

**Minutes**  
Eau Claire County  
Committee on Administration  
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.  
*Virtual Meeting*

Present: Gerald Wilkie, Colleen Bates, Mark Beckfield, Ray Henning, Nick Smiar

Others: Samantha Kraegenbrink – Committee Clerk, Kathryn Schauf, Matt Theisen, Norb Kirk, Sonja Leenhouts, Jessica Rubin, Tim Sullivan, Dave Hayden, Rod Eslinger

Public: Supervisors Dane Zook, Donald Mowry, Judy Gatlin and Jim Dunning. Ryan Patterson - Leader Telegram, others present

Chair Smiar called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and confirmed meeting notice.

Verbal roll call was taken by the committee clerk and listed above under present.

No public comments were submitted and no public joining the meeting wished to make comment.

The committee reviewed the minutes from November 10, 2020. Supervisor Bates motioned to approve, seconded by Supervisor Beckfield. No additions or corrections were noted. Minutes were approved as presented.

Kathryn Schauf provided a brief overview of the connection between Economic Development Corporation and County Government. Without objection, Luke Hanson, Executive Director of the EDC provided a presentation/further information about the EDC and its needs including focus areas in 2021 and the CINC network.

Dave Hayden provided background information on File No. 20-21/099: Authorizing the County to proceed with a project to provide broadband services to a rural area near the City of Augusta, and to apply for grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to help pay for the project. The committee discussed the information provided and resolution. Supervisor Wilkie motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Bates. Supervisor Mowry, without objection, provided clarification that the resolution would indicate that the County would provide \$30,000.00 from the IS budget for the project. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

The committee reviewed File No. 20-21/092 – Resolution creating a select committee to serve as the Building Committee for the Highway Department Building project authorized by the County Board. Supervisor Beckfield motioned to approved, seconded by Supervisor Henning. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Tim Sullivan provided a brief overview of File No. 20-21/097 – Resolution requesting that the State of Wisconsin provide increased funding for the County Child Support Program. Motion by Supervisor Henning, seconded by Supervisor Bates. The committee further discussed the resolution. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Motion by Supervisor Henning, seconded by Supervisor Bates to discuss File No. 20-21/098 – Resolution supporting the creation of the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission with counties and municipalities. Without objection, Supervisor Jim Dunning provided further information/detail on the resolution. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Motion by Supervisor Wilkie, seconded by Supervisor Beckfield to discuss. File No. 20-21/098 – Resolution supporting the creation of the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission with counties and municipalities. Kathryn Schauf provided background on the resolution. Correction to line item 16 from five to “seven consecutive terms.” All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

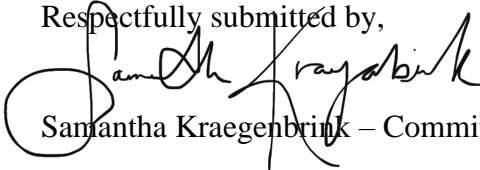
Kathryn Schauf provided information on the hiring of Rich White’s services to the County, providing context from a letter sent to the County Board by Tim Sullivan. The committee discussed the matter. Supervisor Wilkie asked for the Administrative Committee to be involved in and receive updates on the outside attorney's role and any future cases involving outside counsel, either in open or closed sessions. Supervisor Wilkie stated this past practice has worked well and would avoid after the fact conflicting information. We can also know how the outside council is preventing potential liability and not impeding a thorough and expedited investigation into DHS's financial practices. Chair Smiar directed Supervisor Wilkie's comments be put in the minutes. Supervisor Bates advised that she feels as though the Administrator followed the direction of the County’s Legal Counsel appropriately and that it is not the scope, nor the responsibility of elected officials to interfere or question the workings of the legal advisement. Tim Sullivan provided general comments/responses as they relate to the hiring of Rich White’s service.

Chair Smiar appoints Diane Hunter (LEPC), Bruce King (LIC) and Mery Price (City/County Board of Health.) Motion by Supervisor Wilkie, seconded by Supervisor Beckfield. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

Chair Smiar advises that a draft list for the Taskforce on Communicable Disease was submitted to the committee prior to the meeting. Motion by Supervisor Bates to approve the draft list of members, seconded by Supervisor Wilkie. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha Kraegenbrink". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Samantha Kraegenbrink – Committee Clerk