

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a special meeting of the **Brown County Executive Committee** was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 in Room 200, Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay.

Present: Mary Scray, Chair; Guy Zima, Jesse Brunette, Bernie Erickson, Pat Evans, Tom Lund
Excused: Tom De Wane
Also Present: Supervisors Buckley, Andrews. Fred Mohr, John Luetscher, Sara Perrizo, Bill Dowell, Chuck Lamine, Aaron Schuette, Debbie Klarkowski, other interested parties.

I. **Call Meeting to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Scray at 5:32 p.m.

II. **Approve/modify agenda.**

Motion made by Supervisor Evans and seconded by Supervisor Brunette to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolutions, Ordinances

1. **Resolution to Approve Third Amendment to Lease Agreement and Third Amendment to Assignment and Assumption Agreement.**

- a. **Response from Corporation Counsel re: VCB/PMI Arena Complex Lease with possible committee action and/or recommendation. *Referred from Education and Recreation Committee, April 14, 2011.***

Corporation Counsel John Luetscher informed that this resolution was basically a renewal of the lease agreement between the Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB) and Brown County as well as the assignment and assumption agreement between the VCB and PMI. Those agreements marry each other. In effect what the county had been doing the last 10 years was the Community Development Authority leased the Resch Center to Brown County, Brown County in turn leased the Resch Center and the rest of the Veteran Memorial Complex to the VCB. The VCB then assigned its lease to PMI which operates as the management company for the Complex. This was sort of a convoluted arrangement when the Resch Center opened. Brown County would sublease with the VCB for the Resch Center, the VCB enters into an agreement with PMI for the operation of the Resch, in lieu of the room tax.

At this point, PMI and VCB are exercising a right they had to the first amendment to the lease agreement which was to extend the lease for a five-year term but they had asked to modify that slightly. Rather than extend it for five years they would like to extend the lease in one year increments for up to five years so each year starting June 1, 2011 they would indicate if they would renew for the following year. Rent subject to negotiation, rent PMI pays to VCB and rent VCB pays to the County. Everything else in the lease would remain unchanged when the County had entered into the last five-year lease in 2006.

Luetscher indicated that the County had an option to renegotiate the rent in each of the subsequent years. He felt the reason PMI and VCB want to renew in one year increments was they were hoping to come up with a new arrangement. At this point, giving the complexity of

this arrangement, it might be in the County's interest to have that year to year flexibility until an agreement had been reached to go to a new arrangement.

It was Luetscher's opinion that if the VCB and PMI came back and changed the renewal it would have to go back to the County Board because it won't be the same renewal that was given in 2006. If they just renewed for five years there would be no subject for debate, it was a contractual right they have but the rent would be subject to negotiation. He explained this was all a policy issue.

Further discussions ensued regarding fees. Luetscher explained that the VCB funds \$160,000 a year to the County which goes into a Veterans Memorial Complex Capitol Fund for maintaining the Resch Center. At this point the third amendment maintains the status quo from June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012. PMI pays VCB \$1,010,000 per year in monthly installments. VCB total annual budget is \$850,000.

With regards to room tax, room tax is used to pay debt service on the bonds for the Resch Center. Typically room tax collections are used to fund area visitor and convention bureaus but when the money was redirected to pay for the bonds for the construction of the Resch Center it left the VCB without a funding source.

Zima questioned what the downside would be if this wasn't approved. Luetscher responded that they would not have a management company for the Resch Center as of June 1, 2011 VCB would lose their funding mechanism and assumed they may fail financially. Zima questioned bringing in another management company. He stated it had been one of his objections that the County had always operated on faith. Further questions ensued with regards to their operation and other possible arrangements that would be in the best interest for the County. Lund stated that he felt they were best off doing their homework over the next year also keeping the County budget in mind.

Supervisors Brunette and Lund both spoke in favor of renewing in one year increments noting that there would be more options and flexibility in the future. Luetscher agreed.

Facility Manager Bill Dowell stated that they averaged around \$160,000 a year on maintenance, some years more, some years less. In 2006 a list of major repairs had been created in which the money had been used for. They did have a big expenditure when they redid the roof but had a surplus. The last several years they had spent roughly \$100,000. There is one major project with the roofing of Shopko Hall, a \$300,000 project, where they will have to build up a surplus to do that project. In addition, some studies had been done on the arena and it showed that it will need to be replaced.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans and seconded by Supervisor Lund to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Vacant Budgeted Positions (Request to Fill)

2. Corporation Counsel – Staff Attorney (Child Support) (vacated 04/15/2011).

Luetscher informed that the last position this committee approved for his office was for a Lead Staff Attorney in which he had promoted his Staff Attorneys to. By doing that it created a Staff Attorney vacancy. This position was partially funded at 66% by the Federal Government through the State.

Motion made by Supervisor Zima and seconded by Supervisor Erickson to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

3. Letter from Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chair Scray informed that she was invited to speak at a League of Women Voters forum with regards to redistricting. She explained that she attended along with Brown County Senior Planner Aaron Schuette. This item was brought forward for discussion purposes.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans and seconded by Supervisor Erickson to open the floor and let interested parties speak. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Fred Monique, 305 Braebourne Ct, Green Bay

Monique, speaking on behalf of the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce as Interim President, reiterated the letter sent to Chair Scray (attached) explaining that it was in the best interest of Brown County, in these tight budget times, if the Executive Committee directed the Planning Department to also look at reapportioned maps maintaining the current level of 26 supervisory districts. For example: Waukesha County Board voted unanimously not to change a tentative redistricting plan for county supervisors that would leave nine incumbents in contests against each other for four seats next year, should they all seek re-election. Their population went up 24,000 in the last census. The average district size is 15,595.

Schuette informed that the increase in the Brown County population based on the 2010 census results went from approximately 224,000 to 229,000.

Zima stated the goal was to try to look at districts that would follow municipal and national boundary lines as much as possible. The fewer numbers you have the less likely you are to meet those goals. The one instruction given was that there were no incumbents that had to face each other. Zima gave a brief history of the number of supervisors over the years during the 35 years he had served on the board and explained his opposition to maintain with the current amount. He felt it meant less representation, less access to your representative. He felt more supervisors, more common man participation in local government. His concern is that they keep opportunity alive at the local level to at least have one form of government that is run by something other than money and press. It's run by contacting people. He felt supervisors didn't have the luxury of knocking on non-voters doors anymore because the districts were already too large. He would like to keep the grass-roots representation.

Lund felt representation for local government is better to have smaller units so people know who their representatives are by going door to door. He felt decreasing the supervisors, increasing the pay would bring in politics. Lund believed the County should go up by three supervisors and look at it every 10 years. If anything, they should go to the state level and cut costs by taking away staffing and have the representatives do the work themselves. The State is spending millions of taxpayer's money on part time people who have full time staff. Buckley felt the biggest frustration with State and Federal Government officials were they just can't be reached.

Scray stated at campaign time you can't get from one end to the other more than once. People appreciate when you knock on their doors. She hoped that her constituents had a good

perspective of her and knew that she had a full time job. If districts get too big it would be hard to maintain both positions. She felt everyone was very conscious of the increase in costs. Brunette, Erickson, Zima and Buckley all agreed with Scray. They appreciate Monique's letter and concern but disagreed and each reiterated points made by the other members. Brunette felt 28 or 29 would be the way to go.

Evans asked Monique to pass on the invitation to the Good Government Counsel, the drafters of the letter, to attend a Brown County Board meeting stating that he was disappointed and unimpressed that he had not seen any of their members attend any committee or County Board meetings in the last 10 years that he had been on the Board. He reported that he had spoken with members independently and felt they lacked knowledge substantially at the local level as far as issues. He asked Monique to convey that to the group.

Monique thanked the committee for their consideration.

Motion made by Supervisor Zima and seconded by Supervisor Lund to return to regular order of business. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor Evans and seconded by Supervisor Brunette to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Review of redistricting options and recommendations to County Board re: tentative supervisory district plan.**

(Note: The Proposed 2012 Redistricting Maps that were provided to the committee members can be reviewed at www.co.brown.wi.us under the County Board/Committees tab. Also note that the numbers listed on the maps do not coincide with the current supervisory district numbers. Once the maps are adopted the numbers will be renumbered.)

Planning Director Chuck Lamine stated that Senior Planner Aaron Schuette had been the lead on this project as well as Dan Teaters and they had been working very hard. Based on direction and guidance the committee provided at the last meeting, they had been working diligently at putting together the options for the committee.

Zima felt the districts within the City of Green Bay could almost remain the same. There were only two districts that really had any significant change of population. Schuette explained that when they put all the options together they did take into account the existing geographical districts as they are right now. They started with the northeast part of the City of Green Bay and worked west. Each of the options had a target number. Zima requested the Planning Department create maps where they start in the middle and work their way out. He assumed there would be less variation and more districts. Buckley requested that they keep into consideration that they try and keep the districts the same as the city alderman represent. Lund wanted to make sure that whatever plan they go with each district has about the same population and they do not have anomalies. Schuette responded that their goal had been to keep very close tabs on the range and percent of deviation (spreadsheet attached).

Schuette stated that if they are to have the public hearing at the next regular scheduled Executive Committee meeting on May 9th, they would have to publish the notice on April 28th for the public hearing to be published on May 1st. A plan had to be adopted on May 18th. The County had statutorily 60 days to the receipt of the data to get that done. At that point the communities have 60 days to provide their ward plans. Then County then had 60 days after that

to adopt the final official supervisory district plan.

It was the consensus of the committee to refer back to staff to come up with the additional map options as discussed and schedule another special meeting for review and discussion. Schuette informed that the process of developing each map can take five to six hours to prepare from scratch. He was confident they would not be available for tomorrow night's County Board meeting per Zima's request.

Lund stated that he was in favor of taking this on as a committee of a whole with all 26 supervisors and having a meeting just to discuss redistricting. He felt it was a big issue where the entire board should work together to come up with a recommendation. Zima would like one more meeting with the Executive Committee to work out some of the main things before it gets to the final board. Lund would like input from all the members and felt it would have been nice to have more supervisors at this meeting but understood the weather wasn't good.

Erickson thanked the Planning Department and said they were doing a good job.

Zima excused at 6:58 p.m.

Scray noted that the jail is included in the census. They are not allowed to vote because they are incarcerated. Schuette stated that he had called up the state level contact person at the State Legislative Reference Bureau for any questions regarding redistricting. He stated because the prisoners at the reformatory and jail are included in the census block the County had to include them as part of the redistricting effort. Lund questioned if there was any current challenge to that. Board Attorney Fred Mohr stated that the State law would have to change.

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor Evans to refer back to staff.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law:**

**Motion made by Supervisor Erickson and seconded by Supervisor Lund to adjourn at 7:04 p.m.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein
Recording Secretary