

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular and budget meeting of the **Brown County Executive Committee** was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 in Room 200 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, WI

Present: Chair Kaster, Supervisor Van Dyck, Supervisor Jacobson, Supervisor Pyle (for Supervisor Nicholson), Supervisor Buckley, Supervisor Antonneau, Supervisor Dantine
Also Present: Controller Jennifer Messerschmidt, Internal Auditor Dan Process, Corporation Counsel David Hemery, Supervisor Lund, Supervisor Coenen, Supervisor Gannon, Director of Administration Chad Weininger, County Executive Troy Streckenbach and other interested parties

I. Call meeting to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kaster at 6:00 pm.

II. Approve/modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Antonneau, seconded by Supervisor Jacobson to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/modify Minutes of September 9, 2024.

Motion made by Supervisor Antonneau, seconded by Supervisor Van Dyck to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

****BUDGET ITEMS****

Comments from the Public – Budget Items – None.

Non-Divisional Items

1. Board of Supervisors – Review of 2025 Department Budget.

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Antonneau to approve budget and pass on to County Board. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Executive – Review of 2025 Department Budget.

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Antonneau to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

****NON-BUDGET ITEMS****

Comments from the Public – Non-Budget Items

-Paul Jadin, 2905 Timberland Court, Green Bay, WI

Jadin informed he is the founder of On Broadway and has been requested by Brian Johnson to help raise money for the Public Market. He noted the Market will be a significant venue in Brown County and asked the Committee to honor the request before them.

Brian Johnson, On Broadway, 340 N. Broadway, Green Bay, WI

Johnson noted he has been before this Committee in the past to share an overview of the Public Market. In terms of fundraising, they have secured \$13 million dollars of commitments for the project through private philanthropy and several grants. As of today, they are about \$4 million dollars short of their overall goal and they have \$2 million dollars they are very confident in in private philanthropy. With the County's support, they feel they could be very close to

getting over the threshold and they are having a groundbreaking next week. He feels they are in a good spot and things are moving forward.

Internal Auditor

3. Budget Status Financial Report – Brown County Board of Supervisors for August 31, 2024 – Unaudited.

Internal Auditor Dan Process noted financials look to be on track. Expense reports from Supervisors who attended the WCA are coming in and he is hopeful there is enough money in the account for that.

Supervisor Buckley arrived at 6:06 pm

Motion made by Supervisor Antonneau, seconded by Supervisor Dantine to approve. Vote take. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding 2025 Audit and Work Plan.

Process referenced the Audit Plan for next year and touched on several projects, including a new financial system the County is looking at. He feels it is critical that the Internal Auditor be part of the team looking at that so there is a good understanding of the system. Process also feels it is important to incorporate some data analytics in the audit function and the Internal Auditor being involved in the process would help facilitate that. The second project deals with inventory and Process noted this has been discussed in the past in terms of identifying the difference between inventory and fixed assets and what the definition of each is. When looking at a new system, it will be important to utilize those systems if there is an application for both of these things. Process concluded by briefly outlining some of the other items in his report and noted that the document is subject to change based on events that occur.

Motion made by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Supervisor Pyle to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4a. Discussion and possible action regarding approving of additional Loss Revenue Funds for originally qualifying Brown County Tourism Capital Grant Program Applicants in the amount of \$100,000 for the Children’s Museum, \$100,000 for the Nelson Pavilion, and \$250,000 for the Public Market, and regarding closing out this grant program.

Supervisor Antonneau requested separation on each item.

Motion made by Supervisor Jacobson, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to approve \$100,000 for the Children’s Museum. Vote taken. Aye: Jacobson, Buckley, Pyle, Dantine, Antonneau Nay: Van Dyck, Kaster. MOTION CARRIED 5 to 2

Supervisor Buckley said this started when some projects that scored higher than others were skipped over, deviating from the original plan. He feels if we are going to go back and pick and choose what we want to do, we should put something towards the three projects that have been brought forward in the past and then put in a resolution that the grant be closed out. No new applications are being taken; this is just finishing what we already had. He noted the ARPA funds were money from the federal government to take care of needs and the County has been very diligent with the funds and has done a lot of good things with them, including a number of grants. He would like to use loss revenue funds (formerly ARPA funds) for these projects.

Director of Administration Chad Weininger informed there is roughly \$450,000 that has been identified to lapse into the Executive Committee’s unallocated pot and is available for this Committee to allocate. Supervisor Van Dyck feels it would be nice to get a breakdown of the \$450,000 that just magically appeared. Weininger responded the funds are not a reallocation, it is money that will lapse.

Supervisor Antonneau informed he asked for separation because the Nelson Pavilion is done and for that reason he does not see the need to give money to that project. He supports the Public Market and he would like to see \$100,000 given to the Children’s Museum and \$350,000 for the Public Market.

Van Dyck feels this grant program has been the most convoluted process the County Board has gone through. The grant is done and there is nothing to close out. This Board allocated \$3 million dollars to the grant program and then added \$200,000 more so there was \$3.2 million dollars that was distributed and is gone so there is nothing to close out as there are no more funds; the program is done. He is not speaking specifically to any of

the projects, it is the process. There is no rhyme or reason to any of this and he is voting against all of these because this has been bad since the beginning and not defined very well from the start.

Weininger said the reality is this Committee tasked him with looking at projects that are completed and he did that. He made some calls to see what projects were done and what money could be lapsed back and this is a net result of that. This is not taking money from another pot or doing another project, but there are other funds that still need to be defined.

Buckley said there is a process. We still use the grant evaluation process and these three projects were skipped over early on. Now there is loss revenue funds available that can be used for these projects and based on the information he had to work with, this is what he came up with.

Van Dyck agreed there was a process, but when Administration Committee freed up \$200,000 last month, action taken at that meeting transferred money out of a specific project and transferred it into Executive Committee, but that transfer was killed and the \$200,000 went back to Administration Committee. He feels the process when money is identified in a Committee should be that the Committee take action to move funds out of their buckets and into the Executive Committee bucket to be spent.

If the \$450,000 is spent, Supervisor Lund feels there should be a fiscal note saying where the money came from so it is clear. He is in favor of the projects and likes that they are not all athletic projects.

Supervisor Coenen feels saying we need to officially close out the grant program is going down a slippery slope. It opens the door for too many things. The Board has always had the understanding that when the money is gone, the grant program is done. If we want to do a new grant program or have more money, we would have added more money to the program or started a new program. She noted that programs that did not get the grant were things that did not put heads in beds. It is not the projects, it's the process and we have been talking about these for a long time. She feels we need to know the facts and what we are doing and make sure we can pay for the projects that need to be done. There are a lot of underfunded projects and she feels maybe the money could be put towards some of those projects.

Supervisor Kaster asked if De Pere has all their money. Antonneau informed they said they have it funded and it is completed or close to be completed. Buckley informed last he heard they were short. Antonneau said he was told they were short but they were going to get all the money. Van Dyck clarified that last time they were here they informed the construction was complete but they have bills to pay and they were short by about \$125,000.

Kaster thought this program was done and questions what will come next if this is approved. He added there are projects at PD&T that Facilities said they were not able to do because there is not enough money. Dantine added that if De Pere is funded, he does not think we need to allocate funds to the pavilion. He feels some money should be saved to be spent on underfunded projects.

Coenen said these projects have been voted down several times and this sets a whole new precedent. She questions why a new program is not created and we take responsibility as a Board for what the qualifications are, be more involved and learn from our mistakes. We can do something that is great for the community, great for the County and great for the business. We are looking at this as a government and not a business and we can't have it both ways.

Lund feels the \$450,000 should be spent and then the program ended. Any money that becomes available in the future can be put towards other projects that overrun instead of granting more money. Also, there are projects that the County wants to do in the five year plan that money could be used for.

Buckley said if Coenen wants to put together another program, she can do that. Right now we're looking at a communication by himself with support of others, and she can do the same thing at any time if she wants to do something for her area. Buckley said these community grants have benefited a number of surrounding communities and people recognize that. The loss revenue funds are taxpayer money from the federal government and it does not hurt to give a little back.

Antonneau feels this needs to be put to bed. He agreed with Buckley that a lot of good things were done, but now it is time to move forward.

Kaster said there are discussions like this at every meeting and the question is asked when it will be done. He feels if this is approved tonight, it is going to come back again. There are a lot of other projects the County needs to fund.

Supervisor Jacobson wants to see the County have an outlook in the community that says the County does more than County things and this is a small way we can do that. She noted these projects all went through the process and are things the County wanted to fund, especially the Children's Museum and Public Market.

Supervisor Gannon said in the grant process, it was said that if there was more money available, we would look at more projects. He thinks these are great projects, but thought we were going to redo the process or put another process in place and put x number of dollars in it. He feels we need to put a sunset on the grants and be done.

Supervisor Pyle commented on the good things these grants have done for the County and surrounding communities. He was never in favor of the pavilion but feels the Children's Museum and Public Market will have a bigger impact on the County. He would like to see \$100,000 allocated to the Children's Museum and \$250,000 for the Public Market.

Antonneau withdrew his request for separation.

Van Dyck requested separation.

At this time, a vote was taken on the motion made at the beginning of the discussion.

Motion made by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Supervisor Jacobson to approve \$250,000 for the Public Market. Vote taken. Aye: Buckley, Jacobson, Pyle, Dantine, Antonneau Nay: Van Dyck, Kaster. MOTION CARRIED 5 to 2

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Jacobson to approve \$100,000 for Nelson Pavilion. Vote taken. Aye: Jacobson, Buckley Nay: Van Dyck, Pyle, Dantine, Antonneau, Kaster. MOTION FAILED 2 to 5

Communications

5. **Communication from Supervisor Theno: Request the Executive Committee to submit to the full Board of Supervisors a resolution under 8.10(3m) of the Wisconsin State Statutes to provide for a minimum of 50 signatures to be required for ballot placement to run for the County Board of Supervisors. *Referred back from September County Board.***

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Dantine to refer to December full County board meeting. *Motion withdrawn; no vote taken.*

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Dantine to hold until next Executive Committee meeting. *Motion withdrawn; no vote taken.*

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Dantine to receive and place on file. Vote taken. Ayes: Van Dyck, Dantine, Jacobson, Antonneau, Kaster, Pyle Nay: Buckley MOTION CARRIED 6 TO 1

6. **Communication from Supervisor Van Dyck: Request that the appropriate section of the Brown County Code (Section 2.16) be modified to allow all appointments to be forwarded directly to the Brown County Board for consideration, bypassing standing committees. *Referred from September County Board.***

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Dantine to refer to Corporation Counsel to draft appropriate changes to Section 2.16 and bring back to next Executive Committee meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Items

7. **Such other matters as authorized by law. None.**

8. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Jacobson, seconded by Supervisor Antonneau to adjourn at 7:22 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Legislative Specialist