

Executive Committee

December 11, 2006

9:02 a.m.

Present: Chair Baumgartner, Supervisors Ross, Wopat and Martin;

Also Present: Comptroller Schepp, Clerk Elect Moll, Sheriff Elect Richards, Chief Deputy Babcock, Corporation Counsel Ruf, Assistant Corporation Counsel Marquardt, Land Conservation Director Kurt Calkins

Absent: Supervisor Pufahl

It was noted that there were no changes to the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda as published was made by Supervisor Martin, second by Supervisor Wopat. Motion carried.

Replacement Positions

Accounting Department: Position is at the H&HS Business Office. Individual transferred to the County Treasurer's Department. Position requires two-year associate degree. Motion to approve of replacement position request was made by Supervisor Martin, second by Supervisor Ross. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Department: Two positions were requested: Jailer and Deputy Sheriff positions. Chief Deputy Babcock indicated both positions were budgeted for in 2006-07. Jailer position was vacated without two weeks notice and no intent to return to the position. Deputy Sheriff's position was to replace Dennis Richards. Motion was made to approve both replacement requests by Supervisor Wopat, second by Supervisor Martin. Motion carried.

Alternatives to Incarceration

Chair Baumgartner indicated that the county would have an active role in the supervision of this program. Supervisor Wopat mentioned that for the program to secure liability coverage, the county must actively oversee the program. Supervisor Ross clarified that the program would deal more closely with jail inmates. Measuring the progress of the program was considered paramount to the continuance of the program. Establishing how the program is measured and suggestions for that process were mentioned. The Sheriff's Department would make recommendation for participants in the program. Supervisor Lloyd and Ken Ramminger have contacted Dane County to discuss their experience and secure guidelines that could possibly be used in Columbia County's project. The program would be open to a limited number of individuals. Chief Deputy Babcock related LaCrosse

County's experience has not been positive. The difference between LaCrosse's program and the proposed program in Columbia is that all inmates are in the program, with restrictions. Barron County was in a similar situation and did not limit the number of participants in the program.

Chief Deputy Babcock indicated the Sheriff's Department is not backing away from this program; but rather, feels that all involved need to know the issues the Sheriff's Department will be facing if this is implemented.

Sgt. Stilson was commended for his work on profiling inmate that met the guidelines to be in the electronic bracelet program. Babcock felt that the electronic bracelet program and the program being discussed at today's meeting, guidelines and requirements would be similar – the individual would be booked and then released into a program. Further, he felt that the electronic bracelet candidates would be the primary group this proposed program could focus on with the additional step of counseling. Supervisor Wopat mentioned that the focus was on people who had already served their sentence and were entering into society and the community.

Clarification of the program would be required. Supervisor Ross questioned whether the program would serve people who had served their time as opposed to those who haven't but yet would benefit from this program and also reduce jail population? Supervisor Wopat indicated her opposition to getting involved with jail inmates.

The DA's participation would be the drafting of a proposal that would be proposed before a judge establishing requirements to participate in this program, initial booking, home detention and spelling out of resulting consequences if the individual fails to fulfill the requirements.

Vouchers

Veterans Service Office vouchers were approved on motion by Supervisor Martin, second by Supervisor Ross. Motion carried.

Supervisor Wopat suggested that the County Board pass a resolution to Washington legislators regarding lack of funding for mandates.

County Clerk Status Report

County Clerk Miller reported that Fall General Election and recount for the 47th Assembly District had been completed with positive comments about the election equipment. Regarding voter registrations, Clerk Miller indicated that the General Election drew more voters resulting in high number of new registrations to be processed.

Out-of-County Travel

Clerk Elect Moll was scheduled for SVRS Training in January and requested authorization for out-of-county Travel. Motion was made by Supervisor Martin to approve of travel for Clerk Elect, second by Supervisor Wopat. Motion carried.

Change in Outlay Request

County Clerk Miller proposed purchasing additional software that would allow the county to code and set up ballots for elections. In addition, training days of \$1,300 per day would be necessary, with an estimated 4-5 days training. Estimated total cost was \$25,000. Supervisor Ross expressed concern that the work involved was an unknown for the Clerk Elect. County Clerk Miller indicated the 2007 budget included outsourcing the coding allowing the incoming clerk time to learn the position. It was suggested that the remaining funds in Outlay could be used to purchase the software. Making those funds non-lapsing was discussed and considered an option.

Clerk Elect Moll indicated by taking control of this process, it would eliminate the multiple proofing of ballots, a timesaving for the department. Up-front compilation of election candidates/contests would continue, but by coding in-house, it would eliminate the vendor re-entering information already provided. With short time lines for election preparation, Moll felt her coding and setting up the ballot styles would afford more time for other election responsibilities.

Supervisor Wopat suggested that a breakdown of costs be given to Finance at their next meeting.

County Clerk Vouchers

Motion to approve vouchers as presented was made by Supervisor Martin, second by Supervisor Ross. Motion carried.

Appointments:

County Library System Board reappointment of J. Robert Curtis and Carol Ziehmke and the Board of Adjustments appoint of Bernard Spink and Darwin Sell as an Alternate were approved on motion by Supervisor Ross, second by Supervisor Wopat. Motion carried.

Gibraltar Rock

Land Conservation Director Kurt Calkins and Assistant Corporation Counsel Marquardt met with the committee to discuss transfer of Gibraltar Rock to DNR. Calkins indicated that he had been working with Donald Horton, the property owner abutting Gibraltar Rock, in the sale of his property. That property has been sold for a little over \$800,000 to the DOT. Calkins clarified why the DOT would purchase

Horton's land. He indicated that apparently the DOT owes the DNR property resulting from another project and would transfer the property to DNR in the near future.

Calkins had met with Richard Evans, Devils Lake State Park, Town of West Point and the DNR. In reality, the discussion was to see if there was any interest to take over the Gibraltar Rock. The DNR has asked Columbia County to come forth with a letter of intent to give them the property. Long-term costs were covered at the meeting, which could affect DNR taking the property. An option to waive the County portion of the property tax (\$4,000) was mentioned for use by the DNR in maintaining, operating and developing the park grounds. Calkins indicated that the Ag Committee had approved the concept and that Finance and Property Committees would be informed at future meetings.

Supervisor Ross asked if the DNR wanted the property. Calkins indicated they did. The park would become part of natural lands accessible to the public, Native Lands Concept. A management plan will be put together with public input; but, operated similar to other sites that the DNR has control of. The park represents a remnant of plan species that are gone from our landscape. Question was raised about what DNR would do differently than if the County continued ownership of the property. Calkins indicated that it would be a positive partnership with the public benefiting. In addition, the fact that it is a State Park would instill a fear that somebody, sometime, could show up at the Park with a gun and a badge to enforce regulations, which the County does not do.

Assistant Corporation Marquardt gave a brief history of the ownership of the property and how the property passed to the county by a will which stipulated specific deed restrictions. If those restrictions were not met, the property was to return to the "Friends of Native Landscape". It was not certain if the group still existed, Marquardt indicated it would be nice to have them sign off on the property. Otherwise, a quitclaim deed between the County and DNR could be done to complete the transfer. The County would not sell the property but gift it. "One other issue remains", stated Marquardt, heirs that reside in the Lodi area that claim to be heirs of the Richmond Family. Grothman has started a survey of the property, and that. Apparently, the Klute family recorded a road easement. It is unclear whether it included the land or was just an easement. The plan is to include the road with the property. Until DNR makes it clear what their position is, we want to make sure that the committees are all in agreement prior to the actual transfer.

WCA Conference

Chair Baumgartner indicated members should have received correspondence regarding WCA Conference – and request for suggestions for programs and sessions are asked and due by the middle of January. This item will be placed on the January agenda for further consideration. Supervisor Pufahl had suggested County Board size as a topic, money savings and alternatives to incarcerations.

Rock River Basin – similar to a flood plan map of surface water. Request for \$1,000 contribution was declined; with Chair Baumgartner indicating the money could be spent in better places. Rock River basin falls in a small corner of Columbia County.

Resolutions recognizing service of County Clerk and Sheriff were approved on motion by Supervisor Martin, second by Supervisor Ross. Motion carried.

Communications

Incident at County Jail was resolved by using canine units. Sales tax running \$50,000 behind the previous year. NACO Legislative Conference – attendance at the conference would not be paid for by the County. Conference is in Washington DC.

Motion to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting at 10:26 a.m. on motion by Supervisor Martin, second by Supervisor Ross. Motion carried.

Secretary of Record,

Recording Secretary,

Barry Pufahl

Jeanne Miller