

## COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

October 6, 2020

The Grant County Board of Supervisors meet at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 6, 2020 in the South Room of the Youth and Agriculture Building at 916 East Elm Street, Lancaster, WI, pursuant to the adjournment of the September 15, 2020 County Board Meeting.

While meetings of the Grant County Board of Supervisors are considered an “Essential Government Operation” pursuant to the State’s Safer at Home Order, the meeting will be offered with the option to participate via Zoom meeting. Live participation in this meeting will be limited to Grant County Board Supervisors, County Clerk, and Corporation Counsel. Social distancing and other safety precautions associated with COVID-19 protocol will be followed.

Topic: County Board of Supervisors

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Consideration will be given and/or action taken on any or all of the following items:

Robert Keeney, County Board Chair called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Verification of compliance with the open meeting law was a notice in the Herald Independent stating the date, time and place of the County Board Meeting and posted in two public posting locations and the county website verified by Linda K. Gebhard, County Clerk.

Roll Call, October 6, 2020

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Carol Beals (ZOOM)	X		
John Beinborn (ZOOM)	X		
Gregory Fry (ZOOM)	X		
Roger Guthrie	X		
Dale Hood	X		
Lester Jantzen	X		
Robert Keeney	X		
Mike Lieurance	X		
Dwight Nelson (ZOOM)	X		
Gary Northouse	X		
John Patcle	X		
Gary Ranum	X		
Robert Scallon	X		
Patrick Schroeder	X		
Donald Splinter	X		
Mark Stead	X		
Porter Wagner	X		

Roll Call was taken resulting in 13 present in the room and 4 participating on ZOOM. Therefore, a quorum was present.

The following identified participants were recognized joining the meeting via ZOOM:

1. Ben Wood, Corporation Counsel
2. Dave Lambert, Highway Commissioner
3. Nate Dreckman, Sheriff
4. Garry Pluemer, Maintenance
5. Carol Schwartz, Orchard Manor
6. Fred Naatz, Social Services
7. Amy Olson, Fair
8. Carrie Eastlick, Treasurer
9. Jeff Kindrai, Health Director
10. Lynda Schweikert, Conservation, Sanitation, Zoning
11. Carrie Kerstiens, Child Support
12. Amanda Degenhardt, Finance Director
13. Tonya White, Emergency Management
14. Shane Drinkwater, IT
15. Lori Reid, ADRC
16. Tina McDonald, Clerk of Court
17. Doug Wagan, media
18. James Schneider, Comm. Development Educator
19. Jody Bartels, Register in Probate
20. Ken McAndrew, Veterans Service Officer
21. Marilyn Pierce, Register of Deeds
22. Kristin Schier, CJC Coordinator

- 23. Linda K. Gebhard, County Clerk
- 24. Steve Braun, Emergency Management
- 25. Karla K. Schwantes, Deputy County Clerk

Approval of Agenda: Porter Wagner, seconded by Patrick Schroeder, made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Mark Stead, seconded by Gary Ranum, made a motion to approve the minutes of September 15, 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

CARES Funding – Routes to Recover Projects \$42,766.00: Amanda Degenhardt, Finance Director stated there were a couple more items that will be added to the Routes to Recovery funding; she asked Shane Drinkwater, IT and Garry Pluemer, Maintenance Facility Manager to take over for further discussion. These items have been approved by the Executive Committee.

Shane Drinkwater, IT stated there will be some laptops ordered for District Attorney, Clerk of Court and ADRC and other IT related items depending on availability, discretion and capacity for the IT Department.

Garry Pluemer, Maintenance stated he had put out bids for an Ionization Project in the Courthouse. This is equipment that will help the air quality in the building by purifying the circulating air; this would qualify for the Routes to Recovery Funds.

Gary Ranum stated it was also approved at the Executive Committee to give the IT Director, County Board Chair and Finance Director permission, using their discretion, to approve any further items or projects that would qualify for the Road to Recovery Funding and meet the deadline. These items would then be reported to the full County Board under this line item to keep the board informed of the decisions.

A motion was made by Patrick Schroeder, seconded by Don Splinter, to approve the projects as described including future ones with the discretion of the County Board Chair, Finance Director and IT Director based on time and capacity of the Departments. Chair Keeney included one other project that will be taken to the Law Enforcement Committee Meeting next week from Steve Braun, Emergency Management; to purchase a trailer that would house COVID testing equipment for a cost of \$13,000.00 or \$14,000.00. The complete fiscal impact of these new projects would be around \$58,000.00. A roll call vote was called for.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**DATE: October 6, 2020**

**QUESTION: Road to Recovery funds for projects approved by the Executive Committee**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
1. GARY RANUM	X		
2. GARY NORTHOUSE	X		
3. ROBERT SCALLON	X		

	YES	NO	EXCUSED
4. ROBERT KEENEY	X		
5. ROGER GUTHRIE	X		
6. JOHN PATCLE	X		
7. GREGORY FRY (ZOOM)	X		
8. PATRICK SCHROEDER	X		
9. MIKE LIEURANCE	X		
10. MARK STEAD	X		
11. DALE HOOD	X		
12. DWIGHT NELSON (ZOOM)	X		
13. CAROL BEALS (ZOOM)	X		
14. LESTER JANTZEN	X		
15. JOHN BEINBORN (ZOOM)	X		
16. DONALD SPLINTER	X		
17. PORTER WAGNER	X		

Roll Call Vote was taken resulting in 17 Yes votes. Therefore motion carried.

COVID-19 Update, discussion, and possible action: Jeff Kindraj, Health Officer updated the Board on the COVID19 Pandemic. From March 2020 to date there have been 19,210 reported cases which are 37% of our population. There are 1,244 positive cases averaging about 370 cases in a two week period. Currently there are 53 probable cases; this may increase in the near future because the Universities are going to start using their antigen testing a bit more. To date mostly molecular testing has been used so the numbers will fluctuate.

Currently they have followed up on 3,571 contacts, out of those 932 are considered recovered, leaving an active caseload of 22%. Grant County has 14 active outbreaks at this time, 4 are in Educational Facilities. Our metrics are rated high at this time at 805, meaning 350 or more cases. We are starting to trend down at this point. Jeff stated the recent increase was due to all the testing sites they have held in targeted areas. Jeff felt we probably would have seen the numbers drop off more quickly but due to this testing they have been able to identify where the positive cases were and have isolated those.

Our State rates per 100,000 now exceed the State average; we are at 2,329 the State is at 2,324 as of yesterday at 2:00 p.m. But if you look at other counties who have Universities, we are comparable.

Hospitals state wide are 81.8% full and 80.6% of ICU beds are full, this is concerning. These are licensed beds, not staff beds which cause a critical lack of availability for staffing. Locally 78.7% of hospital beds are full, 76.7% of the ICU beds are full; this is more manageable but still concerning, those hospitals are dealing with COVID patience which does not leave a lot of beds for accident or heart attack/stroke, etc. type patients.

Jeff stated the current metrics from the past two weeks:

Platteville area has dropped to	37% from upper 60%
Additional new cases are in the southern tip of the County	65% from 80%

Ages 29 and younger	46%
Under 18 of age	7%
50 or older	33%
60 or older	22%

Braking down those percentages further are:

Under 20 years of age	15%
In their 20s	32%
In their 30s	11%
In their 40s	9%
In their 50s	11%
In their 60s	9.4%
70s and older	12%

The Health Department and Emergency Management have been coordinating with Iowa and Lafayette County to keep community wide testing sites available. They have the cooperation of the National Guard to help in these testing sites. They have seen an uptick in school related activities; some have gone to using more virtual meetings and events. But, it is also important to keep some level of in person teaching for the students who don't have internet access or computer availability.

Many Health Departments are struggling to keep up with the contact tracing to help keep things under control; this is a state wide issue. Jeff encourages the Board to follow the State website under outbreaks to follow the data; they have done a very good job in keeping up on the COVID19 Pandemic metrics. He also reiterated to use masks, use social distancing and stay home if you are sick.

Communications: Chair Keeney stated he had contacted SW Regional Planning to send more of the information Troy Maggied presented at the September meeting. Some of the Board Members did not get all the information; it is available to take at this meeting.

Chair Keeney explained the need for the Emergency #11 Proclamation he signed and following memo he sent out to the Board Members regarding Orchard Manor shortage of staff. This was approved by the Orchard Manor and Executive Committee.

To: Grant County Board Supervisors  
 From: Robert Keeney  
 Date: October 5, 2020  
 Re: Update of policy deviations and declarations

The following declaration has taken place for continuity of operations due to the COVID-19 crisis.

10/01/2020 Proclamation #11 Temporary Orchard Manor Bonus / Incentive Program to Increase Staffing Needs

Due to the urgency to fill nursing assistant shifts at Orchard Manor, especially during the weekends, this Proclamation was signed on Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup>. The shortage has occurred due to the COVID-19 virus creating challenges of the available staff pool for various reasons which normally includes a number of students. The Proclamation allows for bonus pay for staff that is asked and accepts additional hours on

their scheduled shift. In addition, it provides a bonus incentive to sign up for vacant open shifts. This Proclamation will be discussed at the Executive and Orchard Manor Committees prior to action for ratification taken at the November 10, 2020 County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Grant County staff continues to work to serve our citizens with services in the safest ways possible. Many buildings in the County remain closed to the public but staff is available by appointment to receive shipments and take care of necessary business. Grant County is following guidance from DHS, WCA, and other knowledgeable sources on workforce related policies and open meeting law as we continue to deal with COVID-19 health emergency.

The Proclamation will be ratified at the November County Board Meeting.

The Finance Director made available to all the Board Members the Audit Reports for their review.

Employee Recognition(s): None

Appointment(s): None

Grants: None

**\*\* Postponed until November Meeting. ~~Sale of tax deed parcels – 106-00067-0000 Village of Bagley, Carrie Eastlick, Treasurer~~**

2021 Budget Workshop: Amanda Degenhardt, Finance Director presented the information regarding the 2021 Budget. The budgets assume a 1% raise for the employees, January 1, 2021 and July 1, 2021. Health Insurance increase was settled at a 3% increase. There was an increase in the HRA contribution charged to each Department and Workers Comp did increase 15.8% which is an increase of \$83,000.00 in premium. The Retirement for the Generals stayed the same, Protective increased .1%. Sales tax revenue is budgeted with a 2% increase over 2020 budget; the County will use \$90,000.00 from the Sales tax carry over. This year there was a \$28,000.00 decrease in the shared revenue from the State, the Levy limit allows the County to increase the levy by the net new construction; it is significantly lower in 2021 at .82%. That decreased what we can increase the levy limit at. The other piece of the levy limit is the general obligation debt payment. Total payments are 1.5 million, financing plan calls for the County to apply \$780,000.00 for capital projects so the County can only increase the levy \$744,000.00. Also the Departments are asking to use \$490,000.00 from the general fund which is the amount of lapsed funds from 2020. The Highway Department has offered \$440,000.00 from their 2019 undesignated funds to use for the 2021 budget.

Amanda then went through each Department budget and opened the discussion up for questions from the Board Members. Currently there is a deficit of \$284,857.00.

Chair Keeney stated the Executive Committee and other committees has discussed going forward it would be helpful to have a capital improvement plan which would help to spread the costs out, forecast and strategical plan for future needs rather than a hit and miss budget. It would help to explain the one-time costs that Departments have for a vehicle, or big project item. He stated Amanda is looking

for a different format to help highlight those costs going forward so the numbers will not be out of line for each budget.

Mark Stead stated the Highway Department has made some sacrifices in giving some of their undesignated revenues back to the budget, are all other Departments contributing? Amanda stated many departments gave what they could; many departments do not have carryover amounts to give back, some departments used up their carryovers for previous years.

Porter Wagner asked how the COVID19 money the County has been receiving effects the budget. Chair Keeney explained there have been many sources of COVID relief funds going to different Departments. Some of the funding such as Routes to Recovery has been used to relieve some of the County's future needs taking that amount out of the budget. Some of the relief money, explained by Jeff Kindrai, Health Director, will cause programs like Public Health to come in under budget this year but should be a carryover into 2021 funding. The unknown is how the future with COVID19 will play out. For the Health Department if a vaccine comes out, maybe there will be Federal money available for the distribution of that; that is not known at this time.

Lori Reid, ADRC explained the COVID money they got had to be used first. Most of the funds went to the Nutrition Program. They have had an increase in expenses in that program because all disposable supplies had to be used for home deliveries, staff time, and mileage for the delivery of the meals. They may be able to lapse some of the funds but that is yet to be determined.

A motion was made by Patrick Schroeder, seconded by Gary Northouse, to refer the 2021 Budget back to the Executive Committee for further scrutiny and balance the budget prior to publishing and presenting the final 2021 Budget to the full County Board in November for approval. Motion carried.

Progress Report, discussion & possible action on Grant County Community Services Facility: Garry Pluemer updated the Board on the punch list at the Community Services Building. They have replaced a lot of the broken tile so far. Brad Bierman called regarding the issues with the windows. The finish on the floors needs to be discussed. Everything is ready for As Built so when they get here that will get done and talk to Shane to finish up the project. The punch lists is winding down.

DNR has been called regarding burying the 52 Building on site, this seems to be approved. Tim Wiederholt will start tearing down the wastewater treatment plant. Lynda Schwiekert will be on site to help monitor the disassembly so they can monitor if there was any leakage that has taken place.

On the Communication Tower, the Tribal Nation has not signed off yet, October 8<sup>th</sup> is the last date they have the chance to sign off, if they do not the County can go forward. Plans have been stamped for approval by the State, the layout on the fiber optic can get started for the electrical, and they are hoping to lay concrete before it frosts.

Comprehensive Plan Change: None

Zoning Amendment: None

Dog Claim(s): None

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mark Stead, seconded by Roger Guthrie to adjourn pursuant to the next meeting to be held on November 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.