract that named Dell as the lowest cost reseller for the Microsoft Select Agreement. The cost is \$26,184.51. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Billings to approve renewing Microsoft SQL Server for connector licenses to maintain compliance. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson excused.

RESOLUTION RE: DETERMINATION OF NECESSITY TO ACQUIRE SCHROEDER PROPERTY ON STATE ROAD 16

The Resolution was referred back to committee by the County Board to address questions that were raised. Staff requested an additional 30 days to respond to questions. **MOTION** by Spiker/Billings to hold over the Resolution Re: Determination of Necessity to Acquire Schroeder Property on State Road 16 30 days. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson excused.

RESOLUTION RE: WE ENERGIES

The Resolution states that We Energies has made a claim of \$7,246.34 resulting from Highway Department work on culvert replacement and damage to an underground gas main. Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Company (WMMIC) has reviewed the claim and recommends disallowance. **MOTION** by Spiker/Johnson to approve the Resolution Re: WE Energies. **Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF AN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR 2011

The Resolution designates the *La Crosse Tribune* as the official newspaper for La Crosse County, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 985.03. **MOTION** by Plesha/Burke to approve the Resolution Re: Designation of an Official Newspaper for 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NOTE: The Chair took the following item out of order.

RESOLUTION RE: CONTINUED SUPPORT OF HIGH SPEED RAIL, INCREASED FREQUENCY OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE ON THE CURRENT EMPIRE BUILDER ROUTE (CHICAGO, IL TO TWIN CITIES, MN) AND SEEKING A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF POTENTIAL USERS TO IDENTIFY THE VIABILITY OF MINIMIZING OPERATING COSTS TO THE STATE

The Resolution reviews the progress of a high speed rail initiative and the support from area business leaders and governments. The first phase may be discontinued, and the Resolution calls for Governor-elect Walker and the Legislature to commission a survey by the UW system to determine potential user frequency of high speed rail, and the potential revenue offset that could come from increased fares for high speed rail over current Amtrak rates. Todd Restel, CFO, First Supply Company, La Crosse, read aloud his letter in support of a high speed rail user survey. The letter addressed benefits to the business community, such as the ability to work while commuting to business meetings and faster commute time. Supervisor Burke pointed out the additional benefit of having improved rail track in place for both passenger and freight traffic. Copies of Restel's letter will be provided to the County Board. Jim Hill, LADCO, also spoke in favor of a user survey, and reviewed the current status of support from government and the Chamber of Commerce.

MOTION by Hampson/Johnson to approve the Resolution Re: Continued Support of High Speed Rail, Increased Frequency of Passenger Rail Service on the Current Empire Builder Route (Chicago, IL to Twin Cities, MN) and Seeking a Comprehensive Study of Potential Users to Identify the Viability of Minimizing Operating Costs to the State. **Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION RE: ESTABLISHING THE PROCESS TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK

The Resolution addresses filling the County Clerk vacancy that will occur upon the resignation of Linda Stone on January 3, 2011. The term expires January 6, 2013. Bill Shepherd explained that, according to statute, a vacancy occurs when the county clerk leaves the office, not when they give notice of their intention to resign on a certain date. According to statute, a vacancy in the county clerk position would have had to occur before November 30, 2010, to hold a special election in spring, 2011; therefore, a special election cannot be held until November, 2011. There are no other elections scheduled for November, 2011, at this time. Without any other elections, the County would bear the expense of a special election that would cost approximately \$50,000. Shepherd and Chair Doyle reviewed the alternatives for filling the position. The Resolution states that the vacancy will be advertised, and interviews conducted by the Executive Committee, and a qualified candidate selected for recommendation to the County Board. Lengthy discussion followed about qualifications, compensation, job duties, timing of an election, and the timeline of the appointment process. The following motions resulted from Committee discussion:

MOTION by Meyer/Pedretti to appoint the deputy clerk to be clerk through the end of the current term. A roll call vote was taken. **Motion failed 6-3.** Burke, Billings, Doyle, Johnson, Hampson, Plesha opposed.

MOTION by Johnson/Hampson to amend the Resolution to insert "January 19, 2011" in the blank at the end of the first sub-paragraph under the Now Therefore Be It Resolved paragraph. **Amendment carried unanimously.**

MOTION by Hampson/Burke to approve the Resolution subject to the following changes: to remove the words "or until a special election should be held in November, 2011" from the Be It Further Resolved paragraph, and to remove the second sentence of the Fiscal Note regarding the cost of a special election, but to leave in the second Whereas paragraph about a special election. Supervisor Johnson offered a friendly amendment to add the words "at an anticipated cost of \$50,000" to the end of the second Whereas paragraph, and to reconcile the use of "resignation" and "retirement" to be consistent. Chair Doyle offered a friendly amendment to remove "and will recommend if the appointment should be" from the Be It Further Resolved paragraph. **Motion as amended carried 7-2.** Meyer, Spiker opposed.

Chair Doyle recommended notifying the entire County Board of the interviews so they could be present if they wished.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Steve O'Malley announced a special Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. before the County Board meeting regarding a potential agreement on joint marketing of the Park Plaza property, and consideration of a Resolution: Adoption of Contract for Hillview Local 150 Union Employees.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hampson/Plesha to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson, Meyer excused. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Approved, January 12, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder