

**VERNON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
January 5, 2016**

Chairman Herbert Cornell called the January 5, 2016 meeting of the Vernon County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:40 a.m. in the County Boardroom of the Courthouse Annex.

Board members and others present gave the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Cornell affirmed there had been proper public notice of the meeting. **Motion by Dahl, 2nd by Servais to excuse Loren Goede, Mike Leis and Mary Bringe from today's meeting. Motion carried by all.** County Clerk, Ron Hoff, called roll call with 26 Supervisors present. **Motion by McCoy, 2nd by Brose to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2015 meeting. Motion carried by all.**

Chairman Cornell asked if there were any announcements.

General Government meeting is following today's Board meeting, discussion on Horton Group and Personal Department. Audience can speak after Horton Group gives presentation.

Frank McCoy explained the County ticket raffle. McCoy stated that he hopes all help sell the 3000 raffle tickets; if all are sold we would profit about \$19,000.00. Raffle idea started at the Financial Planning Committee.

Servais stated that the Building and Facilities meeting is also after this Board meeting.

Chairman Cornell moved to **Special Order of Business.**

(Item #1) Review and approve position at Clerk of Courts, Sheila Olson - she replaces elected official Kathy Buros who retired and Sheila Olson was appointed by Judge Rosborough. Motion by Richardson, 2nd by Cary. Gobel asked about a Home Committee for all departments. Brault and Dahl agree with Gobel, there should be some oversight of all departments. Motion carried all, Voice vote.

(Item#2) Review and approve position vacancy – Health Department, Beth Johnson, Motion by Dahl, 2nd by Nickelatti. Amelse feels the replacement of staff needs to show more detail as to why staff is needed. Beth Johnson explained a staff member resigned after 15 years. This position is a Registered Nurse that is needed to fulfill a grant, \$23.00 to \$28.00 an hour depending on experience. Motion carried all, voice vote.

(Item #3) Review and approve position vacancy – Vernon Manor, Motion by Amelse, 2nd by Subera. Dan Meyer, Administrator, explained that we need a full time social worker replaced. This is in the budget. Motion carried all, voice vote.

Chairman Cornell moved to **Regular Order of Business**, are there any petitions, there are none.

Chairman Cornell moved to next item on agenda: **Resolutions**

1. Resolution – Authorizing CDBG Grant

Resolution 2016 – 2

Authorizing Submission of the CDBG-EAP Application
Relating to the County of Vernon's participation in the Wisconsin Community Development Block Grant-Emergency Assistance program.

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Wisconsin State Administered Community Development Block Grant – Emergency Assistance housing program, administered by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration, Division of Housing, for the purpose of economic development, public facilities and housing activities: and

WHEREAS, after public hearing and due consideration, jointly the Highway, Land and Water and Emergency Management Committees have recommended that an application be submitted to the State of Wisconsin for the following projects:

BA34 Stilling Basin Repair
River Road Bridge Repair
Voluntary Acquisition of Housing and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for County Board, to approve the preparation and filing of an application for the County to receive funds from this program; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has reviewed the need for the proposed projects and the benefits to be gained therefrom;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board of Vernon Does APPROVE and authorize the Highway Committee to prepare and file an emergency application for funds under this program in accordance with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Chairman is hereby authorized to sign all necessary documents on behalf of the County.

Recommended for consideration by the full County Board.

Dated December 10, 2015

Highway Committee, Joann Nickelatti, Chair 5 yes 0 No Votes

Land and Water Conservation Committee, Will Beitlich, Chair 4 Yes 0 No Votes

Emergency Management, Herb Cornell, Chair 3 Yes 0 No 2 Absent

Motion by Dahl, 2nd by Redington. Michelle Engh explained Dept. of Administration authorized one year extension for Grants since County has previously participated for BA34 Stilling Basin repair, \$88,000.00 and River Road Bridge repair \$300,000.00, Voluntary acquisition of housing \$300,000.00. Yttri asked if this is 30% match – Yes. Total for County Administration would be about \$36,000.00; property owners in Bloomingdale have shown interest in program. Subera asked if Federal dollars – Yes, State got Federal grant dollars. Subera asked if \$300,000.00 would cover bridge, yes should be enough. Subera stated all these buy outs of property's takes them off tax roll and yet we need more tax dollars. Engh stated it is possible that the properties can stay on tax roll with CDBS grants. Farm lands can be rented out for Ag purposes, No new residence can be built. Demolish cost is in grants, Property will be open to hunting, fishing and tourism. Dahl stated this is important; we even had high water in December. Resolution passed on roll call vote 24 Yes 2 No, Johnson and Subera.

2. Resolution - Urging Amendment To §43.12 County Payment for Library Services

Resolution No. 2016 – 1

Title: A Resolution Urging Amendment To §43.12 County Payment for Library Services

WHEREAS, Vernon County recognizes the importance of public libraries and the knowledge, information and resources public libraries provide; and

WHEREAS, Vernon County is committed to and does provide substantial financial support to the public libraries located within Vernon County; and

WHEREAS, under the provision of Wis. Stat. §43.12, Vernon County is required to make payment to adjoining counties for materials loaned from adjoining county libraries to residents of Vernon County; and

WHEREAS, Vernon County made payments totaling \$93,851 in 2013, \$90,158 in 2014, \$161,258 in 2015 and Vernon County expects to pay \$164,113 in 2016 for library services of which approximately 87% going to City of La Crosse; and

WHEREAS, virtually all materials loaned to Vernon County residents at the adjoining county libraries are available to Vernon County residents if those same materials are requested directly from Vernon County libraries; and

WHEREAS, Vernon County has made efforts to communicate to its residents the costs incurred by Vernon County when residents choose to loan materials directly from adjacent county libraries resulting in only a modest impact on the payments due to adjoining counties; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to remedy the current statutory scheme, Vernon County proposes Wis. Stat. 43.12(8) be created to read:

(8) To avoid any payments due under sub. (1), a county that does not maintain a consolidated public library may, by resolution, direct the county clerk to notify the county clerk of each adjacent county that the adjacent county libraries are to invoice out-of-county residents directly for any materials loaned.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 2nd day of February 2016 that the Board urges the Legislature to amend Wis. Stat. §43.12 with the proposed language described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THE Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Senator Jennifer Schilling, Representative Lee Nerison and Governor Scott Walker; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the county clerk of each county of this state and to the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Recommended for consideration by the full County Board

Dated December 17, 2015

Finance Committee, Ole Yttri, Chair 3 Yes 2 No Votes, Beitlich and Servais

Motion by Richardson, 2nd by Mitchell. Subera asked about handout from Dahl. Dahl concerned it is law for counties to pay this to Libraries. If out of county residents go to another county Library there is a charge to the county of resident. Larson asked if this is under Winding Rivers system, yes. Dahl feels we should not pass this Resolution. Cary asked why 87% to City of La Crosse, Yttri and Hoff explained because of the large number of Vernon County citizens that go to La Crosse Libraries.

Richardson agrees we can't afford all this cost when we are looking for ways to save dollars. Brault stated we must support citizens to go to local Library's, and I will oppose resolution. Erlandson stated this is only advisory.

Yttri stated people can order at local library and it will be delivered to local Library and save the cost of out of county Library. Servais stated La Crosse Library is close for Western side of Vernon County. Gobel and Nickelatti agree La Crosse is their best option. Gobel and Brault stated we need to advise citizens of process. Resolution failed on voice vote.

Chairman Cornell asked for any remonstrance and there were none.

Chairman Cornell asked for reports of Standing Committees,

Brault stated if a house is divided it cannot stand. Right now we have a huge bridge between our employees and this board. They don't feel appreciated and they don't feel we are listening to their concerns and needs, we need to come together. I am going to stand with the employees, we need to keep a positive relationship with the employees and fight for them when necessary. Health insurance is a big issue, employees pay for part of this, we need to listen to them and find the best fit for all. We need to do better this year for our employees, look into night meetings so employees can participate, look at wage increases and health insurance that works and fits our employee's needs. Brault went over letter Kica sent to Board and Department Heads, County went from a HMO to a PPO plan. Subera asked if the employees would do better getting their own insurance. Brault stated he does not know that answer. Cornell stated this will be addressed at the General Government meeting. Erlandson asked if it will come to County Board. No, it will be handled at General Government. Subera stated Lottery tickets should have come to full county board. Dahl stated this is a dangerous under taking and worries if it is ethical.

The next County Board meeting will be at 9:30 am on February 2, 2016. With the meeting concluded, a **motion was made by Servais, 2nd by Amelse to adjourn. Motion carried by all.** Meeting adjourned at 10:31a.m.

CERTIFICATION

State of Wisconsin ()
County of Vernon () Office of the Vernon County Clerk

I, Ronald C. Hoff, County Clerk of Vernon County, Wisconsin DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the statements above are a correct report of all actions and decisions of the Vernon County Board of Supervisors at the meeting of January 5, 2016, as indicated in transcription taken personally by me.
(Seal)

/s/ Ron Hoff
Vernon County Clerk