



COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE
Minutes – April 9, 2019

Call to Order. Chair Podzilni called the meeting of the County Board Staff Committee to order at 4:00 P.M. in Conference Room N-1 on the fifth floor of the Rock County Courthouse-East.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Podzilni, Mawhinney, Brill, Bostwick, Bussie, Peer, Thomas and Yeomans.

Committee Members Excused: Supervisor Sweeney.

Staff Members Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator; Randy Terronez, Assistant to County Administrator; Annette Mikula, Human Resources Director; Bridget Laurent, Deputy Corporation Counsel.

Others Present: Supervisor Tom Brien.

Approval of Agenda. Supervisor Yeomans moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Bostwick. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements. Supervisor Bussie informed the Committee that there are flooding issues in the Ice Age Park area. Supervisor Bussie said a new secretary will be starting soon at the Public Works Department.

Approval of Minutes – March 26, 2019. Supervisor Peer moved approval of the minutes of March 26, 2019 as presented, second by Supervisor Bussie. ADOPTED.

Transfers. None.

Review of Payments. The Committee accepted the reports.

Resolutions.

Proclaiming April 2019 National County Government Month “Connecting the Unconnected”

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this ___ day of _____, 2019 does hereby proclaim April 2019 as National County Government Month in honor of all county officials, employees and partners.”

Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Bostwick. ADOPTED.

Supporting Affordable Higher Education and Lower Student Debt

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors, on this ___ day of _____, 2019, does hereby direct the Department of Human Resources to ensure each employee is notified annually that they may be eligible for public service loan forgiveness of federal direct loans repaid during their employment with Rock County and that the Department of Human Resources is further directed to, upon request for an employee, complete any necessary paperwork to provide proof of employment to those employees who are eligible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors urges Congress to adopt legislation which would allow borrowers to refinance existing student loan debt to address the growing student loan debt crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors urges the State Legislature to support the state Higher Ed. Lower Debt bill, which would allow borrowers to refinance loans and create a tax break for state residents actively paying back student loans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors urges state and federal leaders to pursue additional solutions to the student debt burden, including policies that invest in the Pell grant program, reduce interest rates for future loans, and ensure tuition is affordable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk be authorized and directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Evers, the office of each member of Congress representing the citizens of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.”

Supervisor Brill moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Thomas.

Discussion on colleges need to reduce tuition, don't know how the government can do anything, students/parents are able to go elsewhere to get different loans or to reduce the loan rate, many people are not able to get these loans at a lower rate, this is the same resolution Dane County passed, Human Resources staff fills out and submits paperwork for loan forgiveness for employees who qualify, a reminder about the forgiveness program could be put in the monthly newsletter that goes out to each employee, would like to see some way to put pressure on colleges to keep costs down, and just because you have a degree does not mean you will get a higher paying job.

Mr. Smith left at 4:21 P.M.

ADOPTED on the following vote: YES – Supervisors Podzilni, Mawhinney, Brill, Bostwick, Bussie, Peer, Thomas; NO – Supervisor Yeomans; ABSENT – Supervisor Sweeney.

Committee Action and Updates.

Update on Town of Beloit Incorporation Chair Podzilni said the Town of Beloit has decided not to pursue incorporation at this time.

Adjournment. Supervisor Bussie moved adjournment at 4:31 P.M., second by Supervisor Bostwick. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bondehagen
Office Coordinator

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.