

## LWV Observer Corps Report February 2021

### **Two Rivers City Council Meeting Observer Summary- Sue Matczynski**

**2-1-2021**

#### Highlights:

- At the first meeting of the Splash Pad and Skating Rink Planning Committee, safety concerns were raised regarding the use of the Central Park location due to high traffic. The Council approved contracting with a Madison firm for design.
- There continues to be progress on redevelopment of the former M&M property, with the name of the developer to be shared with the public by the end of February.
- A full calendar of events is planned for the summer of 2021: Bands on the Beach, Beach Bash, downtown concerts, two major softball tournaments, two beach volleyball tournaments, outdoor movies, the return of Snowfest, the second annual Celebrate Two Rivers, Fish Derby, Cool City Car Cruise and Show, return of the CRAW (catamaran association) Two Rivers Regatta, Kites over Lake Michigan and Ethnic Festival.
- Wisconsin is in good financial shape with a \$1.75 billion surplus, which bodes well for Two Rivers (given that half of the city's budget is dependent upon shared revenue).
- The Spring Primary Election on February 16<sup>th</sup> will have only one polling location (at City Hall) as there is one contest – State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Meeting time: 1 ¼ hours

**2-15-2021**

#### Highlights:

- Council members requested a presentation by the new Executive Director of Progress Lakeshore, Jamie Zastrow, as they are interested in what the organization did for Two Rivers in 2020 and what it intends to do in 2021.
- The City Manager congratulated The Metalware Corporation on being named 2020 Large Business of the Year by the Chamber of Manitowoc County.
- The City Manager shared information from the Environmental Advisory Board Meeting regarding the performance of the city's storm water ponds and upcoming regulations regarding the level of pollutants in the East and West Twin Rivers.
- The Council voted to apply the funds bequeathed by former City Council member Jim Taddy to the Splash Pad/Ice Skating Rink project.
- The Council approved city staff activities necessary for the creation of a new Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) district to assist with new development at the Woodland Industrial Park.

Meeting time: 2 hours

**Two Rivers School District Meeting  
Observer Summary- Mary Wallace**

**2-8-2021**

TR High School principal is recommending that the school partner with UWGB's Rising Phoenix Program which allows selected students the opportunity to earn up to an Associate Degree by high school graduation at no cost to them. Ten students would be solicited on the basis of financial need and their status as first-time college students in their families. Other students may take classes, but there would be some cost to their families for UWGB classes. This program would be taught by high school teachers with the academic qualifications to teach college level courses as well as distance and in person learning at UWGB campuses.

The school district is putting out an RFP for a District Facility Assessment with a target date of June for a report with recommendations and cost analysis.

The District is still waiting for some of the chrome books that it ordered last fall.

**2-22-2021**

The Board approved the UWGB Rising Phoenix Program for college courses and credits for first time potential college students. They can earn up to an Associate Degree at no parental expense.

The Board approved a new position of School/Community Health, Fitness, Wellness and Recreation Coordinator.

The Board approved 2020/2021 mid-year budget revisions, which included \$184,747 for the voucher program.

Staff gave a report on The Professional Learning Community (PLC) collaborative teams and the work being done. This included looking at math and ELA scores on standardized tests which measure achievement towards standards and growth which compares a student to other students. They did not see as much regression due to the pandemic and virtual learning as they expected.

Students were surveyed re their sense of belonging to the school community and if they had one trusted adult at school.

**Manitowoc County Human Services Board Monthly Meeting  
Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

**2-25-2021**

**Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

**2-25-2021**

In person and remote. Commenting by the public remoting was possible at the start of the meeting for the first time since the ZOOM era

Present: Agnew, Baumann, Burke, Cavanaugh, Nasep, Shimulunas , Ruggirello, Williams. Henrickson excused. County Staff Present: Bruns, J. Foster, L. Fure, Joas, Randolph, Kubec, Dodge, Ziegelbauer

Jena Foster shared details of her department, **Parent Support Worker Program (PSW)** which has a current staff of 3 full and 1 part time workers as the education topic.

- If children are separated from parents a visit must be arranged within 5 days. If the placement is with extended family members than those visits can occur in that setting while the parent is under separation orders
- After that initial visit there is a requirement for one weekly visit. If a parent is in treatment this cannot occur. ACE testing and other EB tools are used to pinpoint the needs of the adults and the children. PSW are trained to offer parent education. Visits continue after the kids are back home.
- Visits in 2020 to current has been a blend of virtual with in person visits only occurring since May 2020 in county facilities. All visits are supervised and monitored by staff. Jan 2021 saw 51 families served with 117 supervised visits with 264 hours of Face-to-Face visit time.

Clinical Services Supervisor Lori Fure and Human Service Director Patricia Dodge shared details of the request for a new position of **Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)** Program Supervisor.

- The eleven current employees in the clinical services division along with this new position would all report to Lori Fure and will monitor compliance of CCS and assist with billing and supervision of all clinical programs. See below for general CCS funding info.
- Request passed HSB unanimously and moves to the finance and personnel/finance committees and then the County Board.
- Lori Fure was asked for her opinion of legalizing Marijuana for recreational use by Supervisor Baumann. Her response was that “grass or pot is not as dangerous as alcohol is to the long term mental and physical health of the general public. He then stated that the police and sheriff do oppose legalizing the recreational use of it.

The WI auditors committee visited Manitowoc Co today to do **it's 2-year review of the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program** resulted in a very positive review. 'Looks better than 2 years ago' was the bottom line. Only one data point needed clarification and that was done successfully within the day.

- The **CCS Program** has a \$2.3 million budget covering services for the psycho/social/rehabilitation needs of any county resident from children thru the elderly. The funding comes from billing Medical Assistance directly for all costs and when reconciliation of the year occurs, any cost not funded by the original direct billing of MA is then also covered.
- Currently CCS has 11 county case managers along with 20 contracted providers who together have 100 employees. These services relieve pressure on the other areas of the department such as mental health outpatient and children's placements.
- **Lori Fure said that in 2014- 2 case managers and 4 contract providers did this work.**

Nancy Randolph said that without CCS her division of **Child and Family Services** would be impossible as so many would have to be placed in expensive out of county placements because of mental health issues.

- 30 kids are on wait lists now. 2 newly hired staff will reduce that soon.

Lori Garceau reported as of Feb 2021 the energy assistance requests will go to an on-line service to determine eligibility of any rental assistance in the future. Staff continues to deal with all local crises. Due to Covid there is no April 15 deadline for energy assistance.

- **NOTE Learned after this meeting** No information was yet available as to how to apply for the **new state/federal funding program** offering rent help for families with a monthly income at or below 80% of the Manitowoc Co median income. That eligible monthly income totals for a family of 1 is \$3,471 and \$6542 for families of 8.

**Lakeland Cares and the Family Care** Price change in funding starting 4/1/2021 was asked about by a committee member.

- Lakeland Cares' budget is down \$10 million in 2021. The state has changed the rates paid to group homes and residential care facilities.
- Pre change all payments were identical. Now rates will be determined on the needs of the person not just the #s in the facilities. It is now a 6-7% lower reimbursement basic level though some places will get an increase as some locations had before not been reimbursed for the needed/actual level of care provided. Nursing homes are not affected by this change.

HS Director Patricia Dodge will meet soon with the WI Secretary of Human Services discussing the potential collaboration with other counties to develop a regional residential group home for children with higher needs in the community.

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
- May is Foster Parents Recruitment month
- Staff openings include 2 AODA counselor, 1 CCC facilitator, 1 LTE for C Family Support unit

## **Next Human Services Board meeting March 25 4:45PM.**

PUBLIC COMMENT by: Nancy Slattery, not representing the LWV, prior to the start of the meeting

She spoke supporting the education topic (Parent Support Worker Program) and also the request to authorize a CCS Program Supervisor position. The position would be almost fully funded by Medicaid so it would not be an expense for the county. She would also encourage advertising with a higher salary, so we don't get them all trained and then they leave.

## **Manitowoc County CJCC Meeting**

**Next meeting will be in May**

## **Manitowoc County CJCC Executive Committee Meeting Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

**2-15-2021**

General public was able to speak via zoom along with all of other attendees.

Location 12:15 p.m. Courthouse & Zoom Videoconference--

ATTENDANCE: Judge Mark Rohrer, chairperson, Ann Larson, Jacalyn LaBre, Lynn Zigmunt

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Kevin Mueller OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: James Falkowski, Nancy Slattery

- Discussion on when and where to hold the large general **CJCC** meeting. Agreed to wait to try and hold it in person if possible,
- Where? Expo but that has issues with sound quality for zoom attendees though the space is large enough for social distancing.
- Judge Rohrer suggested scheduling the general meeting in May when hopefully more people have an opportunity to become vaccinated and asked when the next **CJCC Executive Committee** will be. All agreed that April would probably work best and allow sufficient time for notice to be given.
- The next **Executive** Committee meeting will be scheduled for **4-19-21 @ 12:15 p.m. by Zoom**, and the next **general CJCC meeting** will be scheduled for **May 5, 2021, at 4:45 p.m.**, with the location to be determined if it can be held in-person.
- Judge Rohrer provided a brief update on Drug Court as Jason Latva was absent.
  1. Judge Dewane is still utilizing Zoom for staffing and participants' appearances.
  2. All feel the absence of in person sessions.

3. Two or three might join Drug Court soon and one might be revoked. In the Diversion Program one is hopefully beginning soon also

Meeting length 13 Minutes

**Manitowoc Public School District Meeting \*All the School Board meeting handouts are not all available to the public. The observer will be continuing to address this issue with the Board President and the Administration to promote public access and information transparency.**

**Observer Summary- Linda Gratz**

**2-9-2021**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00.

- The Student Showcase was made by Washington Middle School staff and was on Engaging Students and Improving Behaviors.
- Cares funding was discussed. It will be distributed by DPI and will reimburse for Covid related expenses i.e., possible resources for children who are struggling with learning, air exchange equipment, and summer school costs. These expenses can be incurred through August 2023.
- The Board President asked the Superintendent how citizens can access reports that are part of the agenda, but not attached to the agenda. Reports that are on the public agenda for the meetings will be available to the public from now on by making a request to the Administrative Assistant Laurie Braun at [Braunla@mpsd.school](mailto:Braunla@mpsd.school) . \* This is something we have been requesting in the past and have not received. I will follow up with a request to the district for future agenda items. We will also continue to encourage the district to automatically add these to the public agenda.
- The referendum was discussed and included the fact that they will be requesting a 3-year, 4.3-million-dollar referendum for operations. The first year the levy is expected to decrease by 1 cent. Even if the referendum passes, they will still need to cut the budget by 1.3 million. The tax levy of \$7.81 is the lowest of any school district in the county. **For complete information on the referendum go to the Manitowoc Public School District website and click on the referendum tab.**
- The district is planning on returning to full time in person learning on March 8<sup>th</sup> and will try to meet the CDC guidelines to the best of their ability. They are working with HFM and hope to start vaccinating teachers and staff prior to opening. Families who want their children to stay with virtual learning will be allowed to continue with that model.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02

2-23-21

The meeting was called to order at noon.

- The Student Showcase for the meeting was presented by the staff at Jackson Elementary school and was on Building Professional Learning Communities.
- Fall sports will be beginning in March.
- There was a discussion of the approval of administrative contracts and whether or not they should wait until after the April referendum in case cuts had to be made. A motion to wait until after the spring election failed by a vote of 3 to 3. The motion to go ahead with the approval of contracts passed.
- The January enrollment count was down considerably from the September count to the January count. They will be monitoring this and trying to determine why the numbers are dropping.
- Update on returning to school was presented by the Superintendent. The survey of parents has indicated that about 12.7% want to remain virtual. The district is working on a plan with HFM for vaccinations for staff. They surveyed staff and out of 654 responding, 467 want the vaccine, 12.5% already have the vaccine, 24 are planning on getting it on their own, and 80 have indicated that they don't want the vaccine. They will not be able to maintain the 6 feet distancing in the classroom, but will require mask and other CDC guidelines for sanitation.
- The district is continuing to provide information to the public regarding the need to pass the referendum. They will be speaking to community groups and holding virtual and maybe in-person meetings.
- The school district will begin to meet in person at the next school board meeting, but will allow for virtual attendance also. 8 candidates are running for 4 seats on the board in the April election.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58.

### **Manitowoc County Board Meeting**

**Observer Summary- We need a reporter for this meeting. If you are interested in this please contact [llgratz47@gmail.com](mailto:llgratz47@gmail.com)**

**See agenda, minutes and You Tube recordings for details not mentioned here (available on the county website- Manitowoc County, Government, County Board)**

2-19-2021

**Observer Summary: Nancy Slattery**

of recorded video and published minutes. The live link to the official county board minutes is at <https://www.co.manitowoc.wi.us/media/10022/minutes-2-9-2021.pdf> It is 52 minutes long.

---The minutes are an outline of speaker lineup and listing of items discussed and who reported. 21 supervisors present 4 excused. No details given except that all items were carried unanimously. **If want any more info you would have to listen/view the video of the meeting available here-which starts about 3 minutes in at this You Tube link** <https://www.youtube.com/embed/f2Qbplp6MDw?rel=0>

---When viewing and listening to this meeting, the information shared by County Board Chairperson J Brey for the **agenda item -Executive Committee – Report of Special Committee on Number and Apportionment of Supervisory Districts** was not as complete as hoped so am including a link below directing you to those notes from that **actual meeting which occurred on 2/1/2021**

Supervisor Brey included in his report on 2/9 to the County Board that the committee had decided two things, the Special Committee on Number and Apportionment of Supervisory Districts **officers, and that the number of county supervisory positions would remain at 25 for the next 10 years.** This would give the county staff working on the maps one less unknown as they await the final census data, which he stated is now due to be released after July 31, 2021 what with COVID and other delays rather than in March as is normal. It would also keep the city aldermanic districts matching the county board supervisor districts.

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**2/2/2021 & notice of 3/16, 2021 5:45 pm the Special Committee on Number and Apportionment of Supervisory District meeting just prior to the 6:30 pm March County Board meeting.**

Below is the link to the **past minutes of their 2/1/2021 meeting.** Lots of detail was included. I recommend reading it yourself. **Many supervisors spoke and their comments** were included by note taker **Jessica Backus, County Clerk.**

<https://www.co.manitowoc.wi.us/media/9992/2-1-2021-minutes.pdf>

Meeting time 52 minutes

**\*The next meeting for this special committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2021 TIME: 5:45 P.M. PLACE: Expo Merchants Building 4921 Expo Dr. No zoom option is listed. The agenda lists one item- Discussion and action on the Resolution Establishing Number of Supervisory Districts with the usual note- “Any person wishing to attend the meeting who requires special accommodation because of a disability should contact the County Clerk’s office at 920-683-4003 at least 24 hours before the meeting begins so that appropriate accommodations can be made.”**



**Manitowoc Common Council Meeting  
Observer Summary- Christine Aguilar**

**2-15-2021**

**Call to order** by Mayor Justin Nickels at 6:30 PM, Nine present  
**Pledge of Allegiance and Remembrance of Scott Means who lost his father.**

**Presentations:**

- **Oath of office and badge pinning** for Police Officers Jeremy Sonnenburg and Joe McDonald.
- **Proclamation declaring February 2021, Black History Month.**

**Public Hearings:**

- Proposed changes for amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Section 15.330(2) allowing ammunition manufacturing and storage as a permitted use. No public comments were made.
- Proposed change in zone from R-6 Multiple Family District to B-2 Neighborhood Business District for the property located at 2105 Western Avenue.  
The following public comments were made in person regarding the proposed change. Tracy Hunt has concerns about parking and traffic and that housing will be removed from the city. She is also concerned that it is spot zoning that only benefits the owner of the property.  
Kathy Swetlek and her husband purchased the property and is requesting rezoning for a dog grooming business. She presented the plan for remodeling and parking. She also said the location of the property is across from Holy Family and other businesses. In addition, the property was Robin's Gift Shop at one time in the past.
- Public comment via email: Ten citizens wrote in opposition to extending the mask mandate.

**Consent agenda:** no items were added, Consent Agenda was approved.

**Plan Commission Reports:**

Following proposed change was **approved:**

- Proposed change in zone from R-6 Multiple Family District to B-2 Neighborhood Business District for the property located at 2105 Western Avenue.

**Committee of the Whole:**

- **Approved** Special event for St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 13, 2021
- **Approved** mask requirement in city owned buildings through April 30, 2021.

### **Finance Committee:**

- **Approved** Resolution Terminating TID District 10 and Authorizing Treasurer to Distribute Excess Increment to Overlaying Districts.
- **Approved** Resolution Terminating TID District 12 and Authorizing Treasurer to Distribute Excess Increment to Overlaying Districts.
- **Adopted** Amendment to Ordinance Section 11.100 of the Municipal Code to clarify license fee for Mobile Food Vendor License.
- **Approved** 2021 Budget Amendment to include \$135,000 to the contingency and offsetting the Fund Balance Applied.
- **Adopted** Resolution authorizing the issuance and establishing parameters for the sale of not to exceed \$2,600,000 taxable general obligation promissory notes.
- **Adopted** Resolution authorizing the issuance and establishing parameters for the sale of not to exceed \$2,700,000 general obligation refunding bonds.
- **Adopted** Scope of Engagement relative to the Proposed Issuance of \$2,700,000 City of Manitowoc General Obligation Refunding Bonds.
- **Adopted** Scope of Engagement relative to the Proposed Issuance of \$2,600,000 City of Manitowoc Taxable General Obligation Promissory Notes.
- **Adopted to accept and place on file** Report of 2020 Municipal Court Revenues & Caseload Statistics.
- **Adopted** Report of Industrial Development Corporation of 1/13/21 recommending to approve the land sale and site plan for the Dramm Corporation, for a new building located on Lot 8, Block 1, 1-43 Industrial Park No.2, encompassing 15.62 acres.
- **Adopted** Report of Industrial Development Corporation of 1/13/21 recommending to approve the land sale to AMMO, Inc. and to go on record in support of the text amendment permitting ammunition manufacturing and storage in the I-1 Light Industrial Zoning District.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve Rahr-West Art Museum Strategic Plan 2020-2025, including the exception of the 2023 market season.
- **Approved** Agreement for Management Services of 2021-2023 Manitowoc Farmers' Market.

### **Personnel Committee:**

- **Approved** Police Contract Bargaining.
- **Approved** Deputy Fire Chief Request for Approval of Job Description Revisions.

### **Public Infrastructure Committee:**

- **Approved** Resolution authorizing public improvement and levying special assessments against benefitted property located on North Rapids Road.
- **Approved** Delayed Assessment Agreement with Debra, Shirley, and Randall Kapitz for a sanitary sewer assessment at 1608 North Rapids Road.
- **Approved** Sidewalk privilege agreement with Coffey Enterprises, LLC.
- **Approved** Agreement between the City of Manitowoc and the Aging & Disability Resource Center of the Lakeshore Senior Nutrition Program regarding the dining site.

**Public Safety Committee:**

- **Approved 7-2** Ordinance to regulate outdoor lighting.
- **Approved** Request for reconfiguration of intersection of Cleveland Ave. and Maritime Dr.
- **Adopted** Resolution to backfill Assistant Chief of Fire Rescue.
- **Adopted** Resolution to backfill Building Inspector position due to a retirement.

**Plan Commission:**

- **Adopted** Holy Family Memorial/Core Treatment Services Annual Review of a Conditional Use Permit for the establishment of a Transitional Housing Residential Treatment Center in the B-1 Office-Residential Zoning District located at 3 Riverview Dr. Also adopted removal of the annual review.
- **Adopted 8-1** Michael Plate. D.b.a Plate Enterprises: Annual Review of a Conditional Use Permit for the operation of a Recycling Facility Located at 1107 Franklin Street.
- **Adopted** Knutson, Annual Review of a Conditional Use Permit for an Open Sales Lot located at 2020 Dufek Drive.
- **Adopted** Annual Review of Community Living Arrangements.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve the revised fee schedule for the Community Development Department.
- **Adopted** Ordinance to Amend Chapter 15 of the Municipal Code to allow ammunition manufacturing in a “I-1” Light Industrial Zone

**Other Business:** No other business.

Adjourned approximately 7:31 pm.

For further information click on <https://manitowoc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to see the Common Council Meeting Details, Agenda, Video and when completed the Minutes.

**\*Denotes things to watch for in the future**