

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Janesville, Wisconsin
January 23, 2014

The Rock County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on January 23, 2014, at 6:00 P.M. in the Courthouse at Janesville, Wisconsin.

Chair Podzilni called the meeting to order. Supervisor Collins gave the invocation.

3. Roll Call. At roll call, Supervisors Peer, Arnold, Grahn, Beaver, Heidenreich, Mawhinney, Richard, Fox, Yankee, Gustina, Bussie, Rundle, Thomas, Knudson, Kraft, Fell, Howland, Nash, Pleasant, Brill, Wiedenfeld, Jensen, Bostwick, Sweeney, Collins, Yoss and Podzilni were present. Supervisors Wopat and Owens were absent. PRESENT – 27. ABSENT – 2.

QUORUM PRESENT

4. Adoption of Agenda.

Supervisors Bostwick and Peer moved to the Agenda as presented. ADOPTED as presented. Agenda is as follows:

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-January 9, 2014
6. PUBLIC HEARING
7. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
8. NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATION
9. INTRODUCTION OF NEW RESOLUTIONS OR ORDINANCES BY SUPERVISORS FOR REFERRAL TO APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE
10. REPORTS
11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Supplementary Appropriations and Budget Changes – Roll Call
 1. Authorizing Acceptance of 2014 Highway Safety Project Grant
 - B. Bills Over \$10,000 – No Roll Call
 - C. Encumbrances Over \$10,000 – Roll Call
 - D. Contracts – Roll Call
 1. To Ratify the 2014 Labor Agreement Between Rock County and AFSCME, Local 2489
 - E. Approving Health Insurance Benefits for Employees in Same-Sex Relationships who meet Eligibility Requirements
13. ADJOURNMENT

5. Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2014

Supervisors Jensen and Rundle moved the approval of the minutes of January 9, 2014. ADOPTED as presented by acclamation.

7. Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements

Chair Podzilni invited Tony Farrell, Sr. to the podium to be recognized for his honesty and good work in this community, particularly returning lost property to a shopper at Wal-Mart according to a recent story in the Janesville Gazette.

Supervisor Thomas thanked the Board and staff for the support and cards during the loss of his brother, Ronnie. It was all much appreciated.

Janis Ringhand, Assembly Representative for the 45th District of Wisconsin was present to say hello and deliver Blue Books. She also announced her candidacy for the 15th Senate District this November.

Several citizens were present to speak in favor or opposition to agenda item 12.E. The following citizens did not wish to speak but registered in favor of the agenda item: Katie Shaw, Janesville. Mark Fuller, Janesville. Cathy Myers, Janesville. Roger Merry, Janesville. Cynthia Bloom, Janesville. Mary Dempsey, Janesville.

Don Hilbig, Beloit addressed the Board in opposition to the resolution granting health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements for three reasons. Mr. Hilbig believes that the resolution conflicts with the Wisconsin State Constitution, both in spirit and in the letter of the law. He has concern that this resolution could be an open-ended financial liability. This resolution could open the door to other groups seeking to apply for similar benefits, for instance cohabitation.

Jim Hay, Janesville, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. Mr. Hay recognizes that society is changing. He referenced the process of First Congregational United Church of Christ here in downtown Janesville becoming open and affirming. The process has nothing to do with same-sex marriage, but has everything to do with active membership with equal rights. He is so impressed with the women who spoke out from the Rock County Sheriff's Office who stated that they all are trained to serve the community in the same way and should all have access to benefits for their family in the same way, regardless of its gender and make up.

Christiane Graves, Janesville, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. Ms. Graves acknowledged that as a member of the LGBT community, they have a long way to go before they obtain equal rights and equal benefits. She also acknowledged that the Rock County community has shown great support for the LGBT community and is grateful for such support. Not supporting the proposed benefits tells these people they are not equal. She encouraged Rock County to be a community that does the right thing and offer these benefits instead of waiting until they are forced to do so. These people are the same as the other taxpayers and community members raising families and do the same things that the heterosexual community do on a personal, recreational and professional level. Providing these benefits will also allow the County to draw the best candidates available by being a more competitive employer.

Mark Spreitzer, Beloit, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. As a member of the Beloit City Council he was pleased when they approved these benefits on a 6-1 vote last year and took effect January 1, 2014. Rock County will join Beloit, Janesville, Edgerton, Evansville, Milton and the State of Wisconsin in offering such benefits to its employees. He reminded the Board that this issue is not about same sex marriage. It's about offering equal benefits to families who work for Rock County, whether they are in a committed heterosexual marriage, or a legal domestic partnership relationship. Mr. Spreitzer assured the Board that the cost should be minimal based on the evidence of the communities who already offer these benefits. He explained that the cost would be no more than that of the cost if they happened to be straight and married, yet offering these benefits assure that all families have equal access to fair benefits. This is a smart move for Rock County if they want to recruit and retain the best employees.

Kelley Blair Ostermann, Janesville, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. Kelley explained that her parent's health is failing and have been married for 45 years. It breaks her heart to watch this happen to her parents, but a beacon of light in this no-win situation is that she does not have to worry about familial benefits for her parents care. As the founder of the

Ruby Project, a prevention specialist for the AIDS network of Rock County, a member of the LGBT community and a citizen of Rock County, she feels passionately about this issue of benefits for same-sex partners. Last year the Ruby Project hosted an LGBT picnic on the courthouse park lawn where 250 people attended and many of them were there in support of the LGBTQA community. She refers to her LGBTQA friends and family the same way she refers to her heterosexual friends and family as she likes to refer to all of them as people. Kelley urged the Board to take a stand that will show that each person in Rock County, and who works for Rock County, is valuable, equal and worthy of this benefit and to please vote yes on this resolution.

Santo Carfora, Janesville, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. Mr. Carfora explained what an amazing experience it has been to watch this community progress in the 43 years he's been a member. He does a lot of diversity training for the Diversity Action Team of Rock County. He is always pleased to see Rock County Employees taking part in training and complimented the County for the initiative to have employees participate. Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common and should celebrate that every day, as no two of us are alike. You don't have to understand or like someone's sexual orientation or lifestyle to give them fair and equal treatment. As representatives of "the people" of Rock County, you need to do your homework and vote the way you think is right, not going to "your people" and asking them how they want you to vote.

Jason Dowd, Beloit, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. He is a white, heterosexual, married for 22 years, Irish Catholic male who has no idea what it feels like to be discriminated against. This should be a unanimous vote of the Board that supports this resolution. It's a human issue and we are all humans. It is fair and despite political and personal views, the Board needs to represent its employees by being fair and equal.

Barb Tillman, Janesville, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. Ms. Tillman spoke as a member of the Rock County Sheriff's Office, a taxpayer, a citizen and a proud member of the Rock County community. The decision to vote yes is the right decision for Rock County tonight. As an employee of Rock County, we are all expected to participate in Diversity Training and that diversity includes treating people of all backgrounds fair and equal. The Board of Supervisors has had a few weeks to learn and study this topic. By now, it is hopeful that the Board members have learned as much that supporting this resolution is the right thing to do for Rock County. Sheriff Spoden would have come in person tonight to show support for this resolution but he is in Washington DC at a national Sheriff's conference. It is the expectation of the Sheriff's Office that we treat all people fairly and equally. That includes our employees.

Sam Liebert, Janesville, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. Mr. Liebert explained that you don't have to be a woman to support suffrage, or black to support civil rights and you don't have to be gay to support equal rights for employees and their families. He presented a petition of approximately 150 people who support this benefit for County employees. Rock County would be joining many other communities who already provide this benefit to people in registered Domestic Partnership relationships. He also thanked the Board for all they do as he understands the long and hard hours that go into the decision and policy making process.

Tom Brien, Janesville, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. He explained that not approving this resolution could limit the caliber and quality of potential new employees due to lack of benefits. Voting against this resolution contradicts non-discrimination policy we already have on the books. This is not about personal beliefs or representing yourself, it's about representing the entire community and he hopes they will all vote in favor of this resolution.

John Eyster, Janesville, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. Mr. Eyster explained that this resolution represents good public policy for Rock County. An umbrella point to be made for this resolution is that in the oath of office, County Board members swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America. We are more and more aware of and achieving

the vision of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution which provides for the equal protection of the law for all persons.

Mary Vukovich, Janesville, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. Ms. Vukovich thanked the Board for the many hours she has been given to this issue. She has personally spent a lot of time speaking with them to explain and educate them about her situation. The Board now knows a lot about Mary and her personal life. Mary took an oath with the Sheriff's Office that she would serve the citizens of Rock County with respect and treat everyone fairly. She takes great pride and honor in her work and believes everyone is worthy of respect. By voting yes to this resolution tonight, the Board says to Ms. Vukovich, a 13 year employee, that her family is equal. A yes vote tells her that her partner has value as a partner who offers daily support in the position she holds with the County. A yes vote affirms Ms. Vukovich's five children and eight grandchildren. A yes vote tells her that she is equal to the other Rock County employees, she is valued and respected.

John Weber, Janesville, addressed the Board in favor of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. He explained that he has been an advocate for others throughout most of his 25 year career. Tonight he is advocating for others, as well as himself. Passing this resolution shows we are a progressive community who seeks and welcomes individuals with the best qualities.

Gary Utterberg, Janesville, addressed the Board in opposition of approving health insurance benefits for employees in same-sex relationships who meet eligibility requirements. He explained that it hurts him deeply to say that he strongly disagrees with the resolution that is coming before the County Board tonight. In fairness, he doesn't know what's fair about him taking care of his wife and himself for 40 years. He thinks enough of his wife and himself to buy insurance. He doesn't know what's fair about asking him to pile this resolution on top of it. Mr. Utterberg thinks this resolution has nothing to do with insurance and a lot to do with acceptance and that's the part that hurts him deeply. He knows people who are in relationships and while he cares about them, he loves them enough to tell them the truth. The truth is, in his opinion, that "it's" not the things people should be involved in as these are things that go against God's word, and this is one of them. If the County has so much money that they can spend it "willy-nilly", they must not be worried about snow plows or more Sheriff Deputies or road construction, they need to know that this is not a priority.

12.A. Authorizing acceptance of 2014 Highway Safety Project Grant

Resolution No. 14-1B-494

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 23rd day of January 2014, that the Rock County Sheriff is authorized to accept funds under the Highway Safety Project Grants; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2014 budget be amended as follows:

| <u>Account Description</u> | <u>Budget at</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Amended</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <u>Account Number</u> | <u>01/01/14</u> | <u>Incr (Decr)</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
| <u>Source of Funds</u> | | | |
| Federal Aid | | | |
| 21-2120-2014-42100 | \$0 | \$35,000 | \$35,000 |
| <u>Use of Funds</u> | | | |
| Overtime Wages | | | |
| 21-2120-2014-61210 | \$0 | \$30,001 | \$30,001 |
| Capital Assets \$500-\$4,999 | | | |
| 21-2120-2014-67160 | \$0 | \$4,999 | \$4,999 |

Supervisors Collins and Brill moved the above resolution. ADOPTED on the following roll call vote. Supervisors Peer, Arnold, Grahn, Beaver, Heidenreich, Mawhinney, Richard, Fox, Yankee, Gustina, Bussie, Rundle, Thomas, Knudson, Kraft, Fell, Howland, Nash, Pleasant, Brill, Wiedenfeld, Jensen, Bostwick, Sweeney, Collins, Yoss and Podzilni voted in favor. Supervisors Wopat and Owens were absent. AYES – 27. NOES – 0. ABSENT – 2.

12.B. Approval of Bills Over \$10,000.00 Resolution No. 14-1B-495

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Rock County Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on January 23, 2014, approves payment and authorizes and directs the County Clerk and County Treasurer to pay the same.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Otis Elevator Company | General Services | Contracted Services | \$57,390.80 |
| Wisconsin Counties Association | County Board | Contracted Services | \$18,958.00 |
| Blackhawk Tech. College | Sheriff Office | Contracted Services | \$11,623.07 |
| Beloit Police Dept. | Sheriff Office | Contracted Services | \$11,129.00 |
| Wright Express | Sheriff Office | Contracted Services | \$23,090.70 |
| Youth2Youth | Health Dept | Contracted Services | \$20,000.00 |

Supervisors Mawhinney and Fox moved the above resolution. ADOPTED by acclamation.

12.C. Approval of Encumbrances Over \$10,000.00 Resolution No. 14-1B-496

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Rock County Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on January 23rd, 2014, approves payment and authorizes and directs the County clerk and County Treasurer to pay the same, upon acceptance by the department head.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 3M Electronic Monitoring | Human Services | Contracted Services | \$38,416.00 |
| Aurora Health Care | Human Services | Contracted Services | \$40,000.00 |
| Clean Power LLC | Human Services | Contracted Services | \$10,629.00 |
| Clearview North | Human Services | Contracted Services | \$245,000.00 |
| DNA Diagnostics Center | Child Support | Contracted Services | \$32,000.00 |
| Gregg Investigations Inc. | Child Support | Contracted Services | \$28,900.00 |
| Melissa Brooke Joos, Atty. | Clerk of Courts | Contracted Services | \$44,436.00 |
| Shanna M. Knueppel | Clerk of Courts | Contracted Services | \$44,436.00 |
| Thomas A. Kolpien, Atty. | Clerk of Courts | Contracted Services | \$44,436.00 |
| Mercy Health System | Clerk of Courts | Contracted Services | \$300,941.00 |
| Jennifer Nash Elliott, Atty. | Clerk of Courts | Contracted Services | \$44,436.00 |
| Package Pro Express Delivery | Human Services | Contracted Services | \$20,559.00 |
| Thomson West | Clerk of Courts | Contracted Services | \$32,500.00 |
| UW Hospital and Clinics | Human Services | Contracted Services | \$70,000.00 |

Supervisors Mawhinney and Kraft moved the above resolution. ADOPTED on the following roll call vote. Supervisors Peer, Arnold, Grahn, Beaver, Heidenreich, Mawhinney, Richard, Fox, Yankee, Gustina, Bussie, Rundle, Thomas, Knudson, Kraft, Fell, Howland, Nash, Pleasant, Brill, Wiedenfeld, Jensen, Bostwick, Sweeney, Collins, Yoss and Podzilni voted in favor. Supervisors Wopat and Owens were absent. AYES – 27. NOES – 0. ABSENT – 2.

12.D. To Ratify the 2014 Labor Agreement Between Rock County and AFSCME, Local 2489
Resolution No. 14-1B-497

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors assembled this 23rd day of January, 2014 does hereby ratify the terms and conditions of the 2014 labor agreement with AFSCME, Local 2489.

Supervisors Kraft and Peer moved the above resolution. ADOPTED on the following roll call vote. Supervisors Peer, Arnold, Grahn, Beaver, Heidenreich, Mawhinney, Richard, Fox, Yankee, Gustina, Bussie, Rundle, Thomas, Knudson, Kraft, Fell, Howland, Nash, Pleasant, Brill, Wiedenfeld, Jensen, Bostwick, Sweeney, Collins, Yoss and Podzilni voted in favor. Supervisors Wopat and Owens were absent. AYES – 27. NOES – 0. ABSENT – 2.

12.E. Approving Health Insurance Benefits for Employees in Same Sex Relationships who Meet Eligibility Requirements Resolution No. 14-1B-498

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County board of Supervisors duly assembled on this 23rd day of January, 2014, hereby goes on record in support of allowing access to and offers health care, prescription drug coverage, dental insurance, and other employee benefits to domestic partners of County employees in the same fashion such benefits are extended to spouses of married County Employees. Such benefits shall be provided to the extent allowed by

the IRS and otherwise allowed by law, specifically including any amendments or new enactments of Wisconsin laws relating to domestic partners, civil unions or same sex marriages; and should such amendments or enactments occur, such benefits shall be extended as allowed therein; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County will extend health care, prescription drug coverage, dental insurance, and other employee benefits to all qualifying domestic partners of County employees according to the following guidelines:

1. The definition of domestic partnership of same gender couples used by the County of Rock will be that used by Wis. Stats. Sec. 40.02(21d) and 770.01(1).
2. The County of Rock shall require verification of current valid domestic partner registration pursuant to Wis. Stats. Chapter 770, the Domestic Partnership Act, or the documentation required by any subsequent change in state law.
3. The provision of these benefits will be extended to the dependents of those same gender domestic partners as they would be to the dependents of legally married employees under the then current provision for dependent coverage in the relevant benefit program.
4. The benefits provided to domestic partners and their dependents shall be as nearly equal as possible to those offered to legally married partners, including non-insurance benefits such as funeral leave for the death of a domestic partner and use of sick leave to care for a domestic partner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become effective on March 1, 2014.

Supervisors moved the above resolution. Discussion followed. Many Supervisors explained their position and decision for voting for or against. ADOPTED on the following roll call vote. Supervisors Grahn, Beaver, Heidenreich, Mawhinney, Richard, Fox, Bussie, Rundle, Thomas, Knudson, Kraft, Fell, Howland, Pleasant, Wiedenfeld, Jensen, Bostwick, Sweeney, Collins, and Podzilni voted in favor. Supervisors Peer, Arnold, Yankee, Gustina, Nash, Brill and Yoss voted in opposition. Supervisors Wopat and Owens were absent. AYES – 20. NOES – 7. ABSENT – 2.

County Administrator Craig Knutson made an announcement prior to adjournment.

"After much thought, I have decided to retire as Rock County Administrator effective August 2, 2014. At that point, I will have served well over 35 years in the Administrator's Office, including over 30 years as Rock County Administrator.

It has been a privilege to serve in this position for the past 30 years. I thank the County Board for entrusting me with this responsibility and supporting me for over three decades. I am also grateful to the several thousand employees I have worked with. They have been and are highly skilled and truly dedicated to doing a great job serving our citizens.

Over the next six months I will work with the County Board and staff to ensure a smooth transition to your next County Administrator."

13. Adjournment.

Supervisors Arnold and Peer moved to adjourn at 7:30pm to Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. ADOPTED by acclamation.