

**KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COUNTY BOARD CHAMBERS COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**March 18, 2008**

The **Regular Meeting** was called to order by Chairman Rose at 7:30 p.m., in the County Board Room located in the Administration Building.

Roll call was taken.

Present: Supervisors Grady, Rossow, Rose, Kessler, Huff, Kubicki, Carbone, Arrington, Faraone, Ronald Johnson, Michel, O'Day, Singer, Nudo, Moore, Molinaro, Wisnefski, Clark, Noble West, Roger Johnson, Breunig, Haas, Elverman, Ekornaas.

Excused: Supervisors Marrelli, Booth, Jackson.

Present: 25.           Excused: 3.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Bob Pitts, 2517 Lincoln Rd., commended Chairman Rose for appointing Mark Wisnefski the Interim County Executive. He has worked with Mark and he is an outstanding supervisor, very qualified with 30 years experience and he'll do a great job for Kenosha County. He is concerned that the person who oversees the insurance for 2400 people will be moved to the County Executive's office as the Office Manager. He hopes for a reconsideration of this appointment because he feels the insurance program will be in shambles if she is up there for 60 days.

Jeff Lauer, 3245 124<sup>th</sup> St., Pleasant Prairie, stated what Chairman Rose wants to do regarding the County Executive's office is unacceptable. Carrie Kalberg and Kenn Yance have not been indicted for anything and have done nothing wrong, but the Chairman wants to get rid of one and reassign the other. He feels these two should be able to hold their positions until there is a new County Executive because he or she may want to change that. To have someone go public in the news media, as the chairman has done showing what power he has, the supervisors do not have to tolerate it or follow it. It will be interesting to see who will stand up for these two individuals who have nothing wrong. All they've done is their job. He has called the Executive's office a few times and every time Carrie answered the phone very well. If he had a business she is who he'd want answering the phone. She is always sweet, always kind and always generous, and for someone to throw their power around and remove her from her position is not right.

Bob Danbeck, 7626 27<sup>th</sup> Ave., commended the board for moving the golf division to the finance department because it needs a stronger oversight. He feels it is a waste of taxpayer's money to replace or reassign two individuals in the County Executive's office when they have done nothing wrong just because the Executive is stepping down. He also stated that he read an article that said since the golf courses are losing money, they might have to close one of them temporarily to save money. His group all bought season passes, and on those passes it says they're for all county courses. If one of the courses closes, the county will be sued the next day.

Margaret Cote, 4211 122<sup>nd</sup> St., Pleasant Prairie, stated although she doesn't know Kenn Yance or Carrie Kalberg, she wondered what they've done wrong. Is it guilt by association? They were just doing their jobs. She asked Chairman Rose to re-think his decision since a new Executive will be elected in two months and that person can either keep them, or let them go. We should be compassionate to other people and remember this could happen to us.

Fred Ekornaas, 19510 107<sup>th</sup> St., Bristol, stated he is disappointed because an unfortunate situation has turned into a controversy if not a crisis. The events of the past week create the appearance of an effort to serve some sort of political agenda. He's also disappointed that two other employees appear to have been painted with the same brush that the U.S. Attorney painted the County Executive. The Interim County Executive is not being given the opportunity to decide for himself if he can work with the staff that is in place now. He hopes the Interim County Executive has the good sense to exercise independent judgment in carrying out the duties of that office and the relationships with the staff. Any actions taken from April 1<sup>st</sup> until the interim executive is confirmed can be undone by the Interim County Executive if he finds it is the right thing to do. Supervisor Ekornaas will only support an appointment if he is assured that the candidate understands the full extent of the power of the office and is willing to exercise that power in the best interest of the county and the employees under his control.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Rose spoke regarding the appointment of Mr. Wisnefski and the staff appointments he anticipates making on April 1<sup>st</sup>. These are unprecedented times. Kenosha County was founded in 1851 and never has the leader of the government been indicted in federal or state court related to the office of that leadership. At no time did he believe that Kenn Yance or Carrie Kalberg did anything wrong. This is not personal at all. But he believes we need to have a new beginning and new leadership. Each time we have had a new County Executive, we have had new staff appointments. The assistant to the executive is someone who is appointed by the executive and serves at the pleasure of the executive. It should come as no surprise that the assistant's term would coincide with the executive's. That is how it's always been done, it was the intent of the legislation that was passed by the county board in 1986. Additionally the rules provided very clearly that the person who is the office manager was a person in a confidential position and was to be selected by the executive. Mr. Kehl did it, Mr. Collins did it, it was proper, it was not controversial and most importantly it was done with full knowledge and support of the board and in accordance with our laws and regulations. Chairman Rose spoke with the personnel director and the current office manager can transfer to another position and her salary and benefits will remain exactly the same. It was suggested to Kenn Yance to resign his position on March 31<sup>st</sup>, and he could apply for another position with the county, but he chose not to. He feels he has been fair through all of this. The person he selected to be the assistant to the county executive, Mr. Fred Patrie is well known to every member of this board. He is one of the most knowledgeable people on all issues of county government. Mr. Wisnefski was chosen because he believes he is the kind of leader who can assert leadership in these unprecedented times. He chose Donna Esposito to be the office manager because he believes she is one of our top people. Donna has agreed to continue the responsibilities of handling of the insurance. It's vitally important we give the people confidence in this shaken administration. We didn't cause it, but we are left with the mess. He wants to assure the general public that this county government is going to be and has been through this board operated in a fair fashion with honest motives. The FBI has not examined the campaign financial statements of any of the county board members, the District Attorney, Register of Deeds, County Clerk, Treasurer or the Clerk of Circuit Court despite what may have been implied in an article in the Kenosha News by someone else. This is an important factor for the general public to know. On April 3<sup>rd</sup> he will ask the board to confirm the appointment of Mr. Wisnefski and hopes the board will support that confirmation.

#### **SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

Supervisor Huff encouraged the Legislative Committee members to look on the internet for SB 523, the Great Lakes Compact. He also arranged a dialog with

the Town of Somers personnel along with the City of Kenosha, Department of Corrections and Probation and Parole to discuss the placement of sexual offenders on a countywide basis. He encourages other supervisors to attend.

Supervisor Breunig stated that she placed on everyone's desk a Resolution from the Town of Salem in support of the 45 and 50 building.

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT**

34. Laurie Paddock to serve on the Kenosha County Library Committee.

Chairman Rose referred County Executive Appointment 34 to the Finance Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ordinances - one reading.

56a. From the Land Use Committee regarding Town of Salem requesting rezoning from A-2 General Agricultural District and C-1 Lowland Resource Conservancy District to PR-1 Park and Recreational District, C-1 Lowland Resource Conservancy District and C-2 Upland Resource Conservancy District with a shoreland area revision in the Town of Salem.

It was moved by Supervisor Ekornaas to adopt Ordinance 56. Seconded by Supervisor O'Day.

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 57**

57. From the Land Use Committee regarding George E. Schau (Owner), Keith Johnson (Agent) requesting rezoning from A-2 General Agricultural District and R-2 Suburban Single-Family Residential District to A-2 General Agricultural District, R-2 Suburban Single-Family Residential District and C-1 Lowland Resource Conservancy District in the Town of Salem.

It was moved by Supervisor Ekornaas to adopt Ordinance 57. Seconded by Supervisor Roger Johnson.

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 58**

58. From the Land Use Committee regarding Harvest Development LLC (Owner) requesting rezoning from A-1 Agricultural Preservation District to A-2 General Agricultural District and R-1 Rural Residential District in the Town of Wheatland.

It was moved by Supervisor Ekornaas to adopt Ordinance 58. Seconded by Supervisor Nudo.

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 59**

59. From the Land Use Committee regarding Harvest Development LLC (Owner) requesting rezoning from A-1 Agricultural Preservation District to A-2 General Agricultural District in the Town of Wheatland.

It was moved by Supervisor Ekornaas to adopt Ordinance 59. Seconded by Supervisor Roger Johnson.

It was moved by Supervisor Ekornaas to refer Ordinance 59 back to the Land Use Committee. Seconded by Supervisor Roger Johnson.

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 60**

60. From the Land Use Committee regarding Gene A. Specca (Owner), Paul Bhardwaj, Golden Oil Co. (Agent) requesting rezoning from A-1 Agricultural Preservation District to B-3 Highway Business District in the Town of Somers.

It was moved by Supervisor Ekornaas to adopt Ordinance 60. Seconded by Supervisor Nudo.

Motion carried.

Resolution - one reading.

**RESOLUTION 115**

115. From the Administration and Finance Committees a Resolution Establishing the Wage and Benefit package for the County Clerk, Register of Deeds and Treasurer for the term 2009-2012.

It was moved by Supervisor Elverman to adopt Resolution. Seconded by Supervisor Faraone.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 116**

116. From the Finance Committee Initial Resolution authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds in an amount not to exceed 7,805,000 and providing for the sale of the bonds.

It was moved by Supervisor Carbone to adopt Resolution 116. Seconded by Supervisor O'Day.

Roll call vote passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 117**

117. From the Finance Committee a Resolution regarding Reassessment of Taxes.

It was moved by Supervisor Carbone to adopt Resolution 117. Seconded by Supervisor Wisnefski.

Roll call vote passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 118**

118. From the Finance Committee regarding Gateway Technical College Training Grant.

It was moved by Supervisor Carbone to adopt Resolution 118. Seconded by Supervisor Clark.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Supervisors Grady, Rossow, Rose, Kessler, Huff, Kubicki, Carbone, Arrington, Faraone, Ronald Johnson, Michel, O'Day, Singer, Nudo, Moore, Molinaro, Wisnefski, Clark, Noble West, Roger Johnson, Breunig, Haas, Elverman, Ekornaas.

Nays: Supervisor Moore.

Abstain: Supervisor Molinaro.

Ayes: 23. Nays: 1. Abstain: 1

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 119**

119. From the Human Services Committee a Resolution to approve the appointment of Silvana Presta to the Kenosha County Workforce Development Board.

It was moved by Supervisor Rossow to adopt Resolution 119. Seconded by Supervisor Arrington.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 120**

120. From the Human Services Committee a Resolution to approve the appointment of Manoj Babu to the Kenosha County Workforce Development Board.

It was moved by Supervisor Rossow to adopt Resolution 120. Seconded by Supervisor Kubicki.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 121**

121. From the Human Services and Finance Committees a Resolution to modify 2008 budget for Additional Rural Public Transportation Services for Western Kenosha County.

It was moved by Supervisor Rossow to adopt Resolution 121. Seconded by Supervisor Grady.

Roll call vote passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 122**

122. From the Human Services and Finance Committees a Resolution to modify 2008 budget for Additional Special Funds for Active Choices Prevention Project for Physically Disabled Persons Under 50 Years Old.

It was moved by Supervisor Rossow to adopt Resolution 122. Seconded by Supervisor O'Day.

Roll cal vote passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 123**

123. From the Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee regarding Probationary Cabaret License for Last Resort.

It was moved by Supervisor Michel to adopt Resolution 123. Seconded by Supervisor Haas

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 124**

124. From the Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee regarding Probationary Cabaret License for Lumpy's Sports Bar & Grill.

It was moved by Supervisor Michel to adopt Resolution 124. Seconded by Supervisor Arrington.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 125**

125. From the Judiciary & Law and Finance Committees regarding Kenosha County PreTrial Intensive Supervision Program XI.

It was moved by Supervisor Michel to adopt Resolution 125. Seconded by Supervisor Haas.

Roll call vote passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 126**

126. From the Judiciary & Law and Finance Committees regarding WI DOT TraCS Expanded Use Program Grant.

It was moved by Supervisor Michel to adopt Resolution 126. Seconded by Supervisor Arrington.

Roll call vote passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 127**

127. From the Judiciary & Law and Finance Committees regarding BOTS - Traffic Enforcement Grants.

It was moved by Supervisor Michel to adopt Resolution 127. Seconded by Supervisor Clark.

Roll call passed unanimously.

**COMMUNICATION**

24. From George E. Melcher, Director of the Department of Planning and Development regarding future rezonings.

**CLAIMS**

- 33. Oscar Espinoza Perez - lost property
- 34. David Hudachek - personal injuries
- 35. American Family - auto collision
- 36. Harley Aumann - vehicle damage due to pot hole

Chairman Rose referred Claims 33 thru 36 to Corporation Counsel.

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS**

Supervisor Breunig stated that when Chairman Rose called for the resignations of Mr. Yance and Ms. Kalberg, the public begins to perceive them as guilty by association. These two people have done nothing but be professional in their positions. These personal serve at the pleasure of the County Executive and she feels it should be the newly elected County Executive that makes the decision on how to manage his department not an interim caretaker whether it is the board chairman or a temporary appointee. Chairman Rose would like the board to ratify an appointment of Supervisor Wisnefski to the county executive's office. In his call to remove the office manager because of a family relationship she would like to point out that Supervisor Wisnefski's niece is the manager of Brighton Dale Golf Course which was the largest contributor to the golf department being over budget \$500,000. Recently there was an Executive Order by Alan Kehl turning the golf department over to the Finance Department. Prior to any confirmation of an interim appointment, she would need assurances from Chairman Rose and Supervisor Wisnefski that the Executive Order would not be rescinded. Appointing Mr. Patrie to the position of Administrative Assistant is disconcerting, twice in one year his division has overspent their budgeted appropriation. Supervisor Wisnefski sits on the finance committee where they recently called for a letter of reprimand for Mr. Patrie and Ms. Lichter for overspending their appropriations. To have a person make arbitrary decisions regarding changes to a department that he will only be in charge of days is ill-advised, causes more transitional turmoil and handicaps the newly elected county executive from making their own decision regarding his staff and who best can serve the county. She asks the members of the county board to think of this, and to share their concerns with chairman. She asks the chairman, who serves at

the pleasure of the county board, to consult with and listen to the board before making any decisions that affect the entire county.

It was moved by Supervisor Grady to approve the March 4th, 2008 minutes. Seconded by Supervisor Faraone.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Supervisor Wisnefski to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Kessler.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 P.M.

Prepared by: Edie LaMothe  
Chief Deputy  
Submitted by: Edna R. Highland  
County Clerk