

**COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes – January 27, 2015**

**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, Kraft, Arnold, Brill, Bussie, Sweeney, Mawhinney, Peer and Thomas.

**Committee Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Members Present:** Josh Smith, County Administrator; Randy Terronez and Nick Osborne, Assistants to the County Administrator; Jeff Kuglitsch, Corporation Counsel; Amy Spoden, Acting Human Resources Director.

**Others Present:** Supervisors Addie, Dowd, Fell, Gustina, Pleasant, Schulz and Zajac; Anders Dowd.

**Approval of Agenda.** Supervisor Arnold moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Peer. ADOPTED.

**Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements.** Supervisor Bussie informed the Committee the Wisconsin County Highway Association needs a line of succession to coordinate all issues and that the number one biggest issue in the U.S. is roads.

Chair Podzilni said the theme for the Wisconsin Counties Association this year is transportation.

**Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2015.** Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the amended minutes of January 13, 2015, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

**Bills/Encumbrances - 2014**

County Administrator	\$ 372.19
Human Resources	2,654.52

**Bills/Encumbrances - 2015**

County Administrator	\$ 1,256.16
County Board	300.00
Human Resources	50.90

Supervisor Kraft moved approval of the above Bills and Encumbrances for the County Board Staff Committee, second by Supervisor Mawhinney. ADOPTED.

**Resolution.**

**Creating Ad Hoc Board Organization Review Committee**

**“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors hereby creates an Ad Hoc Board Organization Review Committee with the express duties being to recommend changes or support current structure of county board procedures:

- Review the membership of the County Board and determine if the number of supervisors is at an appropriate number to achieve effective and efficient operations for future years to come.
- Review County Board rules of procedures and recommend any changes and reorganization of the current rules for clarity and to meet the charge of the County Board of Supervisors.
- Review each current standing and advisory county board committee, board or commission. Investigate scope of services, membership and identify if each committee is properly meeting purpose and intended responsibilities. Each committee should be closely reviewed to evaluate if committees can remain as currently operating or if committees can be restructured for more effective and efficient actions.
- Review whether County Board Supervisors should serve four year terms versus the current two year term.
- Review if a change should be enacted for Board Supervisors to be elected in staggering terms during different election cycles versus the current process of the whole board membership being elected during the same election cycle.
- Investigate options for televising County Board meetings.
- Review compensation of Board Supervisors and evaluate if it is comparable with similar counties.
- Offer recommendations for process and procedural improvements of the County Board that may arise during its review.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Ad Hoc Committee shall consist of 7 County Board Supervisors, and further that said supervisors shall receive compensation for per diems and mileage reimbursement pursuant to county policies. A completed report detailing the findings of the Ad Hoc Committee should be completed and presented to the whole County Board of Supervisors for consideration in time to enact any proposed changes allowed to become effective following the April 2016 Supervisor Election cycle.”

Supervisor Arnold moved to put the above resolution on the table for discussion, second by Supervisor Thomas.

Mr. Osborne said he had put together a packet of background information. He handed out a list of the 13 standing committees, 9 advisory committees, and 17 other committees. He added that there are a number of other committees that did not make it on this list. Mr. Osborne said some of the standing committees are required by State Statute.

Chair Podzilni said we must keep in mind that, he heard, we are next in line for Family Care and we do not know what will be asked of us, what committees will be needed, etc.

Supervisor Dowd said this was a major campaign issue for him and that he feels there is a lot of negative feelings about the County Board. He said, of the past ad hoc committees, that he did not see where all committees as a whole have been looked at for duplication of effort, etc. He said he feels we need to look at a strategic process for the future of the Rock County government; to prioritize for the future. He said the bullet points are not necessarily what he is advocating for, but more so a way for departments to work together as it seems there are a lot of disjointed boundaries. He suggested looking at La Crosse County and how they did theirs. He suggested possibly changing the County's vision and the ways they look at things to become more effective.

Chair Podzilni said there are a number of items in the resolution we cannot do because State Statutes, such as changing terms to staggered four year terms.

Supervisor Addie said the reason he signed on, after serving on the City of Janesville City Council, was that it seemed the City of Janesville got things done quicker and more efficiently. He said all resolutions need to go through a committee first, page 74, III.F. of the County Board Rules, and this seems to slow things down, and that if it pertains to a safety issue it should be able to go right to the County Board. He said that he feels all minutes are paraphrased and that they really should be verbatim, and video recorded. He asked when the last time was the County Board read the mission statement and that maybe it needs to be re-written. He said he feels only the people who support this resolution should be on the Ad Hoc Board Organization Review Committee otherwise they would be in a quagmire.

Supervisor Zajac said he would like to see any duplication of efforts reduced.

Supervisor Thomas said he feels it is important to have some of these committees look at themselves every so often to see if things are duplicated elsewhere, and if there are any better ways to accomplish what is being done.

Supervisor Sweeney said he did not feel a new seven member committee would be able to make these judgment calls when they may not know what all is involved. He said this would be done better by staff and then brought to the County Board if there are any concerns.

Supervisor Brill and Chair Podzilni said televising the meetings had been looked into previously, was expensive, and did not feel this was the best use of taxpayer money.

Supervisor Dowd suggested putting meetings on social media such as You Tube or Beloit Access.

Supervisor Mawhinney said she came on the County Board in 1998 and there have been a great many changes throughout the years; practices are reviewed; and committees are looked at to see if they are necessary. She said some of the best ways to do this is to listen, and get the lay of the land first. She said she feels committees are looked at as part of an ongoing process.

Supervisor Addie said he feels this Committee is just discussing line 24, that we should be looking at lines 22-23 and trying to accomplish this by April 2016. He said he feels the committees move slowly getting things done in a society that moves quickly. He added that he thinks we need to have a formal grievance committee to hear citizen complaints.

Chair Podzilni said there are grievances that come in to the County and they are referred to staff and/or the appropriate committee to handle.

Supervisor Sweeney added that he has taken care of many problems that are brought to him.

Supervisor Bussie added that she feels most of the problems, or questions, have been taken care of by staff or the appropriate committees.

Supervisor Peer said he agrees and that the system we have now has a great many checks and balances.

Supervisor Brill said the County Board Supervisors are elected to represent the county and not just a district. We are Rock County and make decisions that affect the entire County.

Mr. Kuglitsch said every two years, prior to the new board being seated, a memo comes from the Corporation Counsel's office requesting any changes the current County Board Supervisors wish to have addressed.

Chair Podzilni added that per diems can be changed every two years also.

Supervisor Dowd said he feels the rules are hard to follow and that maybe they should be restructured.

Supervisor Kraft said most of the bullet points in this resolution either cannot be done or are not pertinent. She added that she feels it is always good to look at things, but

feels this list needs to be reduced. She questioned if an ad hoc committee is really needed or if these items should just be given to staff to look at.

Supervisor Bussie said she does not feel she can support this resolution as she does not feel it is necessary.

Supervisor Dowd said he is looking at this from a strategic planning process to see how they all interact together. He said he understands that the committees look at themselves but that the County has never done a strategic plan that he could find. A strategic plan would ask each committee who they are, what they do, why they do it, and who they interact with. He added that every major business has done a strategic plan to prioritize what their needs and goals are. He said he feels an ad hoc committee needs to go out and do the work not assign it to staff. He added that the bullet points can be changed.

Supervisor Sweeney said strategic planning has been done by several departments, the Public Works Department has it in their budget to do a process like this, and Mr. Smith does this all the time no matter what name it is referred to as.

Chair Podzilni said they are going through this process at Rock Haven right now.

Supervisor Kraft asked Supervisor Dowd if his intent is to do a strategic plan as the resolution is written does not reflect this focus. Supervisor Dowd said he would like more of a strategic plan and suggested going to the UW Extension website to see some of the plans other counties have done.

Supervisor Kraft asked if it would be better to look at this site, see how other counties have done their strategic plans, and look at best practices. Supervisor Dowd said he has no problem doing it this way.

Supervisor Addie said what the County has now is a mechanism that moves very slowly and he feels this Ad Hoc Committee would allow for critical thinking to make changes by 2016. He said strategic plans are common place out there and it seems to be scary to people here. He added that he feels that critical thinking is needed and this board is needed to look at critical issues, and do critical thinking. What he is hearing here is that things are okay the way they are being done now.

Supervisor Zajac said he thinks Supervisor Kraft's idea is a good one.

Supervisor Peer said sometimes it is good to take a little time to really listen to what is being said. He said we are all trying to state our views the best we can, and that he feels what has been done is for the best of the County. He added that he doesn't understand what the rush is to make changes by 2016. He said that there is a great deal of experience on the County Board and these Supervisors should be listened to.

Supervisor Mawhinney said most of the Supervisors embrace change, just maybe not as fast as some would like. She added that she would like to see what is on the UW Extension site.

Supervisor Mawhinney moved to postpone the resolution to the next meeting, second by Chair Podzilni.

Supervisor Arnold said she does not know if two weeks is enough time to go over these suggested strategic plans.

Supervisor Sweeney said he feels the resolution needs to be clearer in its intent before it comes back to County Board Staff Committee and goes on to the County Board.

Supervisor Zajac asked if this would be enough time to re-write the resolution.

Mr. Kuglitsch said this resolution would need to come back as written but would then be able to have amendments made.

POSTPONED to the next meeting on the following vote: AYES – Supervisors Podzilni, Brill, Bussie, Mawhinney, and Thomas; No – Supervisors Kraft, Arnold, Peer and Sweeney.

**Possible Approval of US Cellular Upgrade Request – West Court Street Tower.** Mr. Terronez went over the request.

Supervisor Sweeney moved approval to upgrade the US Cellular West Court Street Tower, second by Supervisor Bussie. ADOPTED.

**Review of Buck Property Appraisal Report.** Mr. Terronez suggested tabling this to the next meeting.

Supervisor Sweeney moved to table the report to the next meeting, second by Supervisor Kraft. TABLED.

**Adjournment.** Supervisor Arnold moved adjournment at 5:56 P.M., second by Supervisor Peer. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Bondehagen  
Confidential Administrative Assistant

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.**