

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 15, 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. A quorum was declared.

**Others in Attendance**

County staff: County Administrator David Bretl; Director-Public Works Richard Hough; Clerk of Circuit Court Kristy Secord; Finance Director Jessica Conley; Assistant Corporation Counsel Estee Scholtz; Director of Health and Human Services Elizabeth Aldred

Members of the public: Town of Richmond Chair Jeffrey Karbash

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

**Supervisor Pruessing made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to approve the June 17, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Public Comment** – There was none.

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

- John Roth, citizen representative on the Board of Adjustment, in the amount of \$19.62
- Anna Seaver, citizen representative on the Board of Adjustment, in the amount of \$17.44 and \$52.05
- Elizabeth Sukala, citizen representative on the Board of Adjustment, in the amount of \$39.78

**Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Russell, to approve the expense/mileage claims of John Roth, Anna Seaver and Elizabeth Sukala. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Appointments. Recommendations regarding County Administrator's nominations:**

- Agriculture and Extension Education and Land Conservation Committees – appointment of Sharon Travis as FSA representative

**Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Pruessing, to approve the appointment of Sharon Travis as FSA representative for the Agriculture and Extension Education and Land Conservation Committees. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Board of Adjustment

County Administrator David Bretl said two regular members and one alternate member need to be re-appointed to the Board of Adjustment. Several qualified individuals applied, including former Board Supervisor Mark Bromley. Bretl added Mr. Pappa also expressed interest in serving as a regular member on the Board. He noted it is a tough decision to make as to when to introduce new members to the Board while considering the long-term experience of the incumbents. Elizabeth Sukala and Mark Bromley are both from the Town of LaGrange, and two members from the same township cannot serve on the Board simultaneously. He recommended re-appointment of John Roth, Elizabeth Sukala and Joseph Pappa. Bretl requested that Mr. Roth's reappointment be contingent upon his completion of county training as set forth in Section 2-241 in the Walworth County Code of Ordinances. Chair Weber noted that Mr. Roth has served for more than 10 years; although it is not specifically prohibited by ordinance, he asked if Mr. Roth was committed to serving another term. Bretl said that he could ask that question at the required

interviews by the Committee. **Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Russell, to recommend re-appointments of John Roth, Elizabeth Sukala and Joseph Pappa to the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Roth's re-appointment will be contingent upon his completing required training. Motion carried 5-0.** Supervisor Russell requested that Administration send a letter to Mark Bromley encouraging him to reapply in future years. Interviews of Roth, Sukala and Pappa will be scheduled for the September committee meeting.

### **New Business**

- Correspondence from Supervisor Charlene Staples regarding residency restrictions for sex offenders Vice Chair Staples said she attended a recent Richmond Town Board meeting where discussion on housing of sex offenders occurred. The general consensus at that meeting was that a uniform countywide ordinance governing residency restrictions on sex offenders would be less confusing and more easily enforced. Town of Richmond Chair Jeffrey Karbash said the Town could draft its own ordinance, but they are unsure of the differing levels of supervision for offenses and the corresponding statutes governing distance limits from schools, churches, etc. One unique problem in Richmond is that a grade school is located within both Richmond and Whitewater townships and if Richmond adopted an ordinance and Whitewater did not enact the same ordinance, enforcement would be impossible. Karbash said another problem is convicted offenders residing at a campground at Turtle Lake; it is privately-owned and he is unsure that the Town would be able to restrict temporary residency there. Bretl included an ordinance adopted by the Brookfield Common Council and a related newspaper article with the agenda packet. He said if the Committee wished to pursue a countywide ordinance, more research needs to be conducted on the existing statutes and latitude allowed to counties in restricting sex offender residency. The County has a committee on housing violent sex offenders, which was formed because of a new State law putting the responsibility for finding housing for those individuals upon release onto the individual counties. Vice Chair Staples stated when a sex offender is being placed in a community, residents should be notified by the Sheriff's Office. Chair Weber asked Mr. Karbash if he were willing to draft an ordinance for the Town of Richmond. Bretl suggested the Wisconsin Towns Association might have a template to use. Supervisor Kilkenny requested definite parameters on restrictions for sex offenders. Bretl will contact the Towns Association on their stance on the issue. **Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Russell, to direct the County Administrator/Corporation Counsel to do more research on the issue and bring it back to committee for discussion/action in September. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Price County Resolution No. 18-19 – Request Elimination of the 0% Levy Cap Imposed on Wisconsin Counties

Bretl said the Price County resolution is advisory; the State has already passed the budget, so any change would not be enacted in 2020. Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) has included this issue in their platform in past years. As the levy cap directly impacts the County's operations, it is entirely reasonable for the Board to give its opinion. In the case of a future economic downturn, Walworth County will be unable to meet the levy cap and continue providing an exceptional level of service. Supervisor Russell said the WCA will vote on this issue at the annual meeting; she will vote as the committee directs. She added Walworth County was fortunate that the bonding debt was paid off, which allowed us to allocate funds to other expenses and projects. **Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Russell, to direct Supervisor Russell to vote in support of the elimination of the 0% levy cap at the WCA meeting, and to direct the County Administrator to draft a Walworth County advisory resolution to eliminate the cap. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Door County Resolution No. 2019-41 – Urging the State Legislature to Revise the Statutes for Court Fees and Costs in Probate and Juvenile Cases

Bretl said the Door County resolution urges support for the Wisconsin Register in Probate Association's efforts to revise fee structures to make filing fees the same as the Clerk of Courts. Clerk of Circuit Court Kristy Secord said most counties house their Clerk of Courts and Probate operations in the same office; they share systems and equipment, and it makes it confusing for employees to separate different fees for certified copies, search fees, etc. Making certain fees uniform will be more equitable to the public. Supervisor Kilkenny asked for a listing of existing price differences and an estimate of how the change would impact revenue for the Clerk of Courts office. Secord will do an analysis of 2018 totals. **Supervisor Kilkenny made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to postpone consideration of this item until the September 9<sup>th</sup> committee meeting. Motion carried 5-0.**

- 2020 U.S. Census Complete Count Committee

Bretl said he and County Board Chair Russell met with representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau in regard to establishing a partnership for the 2020 Census, which would include establishing a County Complete Count Committee. The Bureau has visited all County cities, villages and townships, and Bretl has contacted municipal officials to gauge their interest in participating in the effort. The proposed committee would terminate after the Census is complete. He requested approval from the committee to establish the committee, and the membership would be based upon responses from the municipalities, schools, churches, etc. **Supervisor Russell made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Staples, to approve the establishment of a 2020 U.S. Census Complete Count Committee. Motion carried 5-0.**

- County Board Compensation for the 2020-2022 Term

Bretl said the compensation recommendation needs to be adopted by the County Board at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Supervisor Russell asked for a listing of other counties with board size and compensation statistics for comparison. **Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Russell, to direct staff to compile the requested information and present it at the September committee meeting for consideration/action. 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, September 9, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Claims and Litigation**

The Committee convened in closed session at approximately 10:54 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, Director-Public Works Richard Hough and Assistant Corporation Counsel Estee Scholtz remained in closed session.

- a) Claim – We Energies

**The committee reconvened in open session at 11:01 a.m. on motion and second by Supervisors Kilkenny and Pruessing.**

**Vice Chair Staples made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Pruessing, to direct staff to proceed as discussed in closed session regarding the Claim of We Energies. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Adjournment**

**On motion and second by Vice Chair Staples and Supervisor Pruessing, Chair Weber adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.**

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Submitted by Becky Bechtel, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes were approved by the Committee on September 9, 2019.