

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 20, 2020
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 all members were present either in person or remotely: Chair David Weber; Vice Chair Daniel Kilkenny; Supervisors Brian Holt, Susan Pruessing and Nancy Russell. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance

County Board Supervisors: Ryan Simons, Rick Stacey, Kathy Ingersoll, Jerry Grant

County staff: County Administrator Mark W. Luberda; Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter; Director of Health & Human Services Elizabeth Aldred; and County Clerk Kimberly Bushey

Members of the Public: Patricia Gillette, Partnership Specialist, Chicago Regional Census Center, U.S. Census Bureau

On motion by Supervisor Russell, second by Supervisor Holt, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Supervisor Pruessing, second by Supervisor Russell, the minutes of the June 15, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting were approved.

Public Comment – There was none.

Consent Items – expense/mileage reimbursement claims submitted by:

- a) Anna Seaver, citizen representative on Board of Adjustment, in the amount of \$71.02
- b) Rick Stacey, County Board Supervisor, in the amount of \$15.87

Supervisor Russell offered a motion, second by Supervisor Pruessing, to approve the expense/mileage reimbursement claims for Anna Seaver in the amount of \$71.02 and Rick Stacey in the amount of \$15.87. Motion carried 5-0.

Unfinished Business

- a) Correspondence from County Board Vice Chair Jerry Grant regarding County Board election years, including consideration of as to the size of the County Board

Chair Weber stated these two items were placed on the agenda allowing all County Board Supervisors an opportunity to express their concerns and opinions relative to the subject. Weber briefly explained the request of County Board Vice Chair Jerry Grant and stated the board member numbers were previously reduced from 25 to 11 and that there has been some discussion of increasing the number of members to 15.

Grant stated he would like to see four additional members on the County Board and to have alternate year elections in order to maintain consistency in the board. Supervisor Russell requested the two items be taken separately.

Supervisor Russell offered a motion, second by Supervisor Holt, to increase the County Board size to 15.

Russell stated the board size of 15 members could have the same makeup of the committees, but each supervisor would either have fewer committee assignments or two additional supervisors would be placed on each committee with the same number of committees, which could be decided at a later date. Discussion then focused on the timeline required to pass an ordinance relative to increasing the County Board size; Public Law 94-171; and the process required for redistricting by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). Vice Chair Kilkenny stated 15 members is a reasonable number and suggested placing the subject on the County Board's agenda for discussion. Supervisor Ingersoll expressed concern with attending multiple meetings in a single day and

the level of effectiveness given to topics within those meetings. Supervisor Holt stated the two separate issues are a bit at odds with each other unless you are talking about long term consistency by slightly diminishing the power of each board member.

Supervisor Russell said she is not in favor of diminishing power on the board. She is merely trying to be more consistent with the rest of the state relative to County Boards and eliminate the challenge to replace a supervisor who has fallen ill or passed away.

County Administrator Mark W. Luberda suggested putting together a recommendation of procedures to be brought back to the September Executive Committee meeting relative to a specific time line addressing the following subjects as they relate to potential public meetings: 1) SEWRPC and the drawing of district lines relative to the Redistricting Plan for Walworth County following the 2020 United States Census; 2) Potential increase in the number of County Board Supervisors; and 3) Staggered County Board election years.

Supervisor Simons stated he is unaware of any individual or group of individuals that are not being properly represented and/or task that is not being handled at this time. He is uncertain as to the incentive for the change.

Chair Weber stated if there is no concern as to the representation to the constituency, then what we are really focusing on is diluting the burden of management from the county amongst the supervisors. Supervisor Pruessing said she feels comfortable representing her district as it stands.

Supervisor Russell asked Administrator Luberda to speak with SEWRPC and inquire as to what issues they may have with the time line(s).

Chair Weber called for a vote on the motion. **Vice Chair Kilkenny offered a motion to table this matter regarding consideration as to the size of the County Board, to the next Executive Committee Meeting in order to receive further information from Administrator Luberda.** Discussion followed with Supervisor Holt inquiring as to what additional information is needed in order to make a decision differently. Administrator Luberda stated while taking into consideration meetings for public discussion, he was first going to focus on the time line of key election dates along with the time SEWERPC requires relative to their redistricting efforts. He then plans to pull together an academic perspective on board sizes. Due to the lack of a second, **Vice Chair Kilkenny offered to amend the motion to transfer to the County Board without recommendation to allow for public comment.** Supervisor Russell stated she believes the best thing to do is discuss this at the September County Board meeting.

Vice Chair Kilkenny offered a motion, second by Supervisor Pruessing, that all prior motions be withdrawn; that this matter regarding consideration as to the size of the County Board be referred to the September County Board for discussion and possible decision; and for Administrator Luberda to provide whatever information he can prior to or at that date. Motion carried 5-0.

Chair Weber called for comments relative to staggered terms, which he finds relevant to the number of board members representing the constituency. Supervisor Holt provided information relative to contested seats for the past ten election years and stated the County Board is one of the most consistent bodies of elected officials within the state. He expressed concern with the complicated process of moving to staggered year terms asking 50% of the board to run for a single year term coming up in 2022 for a 10% incumbent defeat rate and stated this doesn't seem right. Supervisor Grant expressed concern with the increase in incumbent challenges and stated there is a need for board consistency and he feels this is a critical issue for Walworth County. Supervisor Russell recommended placing this matter on hold until after the redistricting and perhaps after the 2022 election. County Clerk Bushey stated on November 8, 2021 she must run a Type A Notice in the weekly newspapers with a list of current incumbents and what the term of the office will be for the future. Cotter stated the ordinance would have to be published as a Class 1 Notice prior to November 8, 2021. **Supervisor Russell offered a motion, second by Supervisor Holt, to table this matter regarding County Board election years until a future date after the census has been taken and redistricting has been completed.** Discussion followed. **Motion carried 5-0.**

b) Proposed Ordinance regarding Naming Public Real Property
Administrator Luberda gave a brief overview of Ord. No. **-05/20 – Creating Sections 16-4, 42-10, and 54-3 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances Relating to the Naming of Public Real Property and explained the purpose for the proposed ordinance. Discussion then focused on the criteria and parameters required for future renaming as set forth in the proposed ordinance. **Supervisor Russell offered a motion, second by Vice Chair Kilkenny, to approve the proposed ordinance relating to the naming of public real property.** Supervisor Russell said she feels there is a need for rules relative to naming of public real property and believes the Finance Committee should be involved relative to any costs that may be incurred. **Motion carried 5-0.**

c) Correspondence from County Board Vice Chair Jerry Grant in regards to requiring committee citizen members be residents of Walworth County, including draft proposed ordinance
Chair Weber expressed concern with obtaining qualified individuals who are willing to accept the responsibilities of becoming a committee citizen member. Administrator Luberda gave a brief overview of Ord. No. **-09/20 – Amending Section 2-238 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances Relating to Citizen Committee Members and explained Section C on Page 26 of the packet entitled “Considerations in selection of nominees.”
Supervisor Holt offered a motion, second by Vice Chair Kilkenny, to approve the proposed ordinance relating to citizen committee members. Supervisor Russell and Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management (LURM) Michael Cotter confirmed there is no requirement for a Lake District citizen member to maintain residency or employment within Walworth County, as they fall under state statute. **Motion carried 5-0.**

New Business

a) Correspondence from the Chicago Regional Census Center regarding Census Outreach to Wisconsin Counties Patricia Gillette, Partnership Specialist, Chicago Regional Census Center, U.S. Census Bureau provided an update regarding the 2020 United States Census response rate and explained the process in which the U.S. Census Bureau is working to obtain the required census information. Discussion then focused on how Walworth County could assist with the process.

Reports/announcements by Chairperson – There was none.

Confirmation of next meeting date and time: The next meeting was confirmed for Monday, September 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Claims and Litigation

The Committee convened in closed session at approximately 11:24 a.m. on motion and second by Vice Chair Kilkenny and Supervisor Holt 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 Mark W. Luberda and Corporation Counsel/Director of Land Use and Resource Management Michael Cotter remained in closed session.

- a) Claim for Vehicle Damage – Natasha Zwijacz
- b) Claim for Vehicle Damage – Damoned Brown, Sr.
- c) Notice of Injury Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 893.80(1)(a) – WSPR Enterprises, LLC
- d) Complaint and Jury Demand – Dangelo Lux

The committee reconvened in open session at 11:52 a.m. on motion and second by Vice Chair Kilkenny and Supervisor Russell.

Vice Chair Kilkenny offered a motion, second by Supervisor Russell, to proceed as discussed in closed session on items a) b), c), above herein and that item d) be denied. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment

On motion and second by Vice Chair Kilkenny and Supervisor Pruessing, Chair Weber adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Submitted by Patricia Sommers, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes were approved at the September 14, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting.