

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 31, 2012

Administrative Center — Room 3220

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Tara Johnson, Sharon Hampson, Ray Ebert (exc. at 10:50), Vicki Burke (exc. at 10:30), Monica Kruse (exc. at 10:50), Roger Plesha, Marilyn Pedretti, Joe Veenstra
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Don Meyer
OTHERS PRESENT:	Steve O'Malley, Dave Lange, Gary Ingvalson, John Parshall, Bob Taunt, Jim Speropulos, Ron Chamberlain, Gregg Stangl, Jane Klekamp, Dean Ruppert, Sara Koopman, Betsy Bloom, Nate Sampson, Charlie Handy, Ginny Dankmeyer, Dave Holtze, Mary Powell, Ralph Geary, Andrea Richmond, Doug Mormann, Steve Helgeson, Jeff Wolfe, Kristen Barbareski (WXOW-19), Betsy Bloom (La Crosse Tribune), Terri Pavlic

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

OVERALL 2013 BUDGET ISSUES

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE NEEDS & REVENUE OPTIONS (WHEEL TAX)

Steve O'Malley summarized that La Crosse County has been underfunding maintenance for roads and there are \$36 million in unmet road needs. One of the reasons the cost is so high is that the rate of inflation for materials alone has gone up 70% in the last 7 years. Roughly \$1.2 million of annual maintenance has not been funded for a number of years so \$400,000 from the property tax levy has been added into highway maintenance in the proposed 2013 budget. Mr. O'Malley reviewed information about a new revenue option of a county vehicle registration fee often referred to as "wheel tax". The Board would need to adopt a new ordinance to establish such a fee and it would then be added onto the registration fee for vehicles under 8,000 lb. Using a \$10/vehicle fee, an estimated \$853,786 could be generated. The Executive Committee requested that this issue go before the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee to study further including a list of historical wheel tax jurisdictions and how this has worked for them. Studying options and exploring ways to obtain revenue for larger trucks and vehicles that wear more heavily on the highways is also needed. The PWI Committee will report back to the Executive Committee with their findings and recommendations.

RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF INCREASES TO CERTAIN LA CROSSE COUNTY PERMITS, FEES, AND CHARGES FOR 2013

MOTION by Burke/Veenstra to approve. Steve O'Malley indicated that this comprehensive master list of proposed user fees, charges for services, and permit revenues gives the whole County Board the opportunity to weigh in on the fees charged throughout the organization. Mr. O'Malley focused on the following items that are new or a change from last year.

Page 3 — Land Conservation — Acct 48077 - Farmland Preservation Fee

This item has been discussed at length at recent PR&D meetings. Supervisor Pedretti explained that there are farmers can get a \$7.50 per acre tax credit from the State if they participate in Farmland Preservation. The County's proposed fee of \$.50 per

acre would help cover the expenses of the Land Conservations staff who prepare assessments and erosion control plans which are needed for farmers to be eligible for the State Farmland Preservation tax credits. Staffing grant monies from the State Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection promised to counties to cover the cost of staffing mandated Land Conservation work have not increased for the last 12 years. As salaries and fringes have increase over that time the gap between La Crosse County's costs and the funding from the State has widened and it is currently at \$33,000. The proposed new Farmland Preservation fee estimated to generate \$24,000 if it is put into place. The PR&D Committee voted against the fee at their most recent meeting. **MOTION** by Ebert/Pedretti to amend the 2013 fee schedule - account #48077 - to eliminate the \$.50 per acre Farmland Preservation Fee. **Motion failed on a 1/7 vote.** Ayes - Ebert; Nays - Plesha, Burke, Veenstra, Hampson, Johnson, Pedretti, Kruse; Meyer excused.

Page 7 - Zoning - Acct 48090 - New Residential Permit

The current fee is \$150 on a home <\$150,000 and \$240 for a home >\$150,000. The intent is eventually to have one fee for all New Residential Permits regardless of the value of the construction. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Burke to amend the fee schedule for New Residential Permits <\$150,000 from \$240 to \$200. **Motion passed on a 5/3 vote.** Ayes - Burke, Veenstra, Johnson, Ebert, Pedretti; Nays - Plesha, Kruse, Hampson; Meyer excused.

MOTION by Ebert/Pedretti to amend the New Residential Permit fee >\$150,000 from \$240 to \$200. **Motion failed on an 8/1 vote.** Ayes - Ebert; Nays - Plesha, Burke, Veenstra, Hampson, Johnson, Pedretti, Kruse; Meyer excused.

Page 4 - Jail - Acct 49026 - Prisoner Boarding fees from cities

The proposal to the Board is a change in the charge to cities for municipal warrants from the current rate of \$35/\$55 to \$45/\$90 per day. It was agreed that the word "cities" should be changed to "municipal court warrants". Included in the packets is a detailed Cost Analysis of Prisoner Boarding and a estimated cost to add 6 new jail staff, which would be a total of \$382,210. This information will be reviewed in detail with the entire Board at the Policy Planning meeting on Monday, November 5.

Motion on Resolution Re: Authorizing the Approval of Increases to Certain La Crosse County Permits, Fees and Charges for 2013 **carried on a 7/1 vote.** Nay - Ebert; Ayes - Plesha, Burke, Veenstra, Hampson, Johnson, Pedretti, Kruse; Meyer excused.

OVERALL 2013 BUDGET ISSUES:

JAIL POPULATION, COST OF PRISONER BOARDING AND ESTIMATED COST OF NEW JAIL STAFF

A detailed analysis of prisoner boarding from the Finance Department was included in the packets, which summarized what the true cost of housing an inmate in the jail. Also included in the report is an estimated cost of adding 6 new jailers to staff the opening of the additional pod. At the Monday, November 5 Policy Planning meeting, the Sheriff and Jane Kiekamp will give a presentation on the current status regarding jail population, what trends we are noticing and what steps are being taken with the cooperation of the Judiciary, Probation & Parole, Justice Sanctions, and the Sheriff's Department to try to control the jail population.

Steve O'Malley explained the 'place holder" item on page 37 in the budget book, line 79127 - Highway Maintenance or Jail Staffing. The Administrator's Budget raised the levy rate by

1.15% which generates the \$314,000 amount of the "place holder" line item and it is included in the proposed budget to keep options open for the board. The County Board will be asked to make the decision to either add staffing in the jail or put this money into road maintenance, or a combination of the two sometime next year.

RESERVES, DEBT SERVICE, FINAL TAX LEVY AND PER CAPITA RANK

Included in the packets was a Wisconsin Counties Levy Per Capita comparison chart. Steve O'Malley pointed out that if the counties on the list adopt their budgets as proposed, La Crosse County will move from 5th lowest per capita tax levy to 4th lowest.

REVIEW OF ANY DEPARTMENTS NOT DIRECTLY REPORTING TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In each of the committee reviews that were done, there were no other items for discussion or changes.

INDIRECT COSTS DISCUSSION OF CHARGING, FORMULA

Steve O'Malley discussed the 2013 Indirect Cost Report indicating that indirect costs are not charged to every department because many departments are almost 100% paid for by levy dollars and it would simply shift money from one department to another. The focus for assessing indirect costs is to generate additional revenue from sources other than county property tax levy. In the 2013 budget, the indirect costs assessed to both Lakeview and Hillview, are calculated in the same way to capture 40% of what their full cost recovery would be for those services. In the Human Services Department, while there are indirect costs that we could charge, most of that would be just shifting levy dollars between departments or programs. Also for 2013, what the Budget Team has done is to charge Human Services programs or services which generate revenue from the Federal, State, or grant sources and return those indirect cost revenues back to the General Fund instead of to the Human Services Fund. All of the others listed are generated by non-property tax dollars that will actually get us that dollar amount from another revenue source. Steve did note that we do direct charge departments whenever there is a direct cost.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Steve O'Malley discussed the Outside Agencies & Associations for the 2013 Budget that was included in the packets. Steve was asked to follow-up on the progress of brochures for the Area Historical Societies. Questions on ITBEC were also brought up. Supervisor Hampson has been going to these meetings, and has requested more time to determine if this is still a benefit for La Crosse County to be a member of ITBEC. Also, the WCA will continue to be on the agenda for the Executive Committee.

RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATORS AND ADOPTION OF RATES FOR HEALTH AND DENTAL PLANS FOR NON-BARGAINING AND BARGAINING EMPLOYEES FOR 2013

MOTION by Hampson/Pedretti to approve. Supervisor Plesha called the question. **Motion carried unanimously.** (Burke, Kruse, Ebert, Meyer excused)

RESOLUTION RE: CHANGES IN POSITIONS FUNDED BY OUTSIDE SOURCES (NON- TAX LEVY) FOR 2013

MOTION by Plesha/Hampson to approve. This resolution identifies areas where staffing is being increased but the positions are fully paid by grants or other funding - there is no direct levy. **Motion carried unanimously.** (Burke, Kruse, Ebert, Meyer excused)

RESOLUTION RE: CHANGES IN GENERAL OPERATING LEVY POSITIONS AND HOURS FOR 2013 BUDGET

MOTION by Hampson/Pedretti to approve. This resolution explains various decreases in positions primarily and some small increases that are shifting resources within departments. This is done when there is a vacancy in an attempt to evaluate the need of a position. **Motion carried unanimously.** (Burke, Kruse, Ebert, Meyer excused)

RESOLUTION RE: MODIFICATION OF 2013 COMPENSATION PLAN FOR NON- BARGAINING EMPLOYEES

MOTION by Plesha/Veenstra to approve. This resolution provides the same 2% cost increase for non-union staff as has been done for union staff. Supervisor Plesha called the question. **Motion carried unanimously.** (Burke, Kruse, Ebert, Meyer excused)

HOUSEKEEPING AND CORRECTIONS, DIRECTION TO STAFF FOR NOVEMBER 13TH MEETING

These housekeeping items, included in the packets, have been identified by staff, as the budget was being finalized. At next Wednesday's Executive Committee meeting, there will be an addendum to this.

A brief paragraph entitled Budget Amendment Language was distributed, as requested by Chair Tara Johnson. This discussion was for the purpose of having clear direction at the County Board Budget Meeting in November when an amendment is made that changes the bottom line, of where the money will come from. The consensus of the Executive Committee supports the idea of equalizing an expense with some other line item in the budget. A County Board Supervisor should start with Steve O'Malley and Gary Ingvalson to discuss an amendment so staff can come up with a funding solution.

NEXT MEETING:

Executive Committee Special Meeting: November 5th at 5:30 p.m. re: approve sale of bonds

ADJOURN

There being no further business, **MOTION** by Hampson/Veenstra to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m. **Motion carried unanimously.** (Burke, Kruse, Ebert, Meyer excused)

Approved November 7, 2012, Terri Pavlic, Recorder