

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SEPTEMBER 7, 1999
SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS MEETING**

Chairman Joseph Maehl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Fourth Floor County Board Room, Winnebago County Courthouse, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation by Supervisor Wagner.

Roll call: 30 present: Kollath, Griesbach, O'Brien, Maehl, Klitzke, Widener, Albrecht, Leschke, Schwartz, Montgomery, Sundquist, Wingren, Wagner, Warnke, Footit, Troxell, Robl, Lawson, Crowley, Kramer, Schaidler, Spanbauer, Sievert, Arne, Diakoff, Brennand, Egan, Finch, Metzsig and Rankin. Excused: 8 – Pech, Payne, O'Brien, Barker, Savas, Bertrand, Lauson, and Koziczkowski.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to adopt the amended agenda.
CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

COMMUNICATION, PETITION, ETC.

Various counties sent the following resolutions to the Board: Langlade County – Resolution #93-99 – “Allocation of Tobacco Liability Settlement Fund to Disease Prevention Services”; Resolution #91-99 – “To Oppose 1999 Assembly Bill 321 Relating to Proceeds From Sales of Tax Delinquent Property”; and Resolution #92-99 – “To Oppose Senate Bill 142”, La Crosse County – Resolution #108/8-99 – “Opposition to 1999 Assembly Bill 321”, Waupaca County – Resolution #21(1999-2000) – “Seeking Legislative Policy Relief on County Jails” and Resolution #20(1999-2000) – “Supporting Additional State Funding for Child Abuse Prevention”, Green Lake County – Resolution #36-99 – “Relating to Request for State Funding for County Jails” and Lincoln County – Resolution #30-99 – “To Oppose 1999 Assembly Bill 321 Relating To Proceeds From Sales Of Tax Delinquent Property”. All of the above resolutions were referred to the Legislative Committee. The two resolutions regarding state funding for county jails were also referred to Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. A copy of Winnebago County’s resolution regarding tobacco settlement will be sent to Langlade County.

Notice for a seminar entitled, “Wisconsin Asbestos Seminar” was received. It will be held in Stevens Point on October 12-13. The deadline for registration is October 1. Notice was also received from NACo regarding the “28th Annual Workforce Development & Human Services Conference”. It will be held November 18-20 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The deadline for registration is October 9. Registration for the above seminars can be made through the County Clerk’s Office.

Notice of claim was received from Sara C. Grame for medical expenses and injuries sustained as a result of a car accident while being transported by the Sheriff’s Department was referred to the Personnel and Finance Committee.

Notice of claim was received from Integrity Mutual Insurance Company regarding a car accident involving Officer Mendola-Messer was referred to the Personnel and Finance Committee.

Notice of claim was received from Helen J. Sosinski for Adam Sosinski for injuries sustained at the Winnebago County Park playground was referred to the

Personnel and Finance Committee.

Notice of claim was received from Allstate Insurance regarding the claim of Catherine Ehlert for damages to her vehicle as a result of an accident with a Sheriff's Department vehicle was referred to the Personnel and Finance Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Supervisor Griesbach reported on a joint meeting of Emergency Management and Facilities and Property Management Committees to be held Thursday, September 9, 1999, 8:00 a.m. at the James P. Coughlin Building. There will be discussion of space needs for the Emergency Government Department. He also reported on a Terrorism Workshop that Don Wilmot, Director of Emergency Government, Sheriff Brooks, and Supervisors Rengstorf and Griesbach attended on Wednesday, August 25 in Madison. Winnebago County is one of thirteen counties selected to have the training. There will be grants available.

Supervisor Brennand reported the committee agendas and minutes are now available on the website. All people receiving agendas and minutes through interoffice and all County Board members have been notified. Chairman Maehl asked if notice could also be sent to any additional people who receive this information. Anyone who does not have the website address can contact the County Clerk's office.

Supervisor Montgomery extended an invitation to everyone to attend the annual "Fall Festival" on Wednesday, September 15 from 1:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. RSVP must be received by Monday, September 13. The festival will be held rain or shine. It will have a parade, which will include dignitaries, clowns and bands.

Supervisor Schaidler announced the Ethics Committee will be holding their second meeting September 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Courthouse Lounge. A special presentation will be made by John Becker who was at one time Chairman of the Dane County Board. He was also instrumental in creating an Ethics Board for Dane County and is on the State Ethics Board. He encouraged all Board members to attend.

Supervisor Leschke asked if it was possible for the County Board to receive a monthly listing of per diem received for assigned, unassigned committee dates, seminars, etc. by Supervisor. She requested this information in the name of accountability. Chairman Maehl said he would check with Mr. Wagner, Personnel Director to see what could be arranged.

Supervisor Sundquist reported the Public Safety Building Board had met last week. The shooting range should be up and running in the next couple weeks. The City of Oshkosh is looking at widening Jackson Street to put in a right turn lane onto Church Street. More information will be forthcoming in the future. He also welcomed Supervisor Leschke as the new member-at-large.

Supervisor Arne asked for senior citizens or anyone interested in part-time employment with the Parks Department to contact Rob Way, Director of the Parks Department. The summer help is gone and there is a lot of work to be done.

COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Maehl gave a history lesson on the salvaging of the Fox River. Nine

years ago there was discussion whether the Fox River should be salvaged and, if so, who should take responsibility for the salvage. It had to do with the Locks and erosion from Green Bay to Menasha. Winnebago County took the lead to save the Locks. Outagamie County had a non-binding referendum asking "Do you want your tax dollars to go to maintaining the Fox". It was passed. They then they came up with the idea of cementing the Locks in between Green Bay and Menasha.

Brown, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago counties worked cooperatively to come up with the Heritage program. In 1787, the Army Corp of Engineers was given the awesome job of taking care of every river in the United States forever. Nine or ten years ago the Corp of Engineers announced it was going to pull out. Negotiations then started to find out how many dollars the federal government would give the counties to alleviate and enhance the problem. The negotiations still continue. The only thing that the Army Corp of Engineers does now is to maintain the water level.

Chairman Maehl requested, through the Speakers Bureau of the DNR, that George Meyer address the Board. The topic was to be an update of the Heritage Corridor. Although the first thought anyone has when they hear DNR is PCB's, that was not the original intention. That is why the amended agenda was sent out. He asked that the public forum portion wait until after Mr. Meyer makes his presentation.

HERITAGE CORRIDOR FOR THE FOX RIVER

Chairman Maehl extended a warm welcome to George Meyer, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Meyer stated Winnebago County has taken good care of all its' natural resources. They are now partners with the Land Conservation Department to offer a one stop shopping center for natural resource and conservation issues. He extended an invitation for everyone to come to the open house the DNR will be having on Monday, October 25.

Mr. Meyer said the Fox River Locks is an important recreational, historical, cultural, economical and historical resource of Winnebago County. When the decision was made by the Army Corp of Engineers to give up the maintenance of the Locks, negotiations began to see if the Locks could be transferred to the state or local government. At that time, it was not economically feasible. The Corp was willing to give \$9 million of a total estimated cost of \$19 million.

After a 4 or 5 year hiatus, Representative Prosser and other local legislators went to the Governor regarding working on a solution to the Locks problem. The Governor then contacted Mr. Meyer to see if he would be willing to start negotiations with the Corp to work out a solution. He convened a meeting of city, county and village officials. The State cannot negotiate this on its' own. Local government and the State need to work as a team. The first barrier to overcome is the lack of money. Local government, the State and East Central Regional Planning decided to meet and plan a negotiating strategy to approach the Corp of Engineers.

Over the last three years there have been about 6 or 7 negotiation sessions with a lot of hard work. After these discussions, the Corp said they would help get as many federal dollars as possible. The federal share has now been upped to \$14.2 million, leaving the state and local share at \$5 million. The Governor had pledged to pay one half of the state and local share or \$2.5 million with \$2.5 million to share with local

government. This amount can be paid over a seven-year period. A meeting was held last fall with Mayor Hanna, representing local government, East Central Regional Planning, Governor Thompson and Mr. Meyer to try and come up with the \$2.5 million. There seems to be promise in the discussion. The bulk of the money may come from non-profit organizations, businesses and foundations who would benefit from the Locks staying open.

The next step is to prepare a final draft agreement from the Corp of Engineers and the Governor, along with several deeds, to transfer back the Fox Locks system back to the State of Wisconsin. There is draft resolution being worked on with Senator Roessler being the lead sponsor in the Senate. In addition to accepting the Locks on behalf of the citizens of the State, there would be a Fox River Management Commission set up. This would be a separate State agency attached to the DNR with the responsibility of operating and expending the dollars. The commission would have representation from non-profits organizations, local units of government, the DNR, East Central Regional Planning and members at large. This plan would guarantee the system is upgraded and functional for a minimum of 25 years. This is a conservative estimate. After the 25 years, there is a sinking fund that could pay for the complete abandonment if that is desired. Besides the State legislation, there is also federal legislation in the form of a transfer phase when an agreement is reach between the State and the Corp of Engineers. This agreement must be approved by the Corp of Engineers, the Department of Army, the Defense Department and the U.S. Congress. Although the Corp can only give \$14.2 million, there is an option to ask for additional money when it goes through Congress. After the agreement is signed, it would be 2-3 years to start the partnership of taking over the Locks.

Chairman Maehl opened up the meeting for discussion and questions. Supervisor Rankin asked Mr. Meyer to discuss further the financial impact of the Locks. Mr. Meyer indicated there is potential for several mills to use barges as well as the huge impact of tourism. There could also be biking and hiking trails.

Supervisor Kramer asked what would be done to keep the sea lamprey out of the Locks. He also asked who would be paying for the day to day operations of the Locks. Mr. Meyer said there is concern over the lamprey. They can be controlled by monitoring the time of year they are in the area. Mr. Meyer indicated the days to day costs would be bore by the users.

Supervisor Sundquist asked after the Corp surrenders control of the Locks, who would maintain the water level. Mr. Meyer said the Corp will still maintain the control of the dam system, thereby still keeping control of the water levels.

Chairman Maehl then asked if anyone from the public had questions. Frank Zuern, 1040 Maricopa Drive, Oshkosh voiced his approval of the Heritage Corridor. Chairman Maehl asked Mr. Meyer if he would answer questions regarding PCB's due to the error of the first agenda. The following people voiced concerns regarding PCB's: Steve Romme, 3409 Brooks Road, Oshkosh; Janet Moldenhauer, citizen; Donna Lohry, 1408 Elmwood, Oshkosh; Dick Purtell, 4504 Island View Drive, Oshkosh; Mary Cummings, 4750 Island View Road, Oshkosh; Mary Boss, 5250 Primrose Lane, Oshkosh; Carlene Hansen, 4556 Island View Drive, Oshkosh; Gerald Frey, Chairman, Town of Oshkosh

Mr. Meyer, with the assistance of DNR staff members, Ed Lynch and Len

Polczynski responded to all the questions. He indicated a proposed plan, subject to public comment would be drafted. This would be a draft document that could be changed if necessary. The study should be done by January or February, with public comments lasting at least 45 days. A record of decision is then issued. Public hearings are noted in newspapers, web pages, libraries and press conferences.

Mr. Lynch, in response to questions regarding the tonnage of PCB's to be dumped in the landfill, Project N, indicated 900 ton were dumped there last year and 5,000 to 7,000 ton would be dumped there in 1999. The project should be completed this year. Much less than the original contract for 100,000 tons will be dumped.

Mr. Meyer assured the residents of Winnebago County that the State standards regarding landfills are much more rigorous than the federal standards.

Discussion ensued regarding who would get the "extra money" from the dumping of the PCB's. Chairman Maehl stated he could ask Mike Koles, Community Resource Development Educator to make a comprehensive report on the Solid Waste Management Board.

Chairman Maehl extended birthday wishes to Supervisors Schwartz, Lawson and Savas. He also congratulated John Fink on his promotion. Chairman Maehl asked Supervisor Rengstorf if he could bring the Board up to date on the Jail. Supervisor Rengstorf stated there had been several meetings. They were going to bring their findings to the Facilities and Property Management and Judiciary and Public Safety Committees. They hope to bring it to the full Board in October. They had chosen Boldt Construction as the project manager and Venture Architects as the architects. It is between two companies as to who will be doing the planning and programming.

COUNTY INVESTMENT REPORT

Burt Schmidt, County Treasurer, gave a presentation on County Investments. He started by going over the Investment Policy. He stated the County Board appointed him to do the investments. His restrictions are in the investment policy. Mr. Schmidt wrote the policy when he took office, for there was not a policy at that time. A copy of the policy was given to each Supervisor.

Mr. Schmidt looks at safety first, liquidity second, and income or yield third. Risks are limited by insurance of \$100,00 by FDIC on CD's plus another \$400,000 from the state. For amounts over \$500,000 there is a choice of collateral or uninsured deposits. Mr. Schmidt made a decision to play the middle of the road. The banks with the highest ratings can get an additional \$2 million for a total of \$2.5 million without collateral or insurance. When collateral is requested, the interest rate automatically drops. Interest rate risks are limited by investing for no more than three years. County money should be handled like it is your own.

Yearly the Board approves the banks and financial institutions. It is difficult to keep up with this due to all the mergers. Due to the many mergers, the County now has only one depository, First Star Wisconsin. The County may have to expand depositories to nation wide to increase their depositories. In addition to CD's, money is in State pool, Federated Funds and overnight repo's.

Mr. Schmidt then referred to the Investment Portfolio. This listed the purchase

date, amount, interest rate, basis days, maturity date and yield. He tries to mix up the kinds of treasury securities. In a crunch, treasury securities can be sold without financial loss. He then discussed the investment report. He uses the yield in this report as benchmarks. He hopes to get $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ percent higher rates than the benchmarks. Mr. Schmidt looks at basis points when deciding on a rate. A basis point is $\frac{1}{100}$ th of a percent. One basis point on the total portfolio would be \$4,374.00.

First Star in Oshkosh has our general checking and over night deposits. Chairman Maehl asked with all of the banks listed, why do we use First Star Oshkosh as our operating bank. Mr. Schmidt said some are not interested, some have lower interest rates, and some have lower ratings. The most important criteria is payment on your overnight deposits.

Supervisor Wagner asked about deposits. Mr. Schmidt stated his offices closes at two different times each day. Once by 10:30 a.m. which includes the mail(the largest portion of the deposit) and another time at 4:00 p.m. Around noon, the armored truck picks up the deposit.

Supervisory Warnke asked if he could concentrate on making deposits to credit unions. Mr. Schmidt said they are either not interested or not competitive as far as interest rates.

Motion by Supervisor Schwartz and seconded to adjourn to September 21, 1999, at 6:00 p.m. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Rabe, Deputy
Winnebago County Clerk

State of Wisconsin)
County of Winnebago)ss

I, Patricia Rabe, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors for their adjourned meeting held September 7, 1999.

Patricia Rabe, Deputy
Winnebago County Clerk