

**VERNON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES**

September 29, 2009

Chairman Tom Spenner called the September 29, 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 Allen Tripp of Burr & Valley Wesleyan 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 Cox to excuse Robert Johnson, Philip Hooker and John McClelland Jr. from today's meeting. Motion carried. County Clerk, Ron Hoff called roll with twenty-six Supervisors present. Motion by Banner, second by Hynek to dispense with reading of the August 18, 2009 proceedings and approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Under announcements, Hoff stated today's cheese tray for the meeting was donated by Harry Baller. Hoff stated WCA is having a seminar in Stevens Point on October 26, 2009 on the budget crisis. Chairman Spenner moved to the first item under Special Order of Business, retirement and recognition of Harry Baller as Vernon County Board Supervisor, District 27. Chairman Spenner read the letter of Harry Baller retiring from the County Board. Chairman Spenner read the following Recognition of Harry Baller and presented Baller with a framed Certificate of Appreciation.

RECOGNITION OF HARRY BALLER

WHEREAS, Harry Baller has tendered his retirement as a member of the Vernon County Board of Supervisors, and;

WHEREAS, Harry Baller attended his first meeting as a member of the Vernon County Board of Supervisors on April 21, 1970, and;

WHEREAS, Harry Baller has served on many committees during his time on the Vernon County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors and the employees of Vernon County hereby recognize and commend Harry Baller for his many years of meritorious service to Vernon County and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that Harry Baller shall be an honorary lifetime member of the Vernon County Board of Supervisors.

/s/ Tom Spenner, Vernon County Board Chair, /s/ Ron Hoff, Vernon County Clerk

Harry Baller thanked the County Board Supervisors for working with him throughout the years. Baller stated he has seen many changes throughout the years. Judge Rosborough thanked Baller for his years of service. Will Beitlich gave Baller a special thank you stating it was a privilege to serve with Baller on the Board of Supervisors.

Next under Special Order of Business was appointment of County Board Supervisor District 27. Chairman Spenner appointed John Mitchell to County Board Supervisor District 27. Judge Rosborough swore in John Mitchell for County Board Supervisor District 27.

Next under Special Order of Business is the election to fill Harry Baller's seat on the Highway Committee. Hoff stated there are ten County Board members that are eligible to be elected to this committee. Chairman Spenner asked if any members were interested in serving on this committee and Hynek, Verbsky and Mitchell were interested. Mitchell spoke on his qualifications for serving on the Highway Committee. Hoff called for a ballot vote. Lunde read the results of the ballot vote: Verbsky – 17 votes, Hynek – 4 votes and Mitchell – 5 votes. Motion by Dahl, second by Servais to close the nomination process and elect Leo Verbsky to the Highway Committee.

Next on the Special Order of Business was introduction of Gene Edwards, Vernon County Waste Management Administrator. Supervisor Brian Richardson introduced Gene Edwards as our new Solid Waste Administrator. Edwards has been working for the County for the past five months. Edwards explained the sixteen year old baler was replaced in August 2009 with a new baler. Edwards stated he has been doing a lot of clean-up at the land-fill. Edwards stated October 22, 2009 they will offer a tour and a public open house at the Solid Waste facility. Banner and Richardson spoke on Edward's accomplishments.

Chairman Spenner moved to the next item under Special Order of Business, Vernon County employee recognition. The following employees were recognized by their supervisors.

Aging Department: 25 years - Shelly Mathson, presented by Pat Peterson. Highway Department: 25 years – Jeff Ostrem, 25 years – Kay Lewison, presented by Virgil Hanold. Child Support: 25 years – Cheryl Mossholder presented by David Jenkins. Vernon Manor: 35 years – Judy Clark, 35 years – Conrad Rice, 30 years – Charlene Hamilton, 30 years – Linda Mickelson, 25 years – Verna Brye, 25 years – Gary

Amundson, presented by Nancy Witthoft. Richardson thanked Witthoft for doing such great job. Sheriff's Department: 25 years – Jerry Frank, 25 years – Chuck Suhr, presented by Sheriff Cary.

Chairman Spenner moved to the next item under Special Order of Business, discussion on Comprehensive Plan, Maynard Cox and Doug Avoles. Maynard Cox invited the County Board Supervisors to the Comprehensive Planning meeting following today's County Board meeting to ask questions. Cox stated there has been a lot of work done on this plan by a lot of people. Cox thanked everyone for all their hard work on developing this plan. Kelly Jacobs stated she is speaking for Doug Avoles since he could not attend today's meeting. Jacobs stated for the comprehensive plan and state laws there are several items where the County may have jurisdiction over that are required to be consistent. At this time the only item Vernon County has that falls into this category is the Shoreland Wetland Ordinance. Jacobs stated any actions taken on this ordinance are required to show consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. This requirement is effective January 1, 2010. If we are going to continue to enforce this ordinance we are going to need an approved plan in place. Jacobs stated there will be a draft ordinance at the next County Board meeting on November 10, 2009, plus public hearings will be starting up soon. Dahl stated all County Board members must get involved and thanked the Comprehensive Planning Committee for all their donated time and hard work.

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 # 2009-44

TITLE: STATE WAIVER MANDATE RELIEF

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute §66.0143 allows local governmental entities to obtain relief from certain state mandates, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statute §46.036(5m)(f) requires audits of all agencies that receive more than \$25,000 a year through purchase of service contracts with the Department of Human Services, and

WHEREAS, the individual provider cost of such audits can range from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per year and therefore add significant additional costs to both the provider and the department, and

WHEREAS, the collective costs of such audits can exceed \$3,000 per year, and

WHEREAS, these dollars can be redirected to other department services or program costs which is critical during this time of state and local fiscal crisis, and

WHEREAS, Department of Human Services Staff has frequent contacts with the providers to assure both client safety and to observe and confirm that the purchased services are being provided; and

WHEREAS, the State Departments do have an audit waiver mechanism but it is complex, time and labor intensive and impractical to use for contract providers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors, requests a waiver from the requirement that all annual purchase of services contracts in excess of \$25,000 but under \$75,000 must have an annual compliance audit.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

Dated: September 29, 2009 Submitted August 17, 2009 by Vernon County Human Services Committee Todd Overbo, Chairperson, /s/ Donald Ehler, Vice Chair, /s/ Sherman Erlandson, /s/ Chet Lee, Patricia Roth, /s/ Robert Johnson, /s/ Phil Hooker, /s/ Brian Richardson, Jay Vosseteig Vote: 6 yes, 0 no, 3 absent Motion by Brault, second by Verbsky to approve the resolution. Motion carried on a voice vote.

RESOLUTION # 2009 – 45

TITLE: 18 MONTH HIRING FREEZE

WHEREAS, Vernon County Board is experiencing financial difficulties attributable to a variety of sources, and;

WHEREAS, the largest portion of tax levy dollars in Vernon County is spent on personnel related matters,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors hereby implements a hiring freeze effective upon passage of this resolution and shall remain in place until March 31, 2011 and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the hiring freeze shall apply to all full and part time positions eligible to receive benefits, including retirement, sick leave, vacation and health insurance, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Vernon County Jail and Vernon Manor staff required by law shall be the only exceptions to the hiring freeze, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any position, other than those listed above, which are required by law or fully funded by non tax levy dollars shall be subject to approval by the Vernon County Board and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that positions may be filled by internal candidates only, and that the lower or remaining position will be subject to the hiring freeze, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any position filled shall require approval by two-thirds of the Vernon County Board.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this hiring freeze shall supersede the six month moratorium previously passed by resolution of the Vernon County Board until the March 31, 2011 expiration of the hiring freeze.

Dated: September 29, 2009 Submitted by the **Personnel Committee** /s/ Chet Lee, Chair

Vote: 5 Adopted, 0 Defeated, 0 Tabled

Submitted by the **Finance Committee** /s/ Brian Richardson Vote: 5 Adopted, 0 Defeated, 0 Tabled.

Motion by Brault, second by Banner to approve the resolution. Brault stated when he heard about this resolution he disagreed with it. He contacted many of the Department Heads and the Department Heads did not have a problem with this resolution. Brault stated the Department Heads thought this resolution was workable as long as there was a way to approach the County Board. Brault stated the only concern he has is with the 2/3 majority vote by the County Board to overrule and feels it would be difficult. Brault stated he has thought about this resolution and feels this is what the County needs to do at this time and supports this resolution. Banner is concerned about the 2/3 votes and would rather see the resolution read that the position can be filled by a majority vote by the County Board. Banner is also concerned about emergency replacements. Richardson explained if this situation happens the department could bring it to the County Board to vote on replacing the position if they did not have an employee qualified for the position. Richardson stated the reason for the hiring freeze is due to budget problems and we must cut spending someplace. Gobel feels a 2/3 majority vote is a good safeguard. Erlandson asked if we are cutting back on services or weren't these positions really necessary. Dahl feels we should not balance the budget on employee's backs, not to overload our employees and feels there are other ways to save money. **Dahl stated some Department Heads and some County Board members have stone walled efficiencies and refused to work with Dr. David Banner using sig sigma Six Sigma.** Dahl stated Aging has a lot of senior citizen employees at our mealsites who might not always be available. Banta explained meal site workers can be replaced. Beitlich supports the 2/3 majority vote and stated the County Board must be strong in their decisions. Chairman Spenner called for a roll call vote. The resolution passed on a roll call vote with twenty-four Supervisors voting yes and two Supervisors voting no. Banner and Dahl voting no. Chairman Spenner asked for any ordinances and there were none. Chairman Spenner asked for any remonstrances. David Stouvenel spoke about conflict on zoning and law issues and would like clarification regarding a conflict in law in Vernon County. This County Board voted against zoning. Stouvenel stated an officer from the DNR came on his land twice and refused to leave his property. Stouvenel would like the law explained to him that shows that office is not a criminal entity. Chairman Spenner asked for reports of standing or special committees and there were none. Chairman Spenner asked for any unfinished business and there was none.

The next County Board meeting is November 10, 2009 at 9:30 A.M. in the County Board Room at the Courthouse Annex. With the meeting concluded, a motion was made by Lee and second by Cade to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 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 September 29, 2009 as indicated in transcription taken personally by me.

(Seal)

/s/Ronald C. Hoff

Vernon County Clerk