

VERNON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES
September 19, 2017

County Board Chairman, Dennis Brault called the September 19, 2017 meeting of the Vernon County Board of Supervisors to order at 9:30 a.m. in the County Boardroom of the Courthouse Annex.

Invocation by Pastor John Dumke of Our Saviors Lutheran Church Westby, was cancelled due to a funeral. Board members and others present gave the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Brault affirmed there had been proper public notice of the meeting.

Motion by Mitchell, 2nd by Redington to excuse Bobbi Richardson. Carried All. County Clerk, Ron Hoff, called roll call with 28 supervisors present. Motion by Leis, 2nd by Erlandson to approve the minutes of July 25, 2017 as amended. Carried all.

In the July 25, 2017 minutes, Evenstad asked about page 7, resolution #2017-18, what was the amendment? The following wordage was the amendment to Resolution #2017-18.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board of Supervisors directs the Vernon County Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association, all Vernon County State Representatives and Senators and the governor of the state of Wisconsin. Amendment passed by voice vote, some Nays were heard. Resolution passed by voice vote.

Chairman Brault asked if there were any announcements:

Ron Hoff delivered Supervisor Redington his marriage license.

Servais wants to remind everyone to read the VEDA handout, they always have good information for us on where they have been and where they are going.

Larson thanked everyone who worked at the Vernon County Fair. The fair was a great success.

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

1. Sue Burkhamer – Reclassification of Assistant Zoning Administrator, Evenstad explained, this needs to be put in the proper grade. No fiscal impact. Amelse stated Zoning has asked twice on this position in the past year. Why? Kica stated there may be a small increase in salary. Motion by Amelse, 2nd by McCoy to postpone to next Board meeting for more information. Carried all.
2. **Petitions – Fair Map – Redistricting, Dale Schultz** – Fair Elections Project, Schultz has worked for years on redistricting policies of state and held over fifty meetings on this subject. Both parties have maneuvered the rules over the years and power should be for the people not parties. A lawsuit over redistricting is in process. This should not be a partisan issue and that redistricting fairly is important to all. Dahl stated Iowa had done this forty years ago under Republic Governor Ray and it has worked well in Iowa. Computer technology has made changing maps a very easy process. Counsel Swayne stated lawsuit doesn't answer questions intended for redistricting. Amelse asked how many counties have prepared a resolution, Swayne is not sure. Dahl stated this would be an open and transparent procedure. Motion by Evenstad, 2nd by Dahl to move resolution 2017-30 first. Carried. Brault stated 24 counties have passed this resolution. The Gerrymandering process, is not a fair process. Brault gave a slide presentation. Senate bills 13 and 44 would stop Gerrymandering.

3. Resolutions -

Resolution # 2017 – 14

Title: Authorization to Hire a Construction Manager for the New Highway Facility

WHEREAS, Vernon County has determined the need for a new highway facility; and,
WHEREAS, Vernon County has completed the conceptual design phase of the new Highway facility; and,
WHEREAS, the next phase of such a project is to hire a construction management firm that will complete the master plan, preliminary plan and final plan of the highway facility; and,
WHEREAS, the Vernon County Highway Committee has interviewed three candidates and recommends Fowler & Hammer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors ratifies the selection of Fowler & Hammer as a construction manager for the highway facility, to complete the master plan, preliminary plan and final plan of the highway facility; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Finance Committee to pay for these plans from the new building fund.

Fiscal Impact: Estimated cost \$300,000 to \$450,000

Dated September 13, 2017

Submitted by JoAnn Nickelatti, Highway Committee Chair

Motion by Mitchell, 2nd by Nickelatti. New Resolution on desk has name of Fowler & Hammer as construction manager. Hewitt stated RFPs sent to seven companies, three responded and all 3 were interviewed and the committee selected Fowler & Hammer. If approved, Architect will be picked and cost determined, plans would be owned by Vernon County and we then can move forward or stop at any time. Originally we planned for 70,000 sq. ft. and now the plan is 40-50,000 sq. ft. also, we will still use the old building for storage to lower the cost. A construction manager only makes approximately \$5000.00 prior to construction, the balance of pay comes during building process. Other counties have built up to 80,000 sq. ft. and cost up to 13 million. Old highway shop was built in the 1940's. We have 285 miles and 94 bridges in the County to maintain with our equipment. Extending current bond was discussed. Building would be built so it would be easy to add on to in the future. Amelse asked total sq. ft. of all our highway buildings, over 100,000 sq. ft. Amelse concerned about tax increase because of our smaller population. Amelse asked if we should build a small shed in the east & west part of the county. Strudthoff asked about the construction manager's ability to say No to cost changes. Dave Mydy of Fowler & Hammer explained they will keep bids of construction work to what the bid originally was, not just do a change order. Dahl stated Strudthoff's input of construction is appreciated and feels Fowler & Hammer has a great history, Servais agrees. Evenstad asked about downsizing now, will we need to add on in 20 to 30 years, Hewitt stated quality of building is most important. Erlandson stated highway committee has studied this for a long time and we need to move forward and build. Goede stated it's hard to vote without all details, in the future we will need to spend money at solid waste also. Voice vote, carried all. Resolution passed.

Adopted by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017.

Resolution # 2017 - 30

Title: Fair Maps – Redistricting Resolution

WHEREAS, currently under the state constitution, the legislature is directed to redistrict legislative districts according to the number of inhabitants at its next session following the decennial federal census by the majority party; and at the same intervals, the legislature also reapportions congressional districts pursuant to federal law, and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting plans enacted pursuant to this procedure are used to elect members of the legislature and members of Congress in the fall of the second year following the year of the census, and

WHEREAS, historically legislative and congressional plans in Wisconsin have been subject to partisan influence that put the desires of politicians ahead of the electoral prerogative of the people, and

WHEREAS, the 2011 process to draw the maps and fight litigation contesting those maps cost taxpayers nearly \$1.9 million, and

WHEREAS, a panel of federal district court judges has ruled that the redistricting that was done in Wisconsin in 2011 was unconstitutional, and

WHEREAS, redistricting to achieve partisan gains is improper, whether it is done by Republicans or Democrats,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors insists upon the creation of a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the process promotes more accountability and transparency and prohibits the consideration of voting patterns, party information, and incumbents' residence information or demographic information in drawing the maps except as necessary to ensure minority participation as required by the U.S. Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, all members of the state legislature, and to each Wisconsin County.

Dated: September 19, 2017

Submitted by Legal Affairs Committee, Mike Leis, Chair

386 petition signatures on Fair Maps were delivered to County Clerk Hoff.

Motion by Servais, 2nd by Yttri. Carried all, yes vote.

Adopted by the Vernon County Board of Supervisors on September 19, 2017.

Recess at 11:00 a.m.

Reconvene at 11:15 a.m.

Resolution # 2017 – 31

Title: Resolution to Establish Health Insurance Plans and Premiums for 2018 and Implement an Employee Assistance Program (Eap)

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Counties Association Group Health Trust, the County's current health plan provider, has submitted a renewal proposal to Vernon County with an increase in cost of 0% from the 2017 plan year rates, and

WHEREAS, the 2018 monthly health insurance premiums include the total cost for medical claims, ancillary and administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, the County currently does not offer an Employee Assistance Program, and

WHEREAS, An employer-sponsored employee assistance program (EAP) is a work-based intervention program designed to identify and assist employees in resolving personal problems that may be adversely affecting their performance at work, such as marital, financial or emotional problems; family issues; or substance or alcohol abuse;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Vernon County Board of Supervisors approves renewing the health insurance contract with Wisconsin Counties Association Group Health Trust effective January 1, 2018 and

NOW, THEREFORE ALSO BE IT RESOLVED that effective January 1, 2018 the County will implement an Employee Assistance Program.

Projected Fiscal Impact: \$2,326,680.00

Estimated Premium Costs for 2018: representing a zero percent increase in premiums (Note: Actual premium cost is based on census.)

Employee Assistance Program: \$5,000

Dated: September 7, 2017