

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 18, 2019  
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114  
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

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Chair David Weber called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll call confirmed all members were present: Chair David Weber, Vice Chair Charlene Staples, and Supervisors Dan Kilkenny, Susan Pruessing and Nancy Russell.

**Others in Attendance**

County staff: County Administrator David Bretl; Director-Public Works Richard Hough; Sheriff's Office Communications Division Captain Jamie Green

Members of the public: Derek D'Auria, Executive Director of Walworth County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA)

**Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Pruessing, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**On motion by Supervisor Russell, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, the minutes of the January 14, 2019 meeting were approved by voice vote.**

**Public Comment** – There was none.

**Consent Items** – expense/mileage reimbursement claims submitted by:

- Allan Polyock, county representative on WRRTC, in the amount of \$137.00.

**Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Russell, to approve Mr. Polyock's expense/mileage reimbursement claim. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Appointments** – Recommendations regarding County Administrator's nominations

- Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Governing Board – appointment of Michael McKay
- Lakeshores Library System Board – appointment of Jill Rodriguez

**Supervisor Russell made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Pruessing, to approve the County Administrator's recommendations on the above appointments. Motion carried 5-0.**

**New Business**

- WCEDA Annual Update

County Administrator David Bretl said as the County provides significant funding to the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA), it is important to receive feedback on the organization's activities and to provide input to their Board. WCEDA Executive Director Derek D'Auria provided a thorough update on the WCEDA's 2018 development, business intelligence, Workforce Development, group events, Board member changes, workshops, and collaborative efforts with local businesses and institutions. Highlights of the year included involvement in major business developments in Elkhorn, East Troy, Lake Geneva and Whitewater, and assisting with planning for future development in the area. The Inspire program, which connects businesses with students, teachers and parents to increase interactions and promote awareness of careers in technology, expanded during 2018. Local businesses helped sponsor a trip for 50 interested students to McCormick Place in Chicago to the International Technology Manufacturing Show. WCEDA and local Chambers of Commerce are hosting events to promote careers in agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. WCEDA is also focusing efforts on providing smaller municipalities with information and assistance to attract business, and made a

presentation at the October 2018 Walworth County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC) meeting. The workforce age population in Walworth County is decreasing. WCEDA is partnering with Gateway Technical College and the Job Center to host four job fairs per year to encourage students to pursue careers in Walworth County. D'Auria said WCEDA's financial position remains stable. There are currently 130 general members, and an additional 24 Inspire and 25 manufacturing members. D'Auria thanked the County Board for its continued support and promotion of economic development in Walworth County.

- Discussion regarding State communications infrastructure project and 911 Center Radio System Replacement Project

Bretl said the proposed communications infrastructure project and 911 Center radio system replacement project is currently estimated to cost \$25.4 million, of which \$2.5 million would be spent in 2020, and approximately \$9 million each in two subsequent years. This is the largest single Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) project in Bretl's memory, and would have a tremendous impact on the County's budget and defer completion of other capital projects. Previously, the Committee considered an overview of recommendations made by the County's consultant. In addition, the State of Wisconsin has been studying options to improve its communications infrastructure. Serious consideration needs to be given to whether the County is on track to proceed with the project in 2020 or defer proceeding until the State makes a decision on a comprehensive project. Sheriff's Office Communications Captain Jamie Green said he contacted State officials and the state project is on hold. Requests for Proposals (RFP) were issued last year but have been canceled because of the new administration, which is normal procedure. Officials recognize the statewide importance and support of the project and are working to continue with the RFPs. The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and Wisconsin Sheriffs Association have been lobbying in support of the statewide initiative. Discussion ensued on the scope and expense of the project. Green said the consultant projected a 15-year life expectancy if the County chose the vendor the consultant studied. Technology improvements could either lower or increase costs. The system would include all county answering points, including fire, rescue and police, and would allow communication anywhere within Wisconsin. Green agreed that it would be prudent to wait until the State budget is presented to make sure the statewide communications project is included and re-evaluate the County's proposed project from there. Green noted there is a concern that the current system is reaching the end of its useful life; and replacement parts are becoming difficult to locate. All County stakeholders are on board with the single frequency project. Director-Public Works Richard Hough suggested forming a working group to discuss options for replacement of the entire system, adaptation of the existing system, etc. **Supervisor Russell made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to direct staff to prepare a resolution for consideration by the County Board urging the State to adopt a comprehensive communications infrastructure project; to solicit recommendations from a second consultant; to develop a plan incorporating options; and to get a recommendation from the Sheriff on the timing of the project. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Reports/announcements by Chairperson** – There were none.

**Confirmation of next meeting date and time:** The next business meeting was confirmed for Monday, March 18, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Claims and Litigation**

The Committee convened in closed session at approximately 11:22 a.m. on motion and second by Supervisor Kilkenny and Vice Chair Staples pursuant to the exemption contained in Section 19.85(1) (g) of the Wisconsin Statutes, "conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or

is likely to become involved,” relative to the items listed below. A roll call vote was conducted and all members present voted “aye. County Administrator David Bretl and Director-Public Works Richard Hough remained in closed session.

- a) Notice of Claim for Damages – We Energies

**The committee reconvened in open session at 11:28 a.m. on motion and second by Supervisor Kilkenny and Vice Chair Staples.**

**Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to direct staff to proceed as discussed in closed session. Motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Adjournment**

**Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. Motion carried by voice vote.**