

**Minutes of the  
Transition Committee Meeting  
July 17, 2012**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Thomas Rudolph, David Hintz, Ted Cushing, Brian Desmond, Paul Spencer, Margie Sorenson and Jeff Hoffman.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lisa Charbarneau

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ken Kortenhof (Emergency Management Director), Mike Romportl (Land Information Director), Erica Brewster (UW-Extension Family Living Agent) and Jennifer Lueneburg (Employee Services Assistant/recording secretary).

**CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Cushing called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of the Oneida County Courthouse, noting that the meeting notice had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Rudolph, second by Hintz to approve the agenda for the present meeting. Motion carried; all ayes.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Correction to date listed on June 29, 2012 meeting minutes (date listed as May 30, 2012). Motion by Hintz, second by Rudolph to amend and approve the minutes of the June 29, 2012 meeting. Motion carried; all ayes.

**LIST OF COUNTY OWNED PROPERTIES**

Director Romportl provided map, noting excess right of ways. In 1930's and 1940's when properties went tax delinquent, prior to county sale of these properties, the county would reserve 100 feet on each side of the road center line for exceptions. Romportl believes these exceptions were placed for purpose of highway beautification and snow drift prevention. Since that time, sales of these properties have often not included these exceptions and title companies are missing the exceptions due to not searching back further then 30 years. Property owners have the ability to purchase these strips of property but are not required to do so. The properties are only being addressed as they are identified in which a letter will be sent to the property owners.

The Land Information department has identified about 88 scattered properties in the County which were seized due to tax delinquency. Romportl provided listing of a few tax delinquent properties and what needs to be done with them. Most properties are only of value to enjoined property owners. Land Information will take care of setting properties for sale and establishing price but the final sale is approved by the County Board. Sales of these properties must be advertised three times. Discussion of what properties on list have possibility of economic development; no sewer or water on many of properties which makes economic development difficult. Sheriff's Department and Department of Social Services have assisted in seizure process of tax delinquent properties. Sorenson notes 8% reduction in total delinquent property taxes.

There are still no interested purchasers for Wisconsin Public Service property, even with price deduction to \$425,000.

### **UPDATE ON ACT 10/ACT 32**

Phillips & Borowski gave a presentation on June 25<sup>th</sup> outlining the status of pending court cases. The Eau Claire County Sheriff court case has been resolved, the findings stand and the Sheriff's attorney fees addressed. Desmond believes this case will not be appealed. The court case regarding collecting union dues beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> is still pending and being appealed. Sorenson states Finance will not withhold any union dues until case resolved. Phillips & Borowski also discussed other ideas, many involving budget and finances including shared services with other counties, outsourcing activities and merit pay.

### **REVIEW INFORMATION, PRIORITIZE PROJECTS AND SET TENTATIVE COMPLETION DATES FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

- **AMBULANCE SERVICES:** Korten Hof states he went before the Public Safety Committee today and has put together the Request for Proposal which will be sent out August 1<sup>st</sup> and due August 31<sup>st</sup>. An evaluation period is set for September 1<sup>st</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> and contract negotiations will take place October 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. The county plans to sign a contract by November 30<sup>th</sup> with services to start June 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. Ministry Medical is still interested in providing the service and their budget would be their proposal. Several private services including Aspirus are interested in bidding. Korten Hof not sure if private services will be able to make money with the ambulance service and will be very careful in assessment of all Request for Proposals received.
  
- **EFFICIENCY REPORT:** No updates

- **MERIT PAY:** Discussed Oldenburg Group’s forced ranking merit system, done by management.
  
- **STRATEGIC PLAN** – The committee discussed with Erica Brewster of UW-Extension, the current strategic plan for the department. The current plan was done at least 6 years ago and now needs to be updated. Brewster agreeable with starting the process after January 1, 2013 after budget season is complete and suggests some outside resources may be useful in the process. Cushing is agreeable to holding off until January 1, 2013 but asks that Brewster start to review the current plan for changes and updates. Discussed combining the D.I.D. report and updating the strategic plan into one process. Rudolph clarifies that county comprehensive plan should be incorporated into the strategic plan. Hintz notes budget process should also be incorporated as well.
  
- **NEW SOURCES OF REVENUE:** Spencer states budget cuts for upcoming fiscal year not as bad as originally projected. Sorenson notes delinquent taxes are down and interest earnings still only .25%. Sales tax revenue up 2% but budgeted for a 3% increase. County gets sales tax from sales of Hodag Country Fest tickets; record year. The Town of Lynne mining project may be a future source of revenue.
  
- **DEPARTMENT CONSOLIDATION:** Land and Water Conservation/UW-Extension department consolidation running into problems due to the state has problems with UW-Extension supervising Land and Water Conservation staff. Sorenson states other possibilities would be keeping departments separate, combining UW-Extension with Forestry or Planning and Zoning or cutting a support staff position. Each possibility has drawbacks and depends on how much the county wants to spend on conservation. Rudolph notes much of the money for Land and Water Conservation comes from non-county sources such as DNR grants and DATCP (Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection) funding.

**OUT OF COUNTY TRAVEL REQUESTS**

None

**FUTURE MEETING DATES**

August 2012 meeting date left open due to lack of agenda items at this time.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ambulance services update

Merit pay

Department consolidation

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Hintz, second by Rudolph to adjourn the meeting at 2:40pm. Motion carried; all ayes.

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Ted Cushing  
Chairman

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Lisa Charbarneau  
Committee Secretary