

**SPECIAL ORDERS SESSION  
COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013**

Chairman David Albrecht 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 Locke.

The following Supervisors were present: Konetzke, Barker, Englebert, Eisen, Ramos, Miller, Smith, Widener, Hamblin, Albrecht, Gabert, Tews, Thompson, Olson, Reynolds, Hardy, Wingren, Lautenschlager, Norton, Warnke, Robl, Singstock, Neubauer, Turner, Locke, Hegg, Finch, Youngquist, Farrey, Rasmussen, Brenndand, Egan, Ellis, Snider and Kriescher.

Excused: Roh.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to approve the agenda for this evening's meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Dale Youngquist, 1478 Windmar Drive, Neenah; Chairman of the Town of Menasha; explained that he is neither in favor or against the County Executive's veto of Resolution No. 151-12013, "Authorize Divestiture of the Tri-County Ice Arena". His concern is that the ice arena doesn't become a run down, abandoned facility in the Town of Menasha. Mr. Youngquist also volunteered his time to facilitate an ad hoc committee that would help to determine the best solution for the ice arena property.

Jim Healy, 909 Diane Street, Neenah; has worked closely with the Tri-County Recreation Association over the years. He feels that they do a good job organizing all types of the events at the ice arena. Mr. Healy expressed his concern about the Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association's ability to work with all the other groups that hold events at the ice arena with just a staff of volunteers. Mr. Healy also expressed his concern that the county wants to sell the property for \$1.00, and at some point in the future, the owner of the facility would then be able to sell the property for a substantial amount of money. Mr. Healy then made various suggestions for solutions to this issue.

Coby Skallinger, 2461 North Main Street, Oshkosh; spoke in opposition of overriding the County Executive's veto of Resolution No. 151-12013, "Authorize Divestiture of the Tri-County Ice Arena." He suggested that the county consider other alternatives, such as a public/private partnership, for the ice arena.

Gordon Eckrich, 383 Naymut Street, Menasha; President of the Tri-County Recreation Association, stated that he was not speaking as a representative of the Association, but as a Winnebago County tax payer. He stated that he supports the County Executive's veto of Resolution No. 151-12013, because he doesn't feel that the county should dispose of the property. Mr. Eckrich stated that this property is worth at least \$250,000 and that selling it for \$1 is a disservice to the citizens of Winnebago County.

Steve Strubbe, 419 Beaulieu Road, Neenah; stated that he has two sons that play hockey with the Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association. He explained that the goal of the Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association is to see improvements in the facility and the management of the facility, so that they don't see continuing increases in ice rates at the ice arena. He questioned whether the county is willing to make the necessary improvements to the facility, if they succeed in overriding the County Executive's veto of Resolution No. 151-12013.

Troy Joachim, N1180 Wesley Drive, Hortonville; stated that he is a property owner in Winnebago County and he is not in favor of the county selling the ice arena for \$1.00. He also stated that his children are involved in hockey and figure skating and he's afraid that if Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association takes over operations of the ice arena, his children won't have a facility to skate at. Mr. Joachim also stated that his business participates in various shows at the ice arena and that the Tri-County Recreation Association has been very helpful and good to his business.

Dan Julius, 720 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Menasha; expressed his concern that the county would sell the facility for \$1.00 to the Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association. He also questioned whether the Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association would be able to make the ice arena a hockey-only facility if they do buy it.

Paul Schmidt, 1280 West South Park Avenue, Oshkosh; wonders if the county really wants to be a landlord and manage property when it comes to the ice arena. Mr. Schmidt stated that he agrees with Mr. Youngquist's recommendation to form an ad hoc committee to study the ice arena and come up with a solution.

Bill Pollnow, 135 Union Street, Neenah; explained that he doesn't feel the county should be the ice arena's landlord. He also stated that the Board needs to realize that if the county doesn't sell the ice arena, they are taking on the responsibility to spend money to maintain the ice arena. Mr. Pollnow encouraged the board to support the motion to override the County Executive's veto

Nancy Hacker, Tri-County Ice Arena General Manager, explained that their facility is not just an ice skating facility. It is used for many different activities and events. Ms. Hacker also stated that they have been very diligent in keeping up with repairs and replacements at the facility with the small amount of profits they have made at the facility. They are on a very tight budget, and they do need to raise their ice rates. She also stated that the only organization that has complained about their ice rates is the Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association.

Joe Alberts, N1642 Olive Court, Greenville; explained that his son skates for Fox Valley Youth Hockey and that his

expensive hockey equipment was damaged because of a leaky roof at the ice arena. He wants to see change at the ice arena, so that these types of repairs are made at the facility.

Craig Engel, W8995 Madeline Lane, Hortonville; President of the Fox Valley Youth Hockey Association, explained that the problems with the ice arena are not because of management, but because of ownership. Mr. Engel raised questions about the maintenance and building inspection records for the ice arena—what really has been done over the years? Mr. Engel questioned whether the county wants to maintain ownership of the building that is deteriorating? He explained that since 2002, there has been an 8% decrease in revenue and a 30% increase in rates at the ice arena. Mr. Engel stated that he doesn't believe that the county board would ever pass a resolution to spend a significant amount of money to make major repairs at the ice arena. Mr. Engel stated that the sinking fund option that Executive Harris suggested in December 2012, wouldn't have enough money to make any major repairs for approximately six years. Once the money in the sinking fund is used for one project, then the process of building up the funds would start all over for the next project. Mr. Engel doesn't feel that the county will be willing to financially support capital improvements at the ice arena either with the sinking fund or by user fees. Mr. Engel stated that the Tri-County Recreation Association has land assets across the street from the ice arena, but they are not willing to use their assets to make improvements at the ice arena. Mr. Engel wants to know why the county is allowing their tenants—the Tri-County Recreation Association—to not use these assets and user fees to make improvements to the ice arena. He further stated that the management proposal that was submitted to the Parks & Recreation Committee in March 2013 does not have any provisions for them to make any capital improvements or large expense items. All of these expenses would be the responsibility of the county. Mr. Engel asked that the Board take this information into consideration and override the County Executive's veto of Resolution No. 151-12013.

Sandra Lenz, Vice President of the Valley Figure Skating Club, W6351 Everglade, Greenville; thanked Winnebago County for their ownership of, and the Tri-County Recreation Association for the management of the ice arena. The Valley Figure Skating Club has been in existence for over 35 years and they appreciate the efforts made by both entities. Ms. Lenz stated that she has also been involved with Fox Valley Youth Hockey and she is concerned about their ability to accomplish all the things they say they can do at the ice arena.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Supervisor Norton reported that on Tuesday, May 28 the Parks & Recreation Committee will go on it's annual tour of the county's parks. He encouraged other board members to attend the tour.

Supervisor Barker informed the Board that the county is now in possession of a large, historic map of Winnebago County. The map is from the 1800's and was held by the Menasha Historical Society until recently. It's currently at the Coughlin Center until a permanent location can be determined.

#### **COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Albrecht announced that former County Board Supervisor Donald Griesbach passed away. His funeral was held today. Chairman Albrecht stated that Don had served the county well for many years and he extended the county's condolences to his family.

Chairman Albrecht told the Board that Supervisor Susan Locke received the Neenah/Menasha YMCA Volunteer of the Year Award for 2013. The Board recognized Supervisor Lock with a round of applause.

Chairman Albrecht announced that Supervisor Roh is excused from tonight's meeting.

#### **MOTION TO OVERRIDE:**

#### **Override County Executive's Veto of Resolution No. 151-12013**

THE UNDERSIGNED SUPERVISORS, hereby moves to override the County Executive's veto of Resolution No. 151-12013, "Authorize Divestiture of the Tri-County Ice Arena."

Submitted by:

ROBERT WARNKE, DIST. NO. 21

BILL WINGREN, DIST. NO. 18

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORS

Motion by Supervisor Warnke and seconded to adopt. Motion by Supervisor Widener and seconded to end debate and call for the question. Ayes: 16 – Englebert, Miller, Smith, Widener, Albrecht, Gabert, Tews, Thompson, Olson, Lautenschlager, Norton, Finch, Brennand, Egan, Snider and Kriescher. Nays: 17. Abstain: 2 – Hardy and Locke. Excused: 1 – Roh. LOST.

After much discussion, the Board voted on the motion to override the County Executive's veto of Resolution No. 151-12013 – Ayes: 14 – Ramos, Hamblin, Albrecht, Gabert, Wingren, Warnke, Robl, Singstock, Turner, Hegg, Farrey, Rasmussen, Egan and Kriescher. Nays: 21. Excused: 1 – Roh. LOST.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to adjourn until the Board's next meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2013.  
CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 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 7, 2013.

Susan T. Ertmer  
Winnebago County Clerk