

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 22, 2019  
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114  
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

---

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

Roll call confirmed the following members were present: Chair David Weber, Vice Chair Charlene Staples, and Supervisors Dan Kilkenny, Susan Pruessing and Nancy Russell. A quorum was declared.

**Others in Attendance**

County staff: County Administrator David Bretl; Captain of Communications Jamie Green; Sheriff Kurt Picknell; Undersheriff Kevin Williams; Director-Public Works Richard Hough

Members of the public: City of Elkhorn Fire Chief Rod Smith; Tom Czaja, Molly Boss and Josh Ripp- State Office of Emergency Communications-Department of Military Affairs, Madison, WI; Patti Guilfoyle, Elkhorn, WI

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

**On motion by Vice Chair Staples, seconded by Supervisor Russell, the minutes of the March 18, 2019 meeting were approved by voice vote.**

**Public Comment** – There was none.

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

- Franklin B. Jones, citizen representative on Board of Adjustment, in the amount of \$71.54
- Allan Polyock, citizen representative on WRRTC, in the amount of \$137.00
- Ann Seaver, citizen representative on Board of Adjustment, in the amount of \$15.25

**Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Russell, to approve all of the expense/mileage reimbursement claims. Motion carried 5-0.**

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

- Lake Geneva Public Library Board – appointment of Wen-D Kersten
  - Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission (WRRTC) – appointment of David Bretl
- County Administrator David Bretl said his appointment to the WRRTC would be considered by the County Board at the special meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>. He has been serving on the Commission since Eric Nitschke's departure. Because of ongoing important issues facing the WRRTC, he requested to continue his service on the Commission. **Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Russell, to approve the County Administrator's recommended nominations. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Unfinished Business**

- Update on Emergency Communications Project
- Walworth County Sheriff Kurt Picknell and his command staff met with officials from the State Office of Emergency Communications regarding the emergency communications project. At the State level, progress on the Wisconsin Interoperable Communications System (WISCOM) has been delayed because of the change in administration. Picknell introduced officials from the Office of Emergency Communications: Tom Czaja, Director of the State Office; Josh Ripp, WISCOM Program Manager; and Molly Boss, Supervisor of Emergency Communications. Czaja commended Picknell and staff for being proactive and

investigating all options and long-term needs. Czaja reported there might be some changes in organization within the State; the Governor's budget includes a transfer of his department to the Department of Transportation (DOT), which has gone to the Finance Committee for approval. If that occurs, there will be a further delay in the statewide communications project. Discussion ensued on the obsolescence of the County's current system, a timeframe for implementation and a realistic estimate of capital outlay. Communications Captain Jamie Green said county emergency services, law enforcement and municipalities have given him verbal commitment to proceed with a unified system, provided it would accommodate their needs. Josh Ripp said the statewide communications project is being restructured. The Request for Proposals for the statewide radios system should be completed by the end of June. If approved, the contract negotiations will commence and implementation will take a minimum of five years. Picknell said WISCOM does not have the in-building and portable on-hip capability that the County needs for daily operational use. Ripp said their recommendation is to ensure there is a CSSI/ISSI interface so the State and County's system could work together. Czaja said our surrounding counties are on disparate systems, and ISSI would give interoperability for communications between counties, which is critical for mutual aid. Green said a long-term goal is to add other entities, such as public works departments, to the uniform system. Supervisor Russell asked about cost commitments from county agencies and municipalities. Green said there have been no discussions on expense; currently, the project is in conceptual design to make a determination of feasibility and collective need. Russell asked if command staff had met with Richard Tuma regarding the Milwaukee and Waukesha communications projects. Picknell said the meeting with Mr. Tuma is scheduled for next month. Bretl said the challenge of this project is timing from both an expense and operational perspective. Discussion centered on incentives for users. Green said the involved parties are aware that if they do not elect to participate in the uniform system, they will be responsible for their own dispatch services. Supervisor Kilkenny suggested investigating the possibility providing some equipment to the agencies to procure buy-in on a central system. Bretl asked about WISCOM's estimate, which is \$5 million less expensive than the proposed project. Green said going with WISCOM would put control in the State's hands, and the County's consultant does not think there are enough frequencies available on the WISCOM system. Molly Boss said she could work with the County to negotiate space on state-owned towers. Czaja emphasized that trends indicate interoperability will most likely be mandated in the future. He urged that the capability be a top priority for the County in any option chosen. Chair Weber asked about budgetary concerns for next year. Picknell said his department is moving deliberately to design a legacy system, taking into account accommodating unique needs and long-term sustainability. He added the newly created Walworth County Emergency Communications Advisory Committee has members representing the County's the fire, law enforcement and emergency service providers, and the input from the different entities will be valuable in designing a universal communications system. Elkhorn Fire Chief Rod Smith said he has served on the fire department for 42 years; the radio communications have been fractured and individual systems created by departments to suit their needs. It is important to upgrade technology and provide the opportunity for enhanced safety for the community. Smith added that the County currently provides dispatch for 14 different communities, which imposes a significant burden on communications personnel. Picknell affirmed it is too early in the process to commit significant funds to the project in 2020. To accomplish implementation of the countywide system, funding would be required in several successive years. Bretl confirmed with Picknell that the WISCOM system is not a viable option for the County; the initial report from the study is concluded by removing the WISCOM option; and the draft will be issued to involved parties. The Sheriff's office will provide an update on the project at the May committee meeting.

### **New Business**

- Time limit for presentations during committee meetings

Bretl reported the County Zoning Agency (CZA) has approved hearing time limits for its meetings. CZA has a large caseload and can statutorily adopt rules to ensure due process. He recommended codifying the

rule, and asked the Committee if they wanted to consider adopting rules for presentations at other county committee meetings. Supervisor Russell recommended that presentations be limited to 15 minutes at committee meetings unless the presentations are made by staff or requested of consultants. She noted there have been occasions when the first presenter at a meeting has taken up significant time and subsequent presentations have had to be postponed. Supervisor Kilkenny stated the committee chairs can limit presentations. Supervisor Russell said she feels the chairs are often reluctant to cut someone off at the risk of seeming insensitive or uninterested. Discussion ensued on time limits. Vice Chair Staples commented that presenters need to be apprised of committee meeting time constraints. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to direct the County Administrator to draft an ordinance codifying the CZA rule, and to bring it to the May committee meeting for approval and discussion/action related to time limits for other committees. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Dodge County Resolution No. 18-73 – Advisory Resolution Supporting Legislation Addressing Illegal Activities Associated with Adult Entertainment Establishments

Vice Chair Staples said she agrees with the resolution; there have been incidents of drug trafficking at Walworth County adult entertainment establishments. Performing criminal background checks on bartenders is one of the only options that can be utilized to improve safety. Supervisor Russell expressed her concern over the increase in human trafficking and recommended the County adopt a similar resolution. Bretl said the County can go on record on the issue; however, he indicated that he would modify the language in the resolution and particularly page 2, Line 4, which appeared confusing to him. **Supervisor Russell made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to direct staff to draft a Walworth County resolution supporting legislation addressing illegal activities, to include the County Administrator’s language change, and to forward a copy to the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) upon passage. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Correspondence from Acting Regional Realty Officer Russell Baker of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, requesting Walworth County to submit written comments relative to an application from the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin to conduct off-reservation gaming activities on a 32.06 acre parcel of land located in the City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin

Vice Chair Staples said she contacted Sheriff Picknell for his opinion, and he informed her he would call the Rock County Sheriff and discuss the impact a casino would have on his department’s operations. Supervisor Russell expressed her concern about the effects of gambling on the community and attracting criminal activities. She added the casino would be located fairly close to Walworth County. Supervisor Kilkenny stated the information request is directed primarily toward local officials. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to direct the County Administrator to include the correspondence in an upcoming Report & Update and encourage affected departments to respond. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) consideration of Walworth County advisory resolutions at WCA annual business meeting

Bretl noted the resolutions are due to WCA by June 24<sup>th</sup>. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to forward the resolutions to WCA for inclusion in their platform at the annual business meeting. 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, May 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Claims and Litigation**

The Committee convened in closed session at approximately 11:26 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) Claim for Vehicle Damage – Lindsey Mauer
- b) Notice of Claim – Michael Parylak
- c) Claim for Vehicle Damage – Jack Daly
- d) Summons and Complaint – Stephen Phelps and Leslie Phelps vs. David Hughes and Rebecca Hughes, Walworth County, Walworth County Clerk of Circuit Court and Lake Como Beach Property Owners Association
- e) Claim for Lost Property – Emmanuel Ocasio

**The committee reconvened in open session at 11:50 a.m. on motion and second by Supervisor Kilkenny and Vice Chair Staples.**

**Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Pruessing, to direct staff to proceed as discussed in closed session on items a., c., d. and e., and to disallow the claim of Michael Parylak (item b.). Motion carried 5-0**

### **Adjournment**

**Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Pruessing, to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 a.m. Motion carried by voice vote.**