

**SPECIAL ORDERS SESSION  
COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009**

Chairman David Albrecht called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Fourth Floor, Courthouse, 415 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation by Supervisor Locke.

The following Supervisors were present: Konetzke, Barker, Griesbach, Eisen, Ramos, Roh, Koziczowski, Smith, Widener, Hamblin, Albrecht, Gabert, Riste, Thompson, Gearhart, Hall, Jacobson, Wingren, Norton, Warnke, Robl, Eichman, Schmuhl, Kline, Locke, Nelson, Finch, Diakoff, Egan, Farrey, Brennand, Ellis, Rengstorf and Reinert.

Excused: Lennon and Sievert.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to approve tonight's agenda. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The following Town of Nekimi residents spoke in opposition to the proposed Westside arterial project:

- Christine Baerwald, 1805 King Drive
- Lisa Smith, 4278 County Road N
- Sue Rabe, 4966 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street Road
- Kurt Plechaty, 653 Clay Road
- Mike Weickert, 698 South Clay Road
- Sheila Schoenfeldt, 4667 Highway 44
- George Mathwig, 1786 Buehring Road
- Kevin Radloff, 2162 James Road
- Ron O'Neil, 4880 West 9<sup>th</sup> Street Road
- LeRoy Rank, 928 Clay Road
- Mike Newell, 1780 Buehring Road

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Supervisor Koziczowski stated that he will have an official response to the Oshkosh Northwestern's article about the county's newly adopted long-term family care program once he has gone through his notes.

Supervisor Widener reported the following:

- The stake holder's steering committee for long-term family care will meet on May 28 at the Menasha Public Library. He encouraged other board members to attend this meeting as well.
- County scholarships will be presented at the June 16 County Board meeting.
- Outagamie County has not yet voted on proceeding with the elevator portion of the UW-Fox Valley project.

Supervisor Griesbach reported that the Facilities & Property Management Committee will be meeting on Friday, May 15 to discuss which departments would be relocated to the Pleasant Acres site. Their recommendations will come to the whole Board at the June 20 meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Albrecht reported that Supervisors Lennon and Sievert are excused from tonight's meeting.

**COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY "I" PROJECT – JOHN HAESE, WINNEBAGO COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER**

John Haese, Winnebago County Highway Commissioner, first updated the Board on the County Road I project. He explained that this project affects 1.5 miles of road from the City of Oshkosh to County Road M. The current urban section of roadway will be continued south to Ripple Avenue and the remainder of the project will have curb, gutter and storm sewer. The pavement will be made of hot mixed asphalt, which will allow for easier upkeep of the road as that area is developed. Mr. Haese explained that a round-about is being proposed for the intersection of County Roads N and I.

Mr. Haese stated that \$1 Million of federal funds should be available to help offset the costs for construction of the urban section of this road. At this point, the actual cost of the total project has not been determined. A resolution requesting approval of the design phase of this project and the appropriate budget transfer will be brought to the Board in June.

Mr. Haese then took questions from the Board about the County Road I project.

## **WEST SIDE ARTERIAL PROJECT – JOHN HAESE, WINNEBAGO COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER**

Mr. Haese then discussed the proposed west side arterial project. He asked that the citizens of Nekimi who spoke during the public hearing portion of tonight's meeting send him their questions so that he can better address their concerns at future public meetings.

Mr. Haese's gave a review of the project and its history:

- West side arterial was first discussed in 2001 by various entities—Winnebago County Highway Committee, East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) and the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce.
- Starting in 2004 formal meetings were held with various municipalities – Towns of Nekimi, Utica, Omro and Algoma.
- Over the years, alternative routes for the arterial have been proposed and continue to be proposed as new concerns are raised.
- In February 2009, representatives from Winnebago County, the City of Oshkosh, the Town of Nekimi and ECWRPC met again to discuss concerns that had been raised at a public meeting in 2007, as well as the proposed alternative and preferred alternative route for the arterial.
  - It was decided that the proposed arterial would avoid the Town of Nekimi protected rural area.
  - Town of Nekimi officials stated that they would present this information to their residents for feedback.
- Mr. Haese is now waiting to hear from the City of Oshkosh and the Town of Nekimi as to how they want to proceed. Also at this point, the City of Oshkosh and the Town of Nekimi have not met to discuss their next steps.
- Mr. Haese has contacted the City of Oshkosh and stressed the importance of having a meeting with the Town of Nekimi so its residents' remarks can be addressed and future plans discussed.
- There will be another meeting to discuss the latest proposed alternative route and the project in general, but a date for that meeting has not been determined.
- Mr. Haese understands the anxiety that this project is causing and he wants to assure everyone that the process will be "transparent" and everyone will be kept up-to-date and their concerns heard.

Mr. Haese then took questions from the Board.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY – KATHLEEN DIEDRICH, CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY DIRECTOR**

Kathleen Diedrich, attorney and Director of Winnebago County's Child Support Agency, updated the Board on the agency. She thanked the Board and explained to them how rewarding it has been for her to hold this position since she was hired in July 2007. Ms. Diedrich commended her staff for their outstanding work in the Child Support Agency.

Ms. Diedrich presented the following information regarding Winnebago County's Child Support Agency:

- American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) – this reinstates some of the funding for child support agencies that was taken away from them by the federal government's Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. In 2005, the State of Wisconsin stepped in and provided more funds to child support agencies, but additional county funds were still needed. Winnebago County continues to fill the funding gap caused by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.
- Funds received as a result of ARRA must be accounted for—how will receiving this money help Winnebago County get and retain jobs for the CSA?
  - These funds will reduce the CSA's impact on the county's levy.
  - Winnebago County is considered one of the state's three large counties. The state also designates five other counties as "extra large" and Milwaukee County is in its own category.
  - The number of cases in the Winnebago County Child Support Agency ranks them near the top in the case load category. As of September 2008, the Winnebago County Child Support Agency handled 8,134 cases. This is comparable to Outagamie County's 7,084 cases and Waukesha County's 8,395 cases.
    - Outagamie County has 24 employees, including one manager, two attorneys and three supervisors. They average 286 cases per employee per year.
    - Waukesha County has 28.5 employees, including one director, three attorneys and one supervisor. They average 295 cases per employee per year.
    - Winnebago County has 17 employees, including one director/attorney and one office supervisor. They average 473 cases per employee per year.

Ms. Diedrich explained that her department has 10 case specialists with a case load of 813 cases per specialists; three financial workers and three clerk-typists that each handle an average of 2,711 cases per year. Ms.

Diedrich explained that this heavy workload does negatively affect the services they provide to their clients.

Fortunately, the ARRA “has potentially reinstated the lost federal funding” that child support agencies lost as a result of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The funds that would be reinstated are the funds from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2010. Ms. Diedrich stated that getting these funds back will alleviate some of their need for county levy money. The use of this money will be closely scrutinized to make sure that it is being used properly. At this time, the state board and the Bureau of Child Support are working to determine how and where to spend those funds. Ms. Diedrich will be attending a directors’ dialogue on May 14 & 15 where they will be discussing what the child support agencies need to do to get these funds.

Ms. Diedrich stated to the Board that her department is “poorly understaffed”. She is trying to find ways to alleviate the problem and help the staff find ways to better serve their clients.

Ms. Diedrich then took questions from the Board.

### **H1N1 (SWINE) FLU UPDATE – DOUG GIERYN, PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR**

Doug Gieryn, Winnebago County Public Health Director, updated the Board on the Swine Flu pandemic and how it affects this area.

Mr. Gieryn explained that they have never seen a strain like this flu before, but it appears to be fairly mild and comparable to the usual seasonal flu. Other facts about H1N1:

- spreads quickly
- no vaccine
- likely to see more cases, along with hospitalizations and deaths
- the virus may change or become seasonal

Mr. Gieryn stated that currently there are three probable cases in northeast Wisconsin and 124 confirmed cases in Wisconsin. There are over 1,000 confirmed cases in the entire United States. These numbers will continue to rise.

Mr. Gieryn stated that there have been 1,490 cases of H1N1 in 22 countries, resulting in 29 deaths. These numbers will continue to increase rapidly. There are no travel restrictions in place, but if someone is ill, they should not travel.

Mr. Gieryn explained what is being done globally about the situation:

- aggressive surveillance and testing
- providing information and guidance to the public and clinicians
- ensuring that antivirals are available
- activating emergency plans for pandemic flu
- learning as they go

Locally, the following steps have been taken:

- getting relevant information to schools, daycare providers, hospitals, clinicians, employees, etc.
- identifying and following up on cases to minimize the spread of the virus
- providing local consultation
- staying on top of the situation

The general public should:

- stay informed
- cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their arm
- wash hands often
- avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth
- avoid close contact with sick people
- stay home if ill
- develop a family emergency plan
- consult with public health

Mr. Gieryn then took questions from the Board.

### **UW-FOX VALLEY COMMUNICATION ARTS CENTER PROJECT UPDATE – JIM EGAN, ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Jim Egan, Assistant Dean for Administrative Services, gave a Powerpoint presentation, showed photos and explained the progress on the Communication Arts Center project. Mr. Egan explained that this project began in April 2008 and that they are approximately 95% complete. Interior work will be completed in May and site work will be completed in June. That will allow the university staff to have the summer to get the center ready for students and classes and be ready by the beginning of school in September.

Mr. Egan explained that the facility has been designed and constructed to conserve energy and be

environmentally friendly.

Mr. Egan then took questions from the Board.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to adjourn until the Board's next meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. Supervisor Robl reminded the Supervisors about the annual County Board Tour on Monday, May 18 at 8:30 a.m. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Chairman Albrecht announced that the July 14, 2009 Special Orders meeting has been cancelled. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan T. Ertmer  
Winnebago County Clerk

State of Wisconsin)  
County of Winnebago) ss

I, Susan T. Ertmer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors for their Special Orders Session held May 5, 2009.

Susan T. Ertmer  
Winnebago County Clerk