

**VERNON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

August 18, 2009

Chairman Tom Spenner called the August 18, 2009 meeting of the Vernon County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:30 A.M. in the County Boardroom of the Courthouse Annex. Pastor Karen Bankes of United Methodist Churches gave the invocation. Board members and others present gave the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Spenner affirmed there had been proper public notice of the meeting. Motion by Servais, second by Verbsky to excuse Todd Overbo, Robert Johnson, John McClelland Jr., Geoffrey Banta, Karen Dahl and Kevin Gobel from today's meeting. Motion carried. David Banner announced at the previous County Board meeting that he would not be able to attend today's meeting. County Clerk, Ron Hoff called roll with twenty-two Supervisors present. Motion by Cox, second by Brose to dispense with reading of the June 30, 2009 proceedings and approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Under announcements, Hoff stated the Wisconsin Counties Association Convention is in La Crosse September 13th – 15th, 2009. Deadline for registration was due August 3, 2009. Chairman Spenner is the only County Board member that has signed up for the convention. Each late registration will cost \$210.00. Hoff stated our Worker's Comp dividend received this year was for \$36,638.50.

Chairman Spenner moved to Special Order of Business, Jack Vig of Vig & Associates presenting the 2008 County Audit Report. Vig stated they meet with the Finance Committee three to five times a year. Vig stated Vernon Manor for regulatory purposes had a separately bound financial statement. Vig suggested that once every three years the County should consider the services of an actuary to help estimate liability that is on the books for retirees. Vig stated the County complied with state imposed property tax levy limits. Vig stated County-wide sales tax revenue totaled \$1,340,209 in 2008 compared to \$1,281,123 in 2007. Vig stated the Human Services Fund returned \$201,309 of lapsing funds to the General Fund. Vernon Manor transferred \$200,000 to the General Fund to offset projected 2008 general Fund deficits and the Highway Department transferred \$100,000 to the General Fund to offset projected 2008 General Fund deficits. Vig explained the 2008 Governmental Funds. Revenues for 2008 were \$21,621,899 and expenditures for 2008 were \$21,510,074. Vig stated our long-term debt obligation as of December 31, 2008 is \$8,765,000. The accrued long-term landfill closure costs liability is offset through restricted cash held totaling \$2,032,730 for landfill care and closure. Vig stated our total equalized value for 2009 was \$1,800,261,800. The County's valuation over the eight year period has increased by 66%. This growth is significantly higher than the rate of inflation and it reflects growth in all sectors of the tax base. Vig stated the overall County tax levy has increased 29% from 2002 – 2008. This rate of increase is significantly below the rate of increase in property values. Vernon County has used the one half percent sales taxes to mitigate property tax increases. Vig stated the 2010 tax levy limit will be at three percent. Vig stated property taxes are 35% of our budget revenue and intergovernmental revenue is at 52% of our budget revenue which represents 87% of the total governmental revenues. Health and Human Services has 51% of our expenditures. Vig stated provisions in the 2009-2011 State budgets will continue to limit the County's tax levy authority. With expenditure growth exceeding revenue growth rates, the County will find it increasingly difficult to adopt balanced budgets. Vig stated the new State budget for 2009 – 2011 allows for changes in the timing of paying many state aids in Human Services contracts. The new budget shifts many spring and summer installments to early fall. Vig stated Vernon Manor's bed tax has doubled. Richardson asked how much money are we talking about with the 2% shared revenue reduction and was told about \$24,000. Brault asked about the policy and rules that was recommended by Vig and was told each County has their own rules. Hynek asked about what the County should do about fund cutting expenses since furloughs are being used in many counties. Vig stated in the next three year cycle the rate of the expenditure increase will grow faster than the revenue so it will take some tough decisions on how to bring things in balance. Lee asked if funding for Human Services will put a burden on paying their bills since the State's budget changes payment from spring to fall and was told it will affect the County cash flow as payments will be received later than normal. Vig stated lower interest rates will affect the County's revenue. Larson asked what the trends will be for the next three years and was told revenue will be flat and many options are being discussed. Hooker feels things will get worse every year and what changes should the County consider. Vig feels this will be a problem for the next three years. Chairman Spenner thanked our Auditor Jack Vig for his Audit Report.

Chairman Spenner moved to the next item under Special Order of Business, Supervisor Maynard Cox update of Vernon County Comprehensive Plan. Maynard Cox and Doug Avoles explained the Vernon County Comprehensive plan. Cox encouraged the Supervisors to read the 190 page booklet mailed to

them. Richardson thanked the Comprehensive Planning Committee for all their hard work. McCoy asked if the County Board has the final vote on the plan and was told yes, probably at the September or November County Board meeting. Cox stated the Comprehensive Planning Committee will have two public hearings.

Chairman Spenner moved to the next item under Special Order of Business, Finance Committee update on Vernon County line of credit loan per Resolution 2009-31, Supervisor Brian Richardson. Richardson stated Royal Bank of Hillsboro came in with the lowest bid at 2.97% interest for a five year loan with annual payments of principal and interest. The loan is to borrow up to 1.2 million dollars.

Chairman Spenner moved to the next item under Special Order of Business, update on Courthouse roofing project, Resolution 2009-11 with possible action, Supervisor Jerry Cade. Cade stated we are adding six more inches of insulation for \$900 more. Cade said the tuck point around the Courthouse has loose stones and is ready to fall in, so it will be an additional \$29,000 to correct this. Cade stated some treated wood will have to be replaced due to some being rotten. Cade stated we are still within the approved amount we are able to spend.

Chairman Spenner called for a 10 minute recess at 10:32 a.m. Chairman Spenner reconvened the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Motion by Yttri, second by Richardson to excuse Harry Baller for the remainder of today's meeting. All in favor.

Chairman Spenner asked for any petitions and there were none.

Chairman Spenner continued under the regular order of business by viewing the following resolutions.

Resolution 2009-35 is from the June 30, 2009 County Board meeting bringing back for clarification.

RESOLUTION # 2009 – 35

TITLE: EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

WHEREAS, Vernon County, along with other Wisconsin municipalities, are experiencing economic issues and probable funding cuts from the State level;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Vernon County will offer an early retirement incentive plan to all employees ~~not covered by a collective bargaining agreement~~ as per the Personnel Policy attached.

Dated: June 30, 2009 Submitted June 18, 2009 by the Personnel Committee /s/ Chet Lee, Chair Vote: 5 – yes, 0 – no

Motion by Cade, second by Brault to bring the resolution back on the floor. Spenner stated first page on the plan, under Incentive, it should read employees who retire on or before December 31, 2009. Spenner stated first page on the plan under Plan Eligibility first sentence should read, employees who are age 55 or older (Protective Services age 50). Hooker stated about the second page of the policy where it states part-time employment, less than half-time. He would like it to read; Employees who retire under the provisions of this plan will be eligible for employment with Vernon County at less than half time. Changes to the policy were carried on a voice vote. Cade asked where the payout money will come from to pay the retirements. Linda Kica, Personnel Coordinator, stated the only way the County would save money is not to fill the vacancy. Cade asked about mandated positions. Corporation Counsel, Greg Lunde, stated mandated positions must start the hiring process before the six month moratorium. Hooker asked how other Counties were handling this and was told they do not fill the position. Beitlich suggested not having mandated positions included in the early retirement plan. Cornell feels we need to study this more. Servais stated we cannot fill the vacant positions.

RESOLUTION # 2009-39

TITLE: NR335 APPLICATION FOR DAM REPAIR ON THE RUNGE HOLLOW (BA12) DAM

WHEREAS, Vernon County wishes to apply for dam maintenance, repair, modification, or abandonment and removal aid under Section 31.385, Chapter NR 335.07 of the Wisconsin Statutes for the Runge Hollow (BA12) Dam; and

WHEREAS, the state share for such a project may not exceed 50 percent of the total eligible project costs as described in Chapter NR 335.05, nor exceed \$400,000; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Vernon County board of Supervisors authorizes the County Conservationist in the Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department to apply for a grant on their behalf under the above mentioned Statute and Administrative Code authorities; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Vernon County Board of Supervisors agrees to pay a share of the eligible costs, which is equal to the total project costs minus the State share and any other outside funds dedicated to the repair and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to withdraw from the grant program after the terms and conditions of the grant are reviewed.

Dated: August 18, 2009 Submitted by the **Land & Water Conservation Committee** /s/ Will Beitlich, Chair, /s/ Tom Spenner, Chair, /s/ Ron Hoff, Clerk

Motion by Erlandson, second by Yttri to approve the resolution. Erlandson feels we are spending a lot of money on dam repair and quite a bit of money is going towards the recreation part of the dam and feels we should spend the money on the safety of the dams. Richardson stated this resolution does not tell us what the total cost of the dam repair will be and wonders if we are committed to the cost even if it is over the price of what we planned to spend. Kelly Jacobs, County Conservationist, explained Vernon County can withdraw if the cost sharing exceeds our limits and not take the funding. Jacobs stated if the County backs out now we can not apply for the \$400,000 State money. Brault stated this resolution does not give us the opportunity to back out. Motion by Brault, second by Richardson to amend the resolution to remove the second Resolved. Jacobs stated if we remove this we will not be able to apply for this grant. Brault asked to withdraw his motion. Motion by Cox, second by Brose to amend the resolution as follows: second resolved at end of sentence add: and be it further, then add a third resolved as follows: Resolved, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to withdraw from the grant program after the terms and conditions of the grant are reviewed. Motion to the amendment was passed on a voice vote. Chairman Spenner called for a roll call vote on the resolution as amended. The resolution passed on a roll call vote with twenty Supervisors voting yes and one Supervisor voting no. Moser voted no.

RESOLUTION # 2009-40

TITLE: NR335 APPLICATION FOR DAM REPAIR ON THE YTTRI-PRIMMER (WF17) DAM

WHEREAS, Vernon County wishes to apply for dam maintenance, repair, modification, or abandonment and removal aid under Section 31.385, Chapter NR 335.07 of the Wisconsin Statutes for the Yttri-Primmer (WF17) Dam; and

WHEREAS, the State share for such a project may not exceed 50 percent of the total eligible project costs as described in Chapter NR 335.05, nor exceed \$400,000; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Vernon County Board of Supervisors authorizes the County Conservationist in the Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department to apply for a grant on their behalf under the above mentioned Statute and Administrative Code authorities; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Vernon County Board of Supervisors agrees to pay a share of the eligible costs, which is equal to the total project costs minus the State share and any other outside funds dedicated to the repair **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to withdraw from the grant program after the terms and conditions of the grant are reviewed.

Dated: August 18, 2009 Submitted by the **Land & Water Conservation Committee** /s/ Will Beitlich, Chair, /s/ Tom Spenner, Chair, /s/ Ron Hoff, Clerk

Motion by Yttri, second by Verbsky to approve the resolution. Motion by Richardson, second by Brose to amend the resolution as follows: second resolved at end of sentence add: and be it further, then add a third resolved as follows: Resolved, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to withdraw from the grant program after the terms and conditions of the grant are reviewed. Motion to amend the resolution passed on a voice vote. Chairman Spenner called for a roll call vote to approve the resolution as amended. The resolution passed on a roll call vote with all twenty-one Supervisors voting yes.

RESOLUTION # 2009-41

TITLE: APPLICATION FOR THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the following Wisconsin residents have submitted applications for the Farmland Preservation Program, and

WHEREAS, the Vernon County Land Conservation Committee has reviewed their applications and has approved them as meeting all program requirements; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors approves the following Farmland Preservation Applications: 2009-1 Maynard L & Cynthia S. Guist, E9165 Hwy 56, Viroqua WI 54665. 2009-2 David & Barbara Sarnowski, S4084 Zahm Road, La Farge WI 54639, 2009-3 Todd L. & Paulette M. Opprecht, S3904 Cty Rd K, Genoa WI 54632.

Dated: August 18, 2009 Submitted July 8th, 2009 by the **Land Conservation Committee** /s/ Will Beitlich, LCC Chair. Vote – all in favor

Motion by Erlandson, second by Moser to approve the resolution. Jacobs explained the normal process that had been followed for many years has changed. Jacobs stated she was told by Datcap these applications

were done under the old rules, but Jacobs would still like to submit these since they followed the process that was in effect at the time of the applications. Resolution passed on a voice vote with all ayes heard.

RESOLUTION # 2009-42

Title: Dog Damage Claim

WHEREAS, Anne Marie E. Elwing has submitted a dog damage claim; and
WHEREAS, the General Government committee has determined that the claim is valid;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors that the following dog damage claim is hereby approved: Anne Marie E. Elwing
101 N. Main Street, Viroqua WI 54665. Registered Angus Heifer Calf - \$500.00
Dated: August 18, 2009. Submitted: July 16, 2009 by the General Government Committee. /s/ Herbert Cornell, Vice-Chair. Vote: 4 yes, 0 no.
Motion by Larson, second by Brault to approve the resolution. The committee discussed the police report. Chairman Spenner called for a roll call vote. The resolution passed on a roll call vote with all twenty-one Supervisors voting yes.

RESOLUTION # 2009-43

TITLE: GENERAL FUND TRANSFER

WHEREAS, in May of 2008, the County Board budget received \$2000 for Comprehensive Planning, and
WHEREAS, at year-end 2008, the whole \$2000 was not expended, and
WHEREAS, when the books for 2008 were closed, \$1,989.50 went back into the general fund from the County Board fund;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors hereby approves a fund transfer of \$1,989.50 from the General fund to the County Board 2009 budget.
Dated: August 18, 2009 /s/ Maynard Cox, County Board Supervisor /s/ James Servais, County Board Supervisor
Motion by Lee, second by Cox to approve the resolution. Chairman Spenner stated last year \$2000 was budgeted for the Comprehensive Planning so what was not used in 2008 was put back into the General Fund and would like to transfer \$1,989.50 back since they need the money in 2009. Chairman Spenner called for a roll call vote. The resolution passed on a roll call vote with all twenty-one supervisors voting yes.
Chairman Spenner asked for any ordinances and there were none. Chairman Spenner asked for any remonstrances and there were none. Chairman Spenner asked for reports of standing or special committees. Cox stated Hidden Valleys notified us that Vernon County has been selected to be the cover of their brochure in 2012 for a \$3,500 cost to Vernon County. Chairman Spenner asked for any unfinished business and there was none.
The next County Board meeting is September 29, 2009 at 9:30 A.M. in the County Board Room at the Courthouse Annex. With the meeting concluded, a motion was made by Cade and second by McCoy to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.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 August 18, 2009 as indicated in transcription taken personally by me.

(Seal)

/s/Ronald C. Hoff

Vernon County Clerk