

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the Brown County Executive Committee was held on Monday, February 6, 2017 in Room 200 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Chair Lund, Supervisor Moynihan, Supervisor Schadewald, Supervisor Hoyer, Supervisor Erickson, Supervisor Van Dyck, Supervisor Buckley
Also Present: Supervisors Lefebvre and Ballard, County Executive Troy Streckenbach, Corporation Counsel David Hemery, Internal Auditor Dan Process, Interim Human Resources Director Pete Bilski, Director of Administration Chad Weininger, Public Works Director Paul Fontecchio, Business Manager Brandy Younger, and news media.

**Audio of this meeting is available by contacting the County Board office at 920-448-4015*

I. Call meeting to order.

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

II. Approve/modify agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Schadewald to modify the agenda to take Items 9a & b after Item 2. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. Approve/modify Minutes of January 9, 2017.

Motion made by Supervisor Schadewald, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Comments from the Public. None

1. Review Minutes of Brown County LEAN Steering Committee (December 1, 2016).

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Schadewald to receive and place on file. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Legal Bills

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

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to pay the bills. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Although shown in proper format here, Items 9a & b were taken at this time.

Communications

3. Reconsideration of Vote: Communication from Supervisor Evans re: Reconsider Item #10f (from October's County Board meeting agenda) – An Ordinance Amending Section 4.93 of Chapter 4 of the Brown County Code entitled "Grievance Procedure." *December Motion: To hold until February.*

Chair Lund informed that he spoke with Supervisor Evans regarding this and he would like this held until he gets information back from Corporation Counsel. Corporation Counsel David Hemery added that Evans had approached him and Interim Human Resources Director Pete Bilski and indicated that this is really not a just cause standard he is looking to switch the County to. What he is looking for is to add language to the County Code regarding progressive discipline. Director of Administration Chad Weininger said that Chapter 4 will have to be amended to accomplish the changes Evans is looking for.

Supervisor Van Dyck said whether people are for or against this, it seems that Corporation Counsel and Human Resources is going through a lot of work with regard to the subject and he questioned if a conversation should be had whether or not there is even any support from the full Board for this. He sees this as a lot of work to bring forward to then potentially have it turned down so perhaps the concept should be brought up to see if there is enough support to get it to the point of having a resolution drafted. Supervisor Buckley said if Evans wants to add language with regard to progressive discipline this should probably go to the Administration Committee as it seems to be a personnel issue. He feels this current communication should be received and placed on file and then a new communication brought to the Administration Committee. Lund said he will speak to Evans on this.

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

4. **Communication from Supervisor Schadewald: This communication is my request that the Executive Committee take the leading role in long range and short range planning of county related capital projects. *Referred from January County Board.***

Supervisor Schadewald informed he is trying to reinstitute the Facilities Masterplan Subcommittee that had not met since 2012. He feels if the County wants to get something done they should be looking comprehensively at the long range and short range plans and he feels the Executive Committee should have the leading role because the Chairman of all standing Committees would be present.

Supervisor Lefebvre informed she attended tonight's meeting because there had been a lot in the *Press Gazette* recently about different projects and she feels we need to get a handle on this because there are things that have been sitting out there for a number of years like the Arena and we are not doing anything. She feels it is important to know where the County is headed and has been hearing a lot of talk with the new federal administration that there is a lot of uncertainty and bond rates may be going up which could really tie the hands of the County.

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

5. **Communication from Supervisor Schadewald: My request for a resolution to be drafted stating our support to our local municipalities in their opposition to big box stores reducing their property taxes and increasing local resident's property taxes. *Referred from January County Board.***

Schadewald informed he is part of a HALO group which is the local municipalities and he knows that villages, towns and cities are looking at this heavily, but he feels the County should also be made aware of this. He explained that big box stores like Menards and Walgreens have been going through the legal process to get their stores assessed at a much lower value, as if they are empty. This reduces the property taxes of the big box store, but the property taxes of the property owners have to go up to make up the difference. This is something that is happening in several cities in Wisconsin and Schadewald has heard that it is a national phenomenon. He wants the County to be apprised of this and would like this Committee to look at a resolution on this. He feels the constituents are the people directly impacted and that the Board should take a position on this. His position is that he is in opposition to the reduction of taxes for the big box stores because of how it will affect everyone else. If the Executive Committee agrees with him, Schadewald would like this forwarded to Corporation Counsel so a resolution can be drafted to appear on the County Board agenda for the February meeting. Supervisor Moynihan indicated that the Village of Ashwaubenon passed a resolution on this and he can forward it to Hemery for reference. Supervisor Hoyer asked who the resolution would be directed to and it was indicated that it would be directed to the State legislature.

Weininger explained that the big box stores come in and then go through the board of review process to get their valuation adjusted down. They typically do not like the results and then they petition the Circuit Court and use the argument of a dark store as the valuation. In some states the courts have been ruling that the valuation is lower than what it is which means that all other taxpayers pay for the shortfall in valuation. Fixing this loophole in Wisconsin would require legislation from the State.

Erickson said that TIF districts force everyone's taxes up as well. Weinger responded that TIF is a little different in that a valuation is assigned when the TIF is started and that is where it stands and then you build up upon the valuation so you do not typically go negative unless it goes decrement.

Schadewald said what he brought forward is not anywhere near a TIF situation. These are current stores in operation assessed at a certain value that are going through court and causing real impacts. The resolution is the only remedy the County can use to help the local taxpayers by stopping this from progressing. Lund pointed out that the citizens can also come before a review board to bring up what they feel is inequity.

Motion made by Supervisor Schadewald, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to forward to Corporation Counsel to draft a resolution for consideration before the February County Board. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **Communication from Board Chairman Moynihan: I respectfully ask for support amending Ordinance 2.02 (Meetings). Whereby, the regular meeting start time shall be changed from 7 pm to 6:30 pm. Referred from January County Board.**

Supervisor Moynihan recalled that the County Board met earlier than typically scheduled in December and January and it seemed that Supervisors were very pleased. He is proposing moving the time of the meeting up to 6:30 pm which would allow both citizens and staff to get home earlier and may also help the media meet their deadlines. Moynihan feels there would still be time to get in any special meetings that need to be held prior to the Board meeting. Schadewald said that it will be important to let the public know that the start time has been changed if this goes through.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Van Dyck to amend Ordinance 2.02 to change the start time of the County Board from 7 pm to 6:30 pm. Vote taken. Nay: Hoyer. MOTION CARRIED 6 to 1

7. **Communication from Executive Committee Chair Lund re: Discussion re: the duties of the Executive Committee: 2.05 COMMITTEES OF THE COUNTY BOARD.**

(6) All items considered at any meeting of any standing committee shall be forwarded to the County Board in report form for consideration and inclusion on the County Board agenda under the title "Reports". Such report will be drafted by the County Board staff and will include the title of each item on the agenda (other than procedural items such as call to order, adoption of agenda, adjournment, etc.) and final action taken. The County Board shall have final approval authority over all items contained in each committee report.

Van Dyck informed that when he got on the Executive Committee he thought it was the clearinghouse for all the Committees but it seems everything ends up at the County Board level. He respects the County Board's authority but feels that if there is a resolution that goes to the home committee and is defeated, it should come to the Executive Committee and if it does not pass at Executive Committee, the resolution should be dead because it has already been considered by 11 members of the Board. He does not see a reason to have those resolutions discussed again at the County Board level. He feels we regenerate way too much stuff at the Board level.

Schadewald feels a review of the Executive Committee is appropriate and it would also be appropriate to review the other Committees as well. He indicated he put a facility update on the Administration Committee agenda. He feels the dispensing and dissemination of information to the Board members is helpful in the decision making process. He also feels the Executive Committee should have an agenda item for long and short term facility planning. He said it is not something that has to be acted on every month, but feels we should be looking at the planning and ideas.

Schadewald also talked about the overtime issue at the Highway Department that was discussed for a number of months. He feels that when these decisions are made, they should not be made for only one department; they should be made for the entire County and the Executive Committee should be the leader in those discussions.

Lund said that review of long and short term planning of the County related capital projects falls under the Executive Committee. He feels that the long and short term planning should be done here since we have the chairs of each of the other Committees. Moynihan suggested that the Executive Committee function as a work group and blow this all up and look at every Committee, not just specifically this Committee. It was noted that personnel functions also fall under the Executive Committee. Moynihan feels we could look at the way business is conducted on the Board floor by only taking up resolutions and ordinances and have everything else done under consent. Lund said the Committee should come prepared to talk about this further at the next meeting and bring up any changes that should be considered.

Buckley asked if personnel issues will come back to this Committee and Lund responded that according to the Code, anything major from a personnel standpoint has to come to this Committee. Weininger explained that personnel issues are discussed at the oversight committee and then the final decisions of the oversight Committee come to the Executive Committee and then go on to the County Board. This is the same way table of organization changes are handled.

Van Dyck said another thing to look at is the entire resolution format. He said Corporation Counsel goes through a lot of work to get to the end result of what the resolution is for. He also feels that not a lot of decisions are made at the Committee level; it is more conversations about things and to have that in the report that comes before the full Board and then have someone pull an item to discuss something where there was no decision made at the Committee level seems irrelevant. Only pulling the items where a decision is made seems to be a more efficient way to handle this in his opinion.

Hoyer said the Board likes to have additional discussions, even on unpopular items that were just received and placed on file. Lund responded that those additional discussions could take place at Executive Committee instead of at the full Board meeting.

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to make the committee structure a standing item for this committee. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolutions, Ordinances

8. Resolution re: Reorganization of the Medical Examiner Department Table of Organization.

Weininger explained that this is being done in conjunction with a contract that will be coming before the Board. At this time Brown County provides autopsy services for Oconto and Door counties and under this resolution the County will provide the medicolegal death investigator instead of Door and Oconto Counties having their own staff. This will provide 24 hour coverage. And then in order to fill the other slots, instead of having an on-call per diem person, there will be a part-time person so they are taking the per diem money and using it to hire a part-time medical death investigator so there is someone in the office as opposed to on call. This is a way to flex the schedule and Dane County has recommended this model to provide better coverage. This will also allow the on-call people to have more call rotations which will help keep them more committed. Weininger said the contract with Oconto and Door County will more than cover the cost of providing this coverage and will also allow better control over the quality throughout the office.

Buckley said this is all part of moving forward to the ultimate goal. Lund asked if these people will be helping in deciding if there will be autopsies. Buckley responded that the per diems were not getting enough work after the training so the part-time and full-time people will end up seeing more cases and work with the doctors more which will provide better interaction and decisions regarding autopsies. All in all, this will provide better consistency to the office as a whole.

Van Dyck said he does not have a problem with this concept but feels a lot of people go for the quick scan of the resolution and their eyes focus on the annualized budget impact without reading the fine print that says there is no budget impact because of the revenue coming in. He feels that there should be a line that includes the estimated increase in revenue along with the annualized budget impact.

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

Reports

9. Internal Auditor Report

a) Audit Follow-Up: Highway Department Purchasing Policy.

Internal Auditor Dan Process informed that this is a follow-up to last month's meeting. He referred to a cover letter contained in the agenda packet and noted that although he did review and agree with it, he does not want to give the impression that he is approving it, because he cannot approve any type of policy. His responsibility is to review and make recommendations. With regard to the policy, Process said the County tailored it to the needs of the Highway Department and it appears that they are addressing all of the issues in the recommendation.

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

b) Status Update: January 1 – January 31, 2017.

Process recalled an earlier request to provide a quarterly update with regard to legal bills, and the document in the agenda packet reflects all of 2016. There were some concerns from some Supervisors that there was a big jump in the legal bills and the report reflects that. He will continue to provide these updates on a quarterly basis.

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

The committee went back to Item 3 at this time.

10. Human Resource Report

Interim Human Resource Director Pete Bilski spoke to his report included in the agenda packet. He added that HR is currently looking at bringing in a contract employee for a 12 week medical leave and they will be doing a budget adjustment to cover this.

With regard to the labor employee relations issue with the non-supervisory group, HR is beginning with an exchange of information and ground rules on Wednesday, but it is Bilski's understanding that he still needs to come forward here to make sure the Executive Committee is engaged in the process and receives any ideas they have.

Schadewald said Bilski has been doing a good job and he would like to point out under recruiting that the County is getting a high number of applications for open positions so things appear to be improving. Bilski recalled that there were about 1000 applications received in January and 30 some requisitions. He noted that last year there were over 10,000 applications; about 30 per open position.

Bilski also talked about the recognition committee and informed that there has been a meeting and they are combining energies with the picnic committee. Ideas are flowing and will be presented to the County Executive soon.

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

11. County Executive Report

County Executive Troy Streckenbach informed that the Deputy Executive, Jeff Flynt, is reaching out to Supervisors to set up meetings to talk about the 2018 budget. He will be seeking input from Supervisors as to strategies and things the Board wants the administration to be working on. The budget from his perspective is comprised primarily of the main costs of labor, projects and bonding and a lot of the building blocks for this will be completed

internally in the July timeframe. As always, Streckenbach hopes the Supervisors know they are able to reach out to him or Jeff Flynt to talk about priorities.

Streckenbach continued that the City of De Pere's growth rate was .6% and the City of Green Bay was .9% last year. The County runs a number of consolidated operations or services for the municipalities such as the libraries, Museum and Health Department. The County truly relies on the health and growth of the municipalities and whatever the County can do to help them is something we should be focusing on. With regard to infrastructure, Streckenbach said that PD&T has a five year plan to be sure that roads are in place and they are also looking at the railroads. The point Streckenbach is trying to make is we have to be sure that the County is working on making sure that the municipalities can be successful.

Streckenbach continued that he will be going to Madison tomorrow to work with the Counties Association on some of the top priorities the counties can band together on and one of those issues is the big box store discussions and how it impacts the municipalities, counties and school districts.

Streckenbach said the County is embarking on the strategy of creating the STEM Innovation Center and working collaboratively with the engineering program at UWGB along with the Einstein Project. In the event all of the pieces are put in place over the next six months, the County will have to start planning what to do with the UW Extension site. The objective is to start to work on that plan and essentially make sure that the Board is aware of and is part of the conversation on this and provide some guidance on the options. Streckenbach said there is some interest in the building, but nothing is finalized and this can be discussed later in closed session. He wants to be sure there are some guidelines from the Board, mainly the Executive Committee at this point.

Schadewald asked if discussions regarding insurance and pay raises should be started at the Committee level in March and April so administration can hear some of the Board's feelings, especially since Streckenbach said the budget is pretty much put together by July. Streckenbach said one of the questions he has been asking the Supervisors when they come in is what the overall strategy is. He noted that we are \$2.9 million dollars away from going to referendum to pass our budgets, specifically with the growth we have, which is not strong. At the current rate, we are two budgets away from having to go to referendum. In terms of when decisions are being made on compensation and benefit costs, the administration needs to understand what the direction of the Board is in terms of levy increase, tax increase, corresponding costs and revenue to offset those type of decisions. Streckenbach said that recommendations of the County Board can be brought forward in the March and April timeframe as Schadewald said, but he also said that everyone knows where he stands on the tax rate and levy and bonding and he asked that if the Board is going to bring forward a proposition with regard to compensation that they also bring forward a proposal of how to fund it. Schadewald feels that for the Board to even think about a proposal, all the information needs to be brought out earlier than budget time. Streckenbach responded that the challenge is that he does not get construction numbers and State numbers until August, so they typically work off projections by looking at the last five years. Streckenbach stated that development does not typically hit the books for two years. By example, last year they projected 2% growth, but when they got the numbers they had to go back and cut \$700,000 out of the budget that the Board did not see.

Streckenbach said he welcomes the debate and ongoing conversations regarding the budget and said that most of the budgets he has brought forward, the Board agreed to 97%. Historically the debate has been about compensation and health insurance. Most of the programs have been agreed to and part of the reason he likes to have open dialogue with the Supervisors leading up to the budget is for the purpose of focusing on some of the major items.

Erickson said the information Streckenbach presented was very valuable, but he feels it would be nice if Streckenbach could reduce this to writing with some bullet points and provide it to the County Board members to make them aware. He feels this would be valuable, but does not think it needs to be an agenda item. Streckenbach said he would be happy to do this and Erickson suggested that the information include what Streckenbach just talked about above. Weininger said that a budget fact sheet will be done in March which shows the trends, levy capacity, etc.

Van Dyck agreed that a report would be helpful and also suggested that Streckenbach comment monthly on this to keep the Board updated of the fluid figures. He feels having the number of what is available before we have to go to referendum and other things like that would be helpful to the Board and having this information on an ongoing basis will help give the big picture. Streckenbach said he will make sure that he is bringing some sort of report that gives a financial picture of the County to the Board.

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

Closed Sessions

- 12. Open Session: Discussion and possible action re: the potential sale of the UW-Extension Building located at 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay, WI 54302.**

A question was raised by the media whether this matter was appropriate for closed session. Hemery was of the opinion that closed session was appropriate.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to enter into closed session.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Hoyer, Buckley, Schadewald, Moynihan, Lund

Nay: Van Dyck, Erickson

MOTION CARRIED 5 to 2

- 13. Closed Session: Discussion and possible action re: the potential sale of the UW-Extension Building located at 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay, WI 54302. Notice is hereby given that the governmental body will adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(e) for purposes of competitive or bargaining reasons, in particular, to deliberate the terms and conditions of the potential sale of a public property, i.e. the potential sale of the UW-Extension Building located at 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay, WI 54302. Return to Regular Order of Business by Reconvening in Open Session.**

Motion made by Supervisor Van Dyck, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to return to regular order of business.

Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 14. Reconvene in Open Session: Discussion and possible action re: the potential sale of the UW-Extension Building located at 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay, WI 54302.**

No action taken.

Other

- 15. Such other matters as authorized by law. None.**

- 16. Adjourn.**

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Loehlein
Recording Secretary

Therese Giannunzio
Transcriptionist