

**SPECIAL ORDERS SESSION
COUNTY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2000**

Chairman Joseph Maehl called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Wagner.

The following Supervisors were present: Kollath, Griesbach, O'Brien, Maehl, Koziczowski, Klitzke, Widener, Lauson, Albrecht, Pech, Leschke, Schwartz, Montgomery, Bertrand, Sundquist, Wingren, Wagner, Warnke, Troxell, Robl, Eichman, Lawson, Crowley, Kramer, Schaidler, Finch, Spanbauer, Sievert, Arne, Diakoff, Brennand, Egan, Rengstorf and Metzsig. Excused: Barker, Savas and Rankin. Absent: 1 - Footit.

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

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, ETC.

A "thank-you note" from Supervisor Diakoff was read. In the note, she thanked the Board for the flowers they sent for her mother's funeral.

Copies of the following resolutions were received: Bayfield County, No. 99-084, "Bayfield County's Opposition to Assembly Bill 321 Which Would Allow Delinquent Taxpayers to Profit from Their Own Delinquency;" Dodge County, 99-82, "Encourage Complete Mowing of State Right-of-Ways." These resolutions were referred to the Legislative Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING

No one addressed the Board.

COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Maehl reported that Winnebago County will receive four payments of \$528,000, totaling \$2.2 Million, from the Wisconsin State Highway Fund. This is more money than Winnebago County anticipated.

Chairman Maehl reported that the Barlow Planetarium at the UW-Fox Valley Campus, which was constructed with \$1.6 Million in contributions, has been appraised at \$4 Million. Chairman Maehl reported that the Digital Users Group from Phoenix, Arizona, selected the Barlow Planetarium number one in programming and equipment. The Barlow was in competition with the Kennedy Space Center in Houston, Texas, and facilities in Washington, D.C., London, England and France. Chairman Maehl thanked the Board for their endorsement and continued support of the Barlow Planetarium.

Chairman Maehl reported that the Legislative Committee will investigate the WCA's offer to participate in the class action suit against the State of Wisconsin regarding the tobacco settlement. This issue will be brought to the whole Board for their consideration.

Chairman Maehl explained that the Industrial Development Board played a role in the "Discover Wisconsin" video that the Board will view later in the meeting. He thanked the supervisors for their continued support of the Industrial Development Board and the Board's efforts to bring new business to Winnebago County.

PUBLIC HEARING

Jeff Lemiesz, 2230 Plymouth Street, Oshkosh, representing Odyssey Productions and the Sunnyview Speed Zone, thanked the Board for the support the gave the racetrack last year. He invited the Board to their first annual awards banquet on Saturday, January 22.

COUGHLIN COMMUNITY NATURAL AREA

Pete Van Airsdale explained that the James P. Coughlin Center, located at 625 East County Road Y, was designed to house the University of Wisconsin Extension offices, County Parks Department, Land &

Water Conservation Department, DNR Regional Oshkosh Office, USDA and the Wisconsin Natural Resources Department area headquarters. Mr. Van Airsdale explained that all of these departments are here to assist the public in protecting and managing our natural resources.

Mr. Van Airsdale explained that a large portion of this parcel is not suitable for construction because of soil limitations and the high water table. Because of these limitations, a group of Coughlin Center staff people have met and discussed ways to expand the educational aspects of their offices to the outdoor settings surrounding the Coughlin Center. These discussions have led to the proposed Coughlin Community Natural Area.

Mr. Van Airsdale introduced Catherine Neiswender, who presented the proposal to the Board. She told the Board that the vision of the planning committee is "to develop a plan to maintain and provide an open space that will create an outdoor classroom, recreational opportunities and continue to provide ecological services to the residents of Winnebago County."

The members of the planning committee are: Nancy Barker, County Board Supervisor; Jim Barthel, UWEX; Tom Davies, LWCD; Rosemary Eiden, UWEX; Tim Lizotte, DNR; Catherine Neiswender, UWEX; Art Techlow, DNR; Peter Van Airsdale, LWCD; Jim Vroman, Park View Health Center; and Rob Way, County Parks Director.

It is the intention of the committee to maintain the "natural character" of the area, keeping it a "low-maintenance site" to be used for "passive leisure and natural resources education opportunities." Ms. Neiswender explained that the site will be made up of the following areas: county tree memorial, natural prairie/warm season grass area, constructed wetland, a natural area and a trail system.

Ms. Neiswender stated that the committee will be submitting a resolution to the County Board in January designating the site in perpetuity. On Earth Day in April, 2000, there will be a special event planned. In the spring of 2000, the warm-season grass area will be planted. During the spring and summer of 2000 a formal management plan will be developed.

Mr. Van Airsdale explained that the costs to establish this as a natural area are low. He stated that various departments own the necessary equipment to develop it, and seed and trees are being donated for the various areas. They are also looking into the possibility and legality of having various groups and organizations financially involved in the project.

Mr. Van Airsdale explained that they do not have any cost figures to present to the Board at this time, but that when they do have them, they will be very low.

CHANGE OF COUNTY BOARD MEETING DATES

Motion by Supervisor O'Brien, and seconded, to change the January 18 meeting to January 25. Supervisor Schaidler stated that January 25 would be in conflict with the Planning & Zoning Committee's public hearing and asked that they re-schedule to Wednesday, January 26 instead. Supervisor O'Brien amended his motion to January 26. Ayes: 21. Nays: 13. Excused: 3 - Barker, Savas and Rankin. Absent: 1 - Footit. CARRIED.

Motion by Supervisor O'Brien and seconded to change the March 7 special orders session to April 11.

Supervisor O'Brien amended his motion to cancel the March 7 special orders session due to the fact that there is nothing up for discussion at that time. Motion was seconded. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

"DISCOVER WISCONSIN" VIDEO

Supervisor Sundquist reported that in the 1980's, the Industrial Development Board gave companies low interest loans to bring them to Winnebago County. He explained that tourism is a very important industry in Winnebago County. In 1998, tourism brought \$158 Million to Winnebago County. Supervisor Sundquist explained that the "Discover Wisconsin" video is the result of a partnership between the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Oshkosh Convention and Tourism Bureau, the EAA and the Industrial Development Board.

The Board watched the "Discover Wisconsin" video.

Fran Weaver, Director of the Oshkosh Convention and Tourism Bureau, thanked the Industrial Development Board and the County Board for their participation in the video. She stated that they are looking into updating the video to include more areas of the county.

Motion by Supervisor Schwartz and seconded to adjourn until Wednesday, January 26, 2000. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan T. Ertmer
Winnebago County Clerk