

**Ad Hoc Committee, Government Services Project
Friday, February 3, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Lincoln County Service Center, Rm. 156
Merrill, Wisconsin 54452**

MINUTES

1. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order by committee Chairman Bailey at 9:00 a.m. Besides Supervisor Bailey in attendance were committee members Bob Lee, Randy Scholz, Bill Zeitz, Arlene Meyer, and Dan Leydet. Also in attendance was County Board Supervisor Graham Rankin. The meeting was facilitated by Art Lersch, UW-Extension, Lincoln County.

2. Approval of minutes from the January 27, 2012 meeting

A motion was made by Supervisor Meyer and seconded by Mr. Scholz to approve the minutes as written. All ayes.

3. Public Comment

Supervisor Zeitz spoke about a case where the county had to pay \$238,000 to provide support services to a special needs child out of county because the services could not be provided by the local school system. He also stated that the county would likely be faced with having to do this more as potentially harmful amounts of questionable substances based on research (he provided to the committee an article on fluoride) are put into the environment, possibly adversely affecting county residents' health.

4. Recommendations to County Board

After a final review of the draft recommendations developed by the committee over the past two meetings, and after Lersch asked whether the committee wanted to add any other recommendations, the following list was finalized.

Ad Hoc Committee, Government Services Project Recommendations

Proposed Recommendations for County Board Approval

It is assumed that that all recommendations if approved will be implemented in 2012.

It is recommended that:

- **a resolution be developed for County Board consideration proclaiming that if the state of Wisconsin or the federal government mandates that local governments provide a service, either the state or federal government must pay for that service.**

- **if the state of Wisconsin or federal government reduces funding for a program, the level of service must also be reduced accordingly.**
(Note: The committee agreed that a primary suggested strategy to implement this recommendation is to discern minimum levels of service where possible on a case by case basis based on state and federal standards.)
- **the County Board engage in a serious conversation on the future direction of Pine Crest Nursing Home.**
(Note: The committee discussed potential strategies that would need to be carried out if the Board chooses to have this serious conversation. Those potential strategies may include but not be limited to a presentation to the Board by the facility's director, hiring a neutral consultant experienced in conducting nursing home studies, and asking the home's auditors for various financial reports about the facility.)
- **Lincoln County Government annually hold meetings with local government administrators and elected officials within the county to plan and implement when feasible intergovernmental cooperative efforts that save taxpayer dollars while maintaining adequate services.**
- **the County Board institute an additional one-half percent charge per month on overdue tax payments, bringing the total monthly charge to 1.5%.**
(Note: Mr. Leydet confirmed that the County Board does have the authority to do this.)

Proposed Recommendations for County Committee Consideration

The committee indicated that all these suggestions should be evaluated based on whether they bring additional revenue to the county and/or reduce county costs.

It is recommended that:

- **the Lincoln County Solid Waste Committee explore and if it makes sense implement with County Board approval a compact and sell/Material Recycling Facilities program for the county landfill.**
- **the Lincoln County Personnel Committee explore and if it makes sense implement with County Board approval a uniform lunch time policy (i.e. the same policy for each department) for county office employees.**
- **the Lincoln County EMS/Judicial Committee explore and if it makes sense implement with County Board approval a review of family members' and**

significant others' financial status when determining how much indigents should pay for court related expenses.

- **the Lincoln EMS/Judicial Committee explore and if it makes sense implement with County Board approval counter fees for starting court related actions for people who are not being represented by an attorney.**
- **the Lincoln County Administrative & Legislative Committee explore and if it makes sense implement with County Board approval having the county use its maximum authority to enact ordinances that track state statutes regarding petty crimes.**
(Note: The committee agreed that this should be explored because forfeitures normally generate greater financial benefit to the county than fines.)

A motion was made by Supervisor Zeitz and seconded by Supervisor Lee to formally accept these recommendations and to move them on to the County Board or to specific committees for their consideration.

Discussion: Lersch asked if the committee would still like a memo sent to committees explaining the recommendations made under Proposed Recommendations for County Committee Consideration. The committee reaffirmed its decision to do this. Memos will be sent directly to chairs of the committees mentioned in those recommendations sometime before the February 21 County Board meeting. Lersch will work with Mr. Scholz to develop a draft of the memo to be reviewed at the next Ad Hoc meeting. The committee also requested that the pending exploration of whether and if so how to modify the Lincoln County zoning code and that services are being prioritized at the committee level be placed in the "currently being done" list that Lersch is updating. The committee reiterated that the lists of what is currently being done, what is being discussed, etc. be presented to the County Board at its meeting on February 21.

Motion passed, all ayes.

5. Presentation of recommendations to County Board

Lersch provided committee members with a draft outline of the presentation based on what was discussed during the January 27 Ad Hoc meeting. Based on that outline, the committee discussed and reaffirmed the presentation method. Mr. Scholz suggested that the committee hold its next meeting in the County Board Room to run through the presentation using the new technology recently installed. The committee agreed that this be done.

6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Besides the standard agenda items, committee members agreed by consensus that the following matters be placed on the next meeting agenda.

- Presentation of recommendations to County Board and county committees

7. Next Meeting(s) Date(s)

The next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, February 10, 2012, 8:00 a.m., Rm. 156, Lincoln County Service Center.**

Committee members also tentatively decided to meet once in early March after the February County Board presentation to review draft resolutions.

8. Adjourn

Supervisor Meyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Scholz. All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Art Lersch, UW-Extension, Lincoln County.