

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Administration Committee** was held on Thursday, August 25, 2022 in Room 200, Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay.

Present: Supervisor Schadewald, Supervisor Vander Leest, Supervisor Peters, Supervisor Lefebvre, Supervisor Lund
Also Present: Director of Administration Chad Weininger, Corporation Counsel David Hemery, BCCAN Chief Operating Officer August Neverman, Child Support Director Maria Lasecki, County Clerk Patrick Moynihan, Jr., County Board Chair Patrick Buckley, other interested parties

I. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Schadewald at 5:30 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Peters to approve with the modifications to move Item 3 after Item 1 and Item 11 after Item 2. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of July 28 and August 8, 2022 (special).

Motion made by Supervisor Lefebvre, seconded by Supervisor Peters to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public

Gordon Wilker, Jr. – 3869 CTH U, Kaukauna, WI – Spoke to the purchased of 410 Prairie Way, Wrightstown. He informed the tax bill was sent to a vacant lot verses his and his significant other's residence. For various reasons they didn't expect a tax bill, they were making payments on the land and assumed it was part of escrow because of how much they had to pay up front for a \$28,000 lot. He's from the opinion that he has no problem paying the taxes but has an issue paying the penalties and late fees accrued through the process. They paid everything off and was asking for all the penalties and interest transferred as a credit to their taxes. The committee was appraised of the situation and his next step was talk to legal counsel and work with him.

Legal Bills

1. Review and Possible Action on Legal Bills to be paid.

Motion made by Supervisor Peters, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to pay the bills. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Although shown in proper format here, Item 3 was taken at this time.

Presentation

2. Report on the ACFR – Presented by CLA.

Director of Administration Chad Weininger informed this was the external audit, which was a yearly thing and the second year because of the change in Chapter 2. A PowerPoint was presented re: Brown County, Wisconsin – 2021 Audit Results (attached) in which Leah Lasecki, Principal, CPA and Elizabeth McMasters, Director, CPA, of Clifton Larson Allen LLP were present to provide results.

No action needed.

Although shown in proper format here, Item 11 was taken after Item 2.

Communications

3. **Communication from Supervisor Borchardt re: Discussion and possible action ways to counter Citizens United. Held for a month.**

Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Lefebvre to suspend the rules to allow interested parties to speak. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A draft Resolution to Counter Citizens United by Amending the United States Constitution to Enable Congress and the States to Reasonably Regulate Campaign Finance was provided along with a packet from the American Promise, an organization spearheading the work (both attached) and spoken to.

Michael Poradek – 1744 Beaver Dam Dr., Green Bay, WI

Poradek stated they were going back to what was discussed at the August meeting regarding dark money spending and the resolution from the county to support the other 18 counties in Wisconsin that passed resolutions against the dark money spending in elections. He spoke to the handouts. They would appreciate the support from Brown County and the board to continue to say citizens and Brown County do not want outside interference in the election process and the dark money spending had to be taken under control and they needed to move on with their elections and keep local elections local.

Judy Nagel – 4438 Oak Ridge Ct., De Pere, WI

Nagel provided background on campaign finance reform and the bipartisan bill that put guardrails around campaign financing which congress passed that banned soft money. It all changed when the supreme court made those guardrails illegal. Now dark money with no transparency was flooding into state, federal and local campaigns. Legislators were now spending 30-70% of their time dialing for dollars instead of time with constituents to understand the impact of proposed legislation on the lives of their constituents. She furthered how foreign owned corporations can finance politicians to benefit their interests and produce endless political ads that want to divide. 168 Wisconsin cities, towns, villages and counties have passed a resolution with overwhelming majorities to support campaign finance reform. 22 states have passed a resolution calling on congress to initiate an amendment for ratification and two bills now exist in congress regarding this issue.

Howard Hauser – 2082 River Point Ct., De Pere, WI

Hauser informed he and his wife moved to the Green Bay area 5-years ago after a 2-year search with no prior connections because of the people and way-of-life; values, morals, practical common sense, etc. He sees problems developing from outside money, that doesn't represent the values and interests of the people of Brown County, and it's beginning to and will tear the county apart if they let it. They need to stand with the other 168 Wisconsin communities who have already said they don't want outside money interfering. He strongly urged the committee to support the resolution for the people of Brown County and because he doesn't want to move again.

Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Peters to return to regular order of business. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor Peters, seconded by Supervisor Lefebvre to direct Corporation Counsel to put the resolution in actionable form and send to County Board. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Back to Item 2 at this time.

4. **Communication from Supervisor Lund re: That Brown County examine their mileage reimbursement rate and how it compares to our surrounding counties. *July Motion: Refer to staff for an update at next month's meeting.***

DOA Weininger gave a brief history regarding mileage reimbursement and noted this was by ordinance. There are only a few departments that track this to this level, for certain reasons. The entire system, excluding a few departments, gets tied into training and travel and goes to payroll to get paid out. Health & Human Services does a better job at tracking; they're spending roughly \$40,000 a month, which would be about \$480,000. They would have to find an indeterminate amount over \$480,000 to provide this benefit. They just started tracking this separately so this time next year they will know what the real dollar amount is.

Lund felt they should get a full report on this in a couple months, to figure out what they're going to do. Weininger can look at this closer but the best approach would be to provide the staff additional vehicles, put them in the fleet program so they have safe, reliable vehicles that doesn't identify the employee going out as their vehicle. Schadewald felt they should know before the 2024 budget hearing, in 2023 they should know who they're paying mileage to, what is the actual cost, what is the difference, etc.

Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to direct staff for further update with better numbers. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Communication from Supervisor Evans re: To review, discuss, and take action on increasing the mileage reimbursement to the Federal guidelines for Brown County employees. *July Motion: Refer to staff for an update at next month's meeting.***

Motion made by Supervisor Lefebvre, seconded by Supervisor Peters to hold. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolutions & Ordinances

6. **Resolution Appropriating Second Round of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Specific Projects.**

Weininger informed Administration is requesting that they amend the ARPA request. A handout noting the Administration Committee Departments ARPA Requests and changes were provided (attached). They're asking that the \$500,000 set aside for the County Clerk remodel also be used for a county-wide facility study.

Motion made by Supervisor Peters, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to amend the ARPA request as reflected in the handout – the use of County Clerk Office Remodel funds can be used for county-wide Facilities study. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. **Resolution Adopting Brown County's 2023 Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan.**

Weininger spoke to a handout that was provided to committee members and informed it cleaned up the CIP working proposal. The CIP was not general obligation debt elimination, so they were striking that. This adds the county-wide facilities study in County Clerk's office which they just approved. Health & Human Services approved sales tax for the ADRC kitchen. They originally set aside \$6.5 million for the Brown County EXPO Hall and \$6.5 million for the Veterans Memorial Grounds and they proposed to split that in two years. In addition, they have sales tax, and are making them good on what they've already proposed on the original one. They're still holding true to the original plan with the exclusion of the ADRC kitchen because that's being added. That frees up roughly \$2.4 million in Health & Human Services ARPA. They're striking Land Con Demonstration Farm Grants because grants aren't capital. Courthouse Single Point Entrance/Exit Lobby, they're putting \$1.9 million in, which was the original request for the courthouse single point entrance. For the GL Pod Downtown Replacement, they're putting \$1.4 in there and slotting potentially \$16 million for 2024. The jail was roughly \$13 million so there was additional money for some inflation but also some money for the demolition of the current jail. That facility study will help guide them on the path forward in a longer CIP term.

During the Bug Tussel discussion they talked about freeing up some additional dollars for cash flow. What they'd be looking at doing, the 911 Tower would go from \$10.5 million to \$925,000 so that money of ARPA would be freed up to replace it with sales tax projects. They'd use those dollars to do the Central Library renovations, the East Branch and Pulaski Branch. That would allow them to free up the cash flow of sales tax to make sure they could do larger projects earlier in 2024. Weininger added they put some additional sales tax money in for the Fox River Trail they really didn't need, so that changed. Mental Health Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY), they're moving it back. The state took their money and gave it to Milwaukee and Racine so that project was probably a long way away. In doing that it also frees up additional sales tax.

Motion made by Supervisor Lefebvre, seconded by Supervisor Peters to approve the amended CIP. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Child Support

8. Budget Status Financial Report for June 30, 2022 – Unaudited.

Motion made by Supervisor Peters, seconded by Supervisor Lefebvre to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Director's Report.

Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Lefebvre to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Information Technology

10. Director's Report.

Motion made by Supervisor Lefebvre, seconded by Supervisor Peters to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BCCAN

11. Discussion and possible action regarding broadband expansion plans.

A PowerPoint presentation re: R.O.A.D. to Digital Equality: Brown County, was given by Steve Schneider, founder of Bug Tussel, a high-speed wireless internet provider that services rural Wisconsin and beyond.

A discussion ensued regarding moving forward with the proposal and whether to bond verses using sales tax as a loan and recouping those dollars and replenishing the fund later. Weininger stated that under the sales tax provision, the ordinance allows for geo debt issued if there was a revenue source for it. Per the auditors, they have enterprise/proprietary funds. BCCAN would get the revenue from Bug Tussel to pay back the loan and they would use general obligation debt because it was at a lower cheaper rate. Revenue bond was much higher. Industrial Revenue bond, whole bunch of problems.

Board Chairman Pat Buckley questioned why the county was paying the bill for it? Schneider informed you can't go out to a bank and say they are going to build all the rural areas and connect this together and get the same rate and provide the same constituent rates that they can get if they partner with the county. The 12- counties they work with, that has been an issue. They don't need to, but a lot of counties wanted to incent people to build these unbuilt areas. It's been a long time that some of these areas have been unserved. Frankly, they wouldn't do it if there wasn't an incentive there to do it and they're doing it and paying it back to the county so there is no cost in the long term to the county, which is felt was good to the constituents. The bank wants their money back in 5-7 years and they went to the bank looking for a 30-year loan at 4% interest and there was a resounding no. The county has a first lean on all the fiberoptics in the ground that last 100 years and all the towers, which they'll be using for 911 purposes, and they had a guarantee from their holding

company on all the assets not in the county that are also collateralized. Buckley questioned if there was a bond to secure the note, they could get to ensure the payback, who knows if the technology will be here. In 10-years it could be totally different and could be all satellite and all the fiber in the ground could be useless. Schneider responded that they were securing it with all the assets. They have not done that before and it would be a first.

Brian Della, CFA from PMA Financial Network was present to speak to the ways the county could finance this investment through bonding and what's been done to date. Responding to Schadewald, Weinger informed they did have a cash option as well and explained what that'd look like.

Schadewald will be setting up one or two informational meetings to make sure they get this done.

Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Lefebvre to direct Corporation Counsel to engage with outside counsel to work on a proposal to move forward on providing a loan for county-wide broadband. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Back to Item 4 at this time.

12. Director's Report.

Motion made by Supervisor Peters, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer

13. Review of Treasurer's Dept. Budget Performance Report for YTD June 2022 (unaudited).

Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Lefebvre to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. Discussion and possible action on the sale of the following tax deed parcels:

<u>Parcel #</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Municipality</u>
18-991	1110 N. Buchanan St.	City of Green Bay (No bids Received last month)

Motion made by Supervisor Schadewald, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to accept the bid on Parcel #18-991, 1110 N. Buchanan St., Green Bay to Jason Mills in the amount of \$125,000.00 with the following conditions: a. Buyer is responsible for entirety of full 2022 Property Taxes, no proration; b. Buyer to pay any delinquent water & sewer utility bills presented; c. Buyer to pay any outstanding special assessments and/or special charges; d. Conveyance to be via Quit Claim Deed. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6H-1225-8	2634 Oakwood Dr.	City of Green Bay (High Bidder failed to pay)
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Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Peters to accept the bid on Parcel #6H-1225-8, 2634 Oakwood Dr., Green Bay to Jason Mills in the amount of \$185,000.00 with the following conditions: a. Buyer is responsible for entirety of full 2022 Property Taxes, no proration; b. Buyer to pay any delinquent water & sewer utility bills presented; c. Buyer to pay any outstanding special assessments and/or special charges; d. Conveyance to be via Quit Claim Deed. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. Treasurer's Report.

Motion made by Supervisor Lefebvre, seconded by Supervisor Lund to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

County Clerk

16. Clerk's Report.

County Clerk Patrick Moynihan, Jr. informed it was a very busy month. August 9th was the Partisan primary and they saw a turnout of 32.4%, up 5 points from the last gubernatorial/congressional primary. County-wide, there were 48,691 ballots cast. The two-day county canvass found no glaring deficiencies. He informed the Town of Morrison has issues modeming results due to "Dead Zones" in their area. This has been ongoing for multiple years. To modem, Verizon is utilized working in concert with the ES&S tabulators. Unfortunately, there are no Verizon towers near Town Hall. The Wrightstown Spirit wrote a lengthy piece on this subject matter just last week.

The Clerk's office incurred numerous Public Record Requests regarding the November General Election of 2020. He personally dispensed 11 yesterday, two more today. All from local citizens utilizing a form letter from an unknown entity. As of today, they were working through two others, one national requestor asking to physically inspect all original documents (ballots, Absentee Ballot Envelopes, tally sheets, and chain of custody documentation for the entire county.) This is very broad reaching. Final determination response in being formulated. The other from within the state falls within the lines of the formerly described request of the thirteen requestors. Lastly, they had a local citizen who requested to see some documentation in person regarding the past April Spring election.

Moynihan has attended various webinars centered on election security and Wisconsin Election Commission election processes.

The County Clerk's 2023 Budget has been submitted and approved by Administration as of yesterday. Budget Status Financials for July have not been approved will be submitted next month.

Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Peters to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Administration & Human Resources

17. Director's Report.

DOA Weininger informed they have seen an uptick in applications, they did some radio ads with ARPA funds and geared it towards community service. They've engaged in additional tools to micro-target and use better resources, which helped significantly. Areas of concern was Public Safety, with jailers and correctional officers. They'll see several Table of Organization changes coming through the budget from Child Support, Clerk of Courts, 911, Highway, Facilities etc. What they're doing is shrinking staff to help bolster salaries of others as they're taking on a few more duties and not giving up any services yet. They'll continue to consolidate and get to be competitive otherwise, they're always potentially recruiting and their services kind of suffer, and they can't function that way.

Weininger informed room tax was doing very well. July sales tax was down a little, but August numbers were off the charts.

Weininger briefly touched on a Facilities study. They have a year to plan with the study, the next 6-7 years of what the county's future will look like and find ways to save money.

Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Peters to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18. Budget Adjustment Log.

Motion made by Supervisor Lefebvre, seconded by Supervisor Lund to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Corporation Counsel

19. Oral Report.

No report, no action taken.

Other

20. Audit of bills.

Motion made by Supervisor Peters, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to acknowledge receipt of the bills. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

21. Such other matters as authorized by law.

22. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Lund, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

**Patrick W. Moynihan, Jr.
Recording Secretary**

**Alicia A. Loehlein
Legislative Specialist - Transcriptionist**