

LWV Observer Corps Report February 2022

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

Two Rivers City Council Meeting Observer Summary- Sue Matczynski

2-7-2022

Highlights:

- Council members reported they had been contacted by citizens with questions and concerns regarding 5G; expressing a preference for the location of the Project 365 splash pad at Washington Park rather than Central Park; complaining about snowmobile noise on the East Twin River late at night; and expressing concern about the impact of the ice rink on the underlying asphalt at Washington Park.
- Invited guest Kay Koach, a member of TRIAD (a service organization affiliated with the police), shared her organization will be selling Kwik Trip car wash cards for fundraising and interested buyers should contact the City Manager's secretary at (920)793-5532.
- The City Manager shared the following:
 - Fundraising has started for the Central Park West Project.
 - The City has entered a contract with Amy James of Neenah for tourism promotion and development.
 - Work has begun on the 20th Street stormwater pond.
 - The City has purchased a 2011 ambulance for the Fire Department to replace the 2009 ambulance with 230,000 miles. While a new ambulance had been budgeted for, it was unavailable due to the microchip shortage.
 - Among city employment vacancies are four police patrol positions.
 - There are concerns about wind-blown sand along South Lakeshore and Memorial Drive. The rise in the level of Lake Michigan in recent years led to vegetation loss along the lakeshore, and now that the lake is 28-30 inches below its level from two years ago there is no vegetation to prevent the wind from blowing sand from the unbroken stretch of beach onto roads.
 - City staff are participating in Wisconsin Department of Transportation webinars regarding the roll-out of the federal infrastructure bill fund for local street and bridge projects.
 - Two Rivers will host a visit from residents of its sister city (Domazlice, Czech Republic) for a week, starting May 28th.
 - The League of Woman Voters will sponsor a forum for City Council candidates on February 24th at 6:30 PM and the Two Rivers Business Bureau will sponsor a candidate forum on March 10th. Both forums will be live-streamed and on cable.
- The City Council:
 - Adopted a resolution terminating Tax Incremental District No. 4 (the Lakeshore Park Redevelopment TID) as it has reached the end of its statutory life.
 - Adopted a resolution directing city staff to proceed with activities necessary for amending the project plan for Tax Incremental Financing District No. 7 to allow

expenditure of funds for planned street and utility infrastructure improvements on 17th Street and Zlatnik Drive.

- Adopted a resolution authorizing the City Clerk to determine the number of election inspectors needed for elections held in the City of Two Rivers.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of up to \$601,130 Storm Water Revenue Bonds and approval of related \$858,758 Financial Assistance Agreement with the State of Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Administration.
- Authorized the City Manager to sign a Purchase and Redevelopment Agreement for the former Uni-Mart property with Wine Not LLC which proposes developing the property into a multi-unit retail business including the rental of recreation equipment (golf carts, e-bikes, paddle boards, kayaks, kick sleds and snowshoes), a gift shop and a gelato bar.
- Upon the recommendation of the Police Chief, approved the requested waiver of a Sex Offender Residency Appeal.
- Approved the City Manager's appointment of Jacqueline Ackerman to the Committee on Aging.

Meeting time: 1 hour and 25 minutes

Two Rivers City Council Meeting

2-21-2022

Highlights:

- The Council had a moment of silence in remembrance of Two Rivers High School student Zachary Benson, who died on February 8, 2022.
- There was no public comment on a resolution to vacate and discontinue an undeveloped pedestrian way from the Sandy Bay Highlands subdivision to Picnic Hill; the resolution was adopted by the Council and the official map of the subdivision was revised to reflect this.
- Council members reported citizen contacts regarding concern about the audio on Facebook for City Council meetings; the absence of information on a Police Department's poster regarding how to contribute to the K-9 program; and the desire to see a demonstration of the skills of the new canine officer at the dog park.
- A Council member reported on the plan to paint murals at two businesses in downtown Two Rivers, as well as a series of murals focusing on the Legends of Two Rivers.
- The Police Department's Canine Officer, Xanti (a German Shepard), was sworn in and Firefighter/Paramedic Richard Barbier was given his badge upon completion of his probationary period.
- The City Manager shared the following:
 - Staffing updates included the appointment of a new Water Utility Director and a new City Electrician; the Senior Center Supervisor and Parks and Recreation Director have both resigned and recruitment has begun; and there are currently five patrol officer vacancies in the Police Department.

- \$10,000 façade grants have been awarded to Hook, Lanes and Games (the former Rudy's Lanes) and the Cool City Brewery.
- Fundraising continues for the Central Park West 365 Project, and all the bandstand benches have sponsors.
- The League of Woman Voters will sponsor a forum for City Council candidates on February 24th at 6:30 PM and the Two Rivers Business Bureau will sponsor a candidate forum on March 10th. Both forums will be live-streamed and on cable.
- The City Council:
 - Received a presentation from Tiffany Samuels of NSight regarding 5G facilities; she clarified there is no 5G licensing in Manitowoc County at this point. The City Manager shared there are limits as to what the City can do regarding this technology as it is subject to State and Federal regulation.
 - Adopted an ordinance which allows notices for public nuisance violations to be sent by First Class mail.
 - Adopted the 2022 Open Space Plan as recommended by the Advisory Recreation Board.
 - Discussed authorizing the Façade and Sign Grant Program for businesses outside of the area served by Two Rivers Main Street's Façade and Sign Grant Program.
 - Awarded the bid for a drive-through window at the Senior Center but rejected a bid for tennis and pickleball courts construction at Washington Park. One bid of \$280,060 was received which exceeded the project's budget of \$150,000. City staff will evaluate cost-saving options and re-bid the project.
 - Adopted a resolution of commendation of Lieutenant Karen Elsenpeter who was selected as the Two Rivers Police Officer of the Year by her fellow officers.
 - Adopted a resolution designating signers on the City's bank accounts.
 - Adopted a resolution to levy special assessments upon the properties fronting 17th Street from East Park Street to Jefferson Street and 17th Street and from East Street to Zlatnik Drive.

Meeting time: 2 hours and 6 minutes

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

2-14-2022 No Report Available

Highlights:

Two Rivers School District Meeting 2-28-2022

Highlights:

There is a state wide proclamation naming March 7-11 as School Breakfast week in honor of 30 years of this program.

There are 4 openings on the school board. Five candidates were present and answered questions from the board.

The poverty rate is 52% in Two Rivers and this was the first year the school district reached a grant of \$90,000 towards food costs because of the high poverty rate.

The survey was sent out to Two Rivers residents regarding an assessment of school facilities and needs and 535 surveys have been received back so far. District personnel will be holding meetings with community groups to get their input on priorities and whether a referendum will be needed in the future.

A high school Raider Reporter newsletter is being started.

The District has had 2 weeks of zero covid cases.

The Board voted not to give themselves a stipend.

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting Observer Summary- Linda Gratz

2-8-2022

Highlights:

- The meeting started with public input and took a brief break when someone came up on stage to handout documents to the board members. The superintendent escorted him off the stage and the meeting resumed. After public input some people in the audience interrupted a board member's report and the board was forced to take a 5-minute break. The Superintendent reminded the audience members that this is a board meeting and the public input session was now closed.
- Personnel Committee reported on discussions regarding dual licensing for middle school teachers, parent survey for the 2022-23 calendar, para-professionals wages, and staff safety. There were many concerns expressed regarding staff safety and student behavior .
- Curriculum Committee discussed career planning in the High School.

- Superintendent report included information about Covid protocols and the fact that numbers are declining and teacher absences are down. The district's Ad Hoc Covid protocol committee and the district's internal committee will be meeting soon to discuss the protocols. Braunel/Soeldner moved that the mask mandate be ended immediately; the motion failed.
- Suspension information was discussed. All district staff are taking part in training to deescalate behaviors. They are focusing on improving behaviors in the schools by focusing on teaching and behaviors. They have been seeing many more behavior problems especially at the middle schools. The number of suspensions among 6th graders is highest.
- A board member posed a question to the Superintendent whether the information that Manitowoc is in the bottom 8% of school districts in the state is accurate. The superintendent stated that DPI does not rank schools like that and that there is no state wide ranking system.
- There was further discussion regarding dual licensing in the middle school. The board approved compensating teachers who volunteer to get their dual license by giving them \$2,000 on a one-time basis to help cover costs involved.
- Kathy Willis reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Student Behaviors has been meeting weekly to discuss the issues and possible interventions. The committee is made up of school board members, community representatives, and parents.

The next meeting will be at noon on February 22nd.

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting

2-22-22

Highlights:

- A possible wage restructuring plan was presented which also looks at paraprofessional salaries. Some of the Covid money (ESSER III) could be used to help with recruiting and retaining staff.
- There was a discussion regarding district demographics and how the MPSD compares to other school districts of similar size in the state, with Manitowoc being one of the lowest spending districts. There is a direct correlation between district spending and the average family income in the district. The best indicators for student success include attendance, advanced classes, and co-curricular participation at the secondary level.
- There was further discussion of what information we could gather to reflect on our successes as a district instead of one-time test scores.

- A discussion followed regarding how the board should move forward to set goals for the district.
- Because of safety concerns the board discussed whether or not they should move to virtual meetings for a while and eliminate public input. There were concerns voiced over safety for board and audience members and disruption of the meetings making it harder to carry out board business. Comments were made that they keep hearing the same concerns over and over again and that the public input session isn't worthwhile. A compromise was made that the meetings would be virtual, but would allow for public input.

Next meeting Virtual Tuesday March 8th at 7:00.

**Manitowoc County Board Meeting
Observer Summary- JoEllen Gramling**

2-15-2022

Highlights:

REPORTS OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS, OFFICERS, AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

- Corporation Counsel Peter Conrad reported typographical corrections made to many chapters of the Manitowoc County Code of Ordinances.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Margaret Pawwles, recently appointed to the county library board, spoke regarding the need for a way of avoiding delivery of inappropriate e-books to children. Currently, nothing prevents children from accessing any of the library's e-books.
- Maura Yost, Town of Centerville, advocated for a half cent county-wide sales tax.

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE:

- County Executive Ziegelbauer's appointment of Bob Salm to the Board of Adjustment to fill a vacancy for the remainder of the term expiring July 2023 approved unanimously.
- County Executive Ziegelbauer's appointment of Richard Wegner to the Board of Adjustment to fill an alternate vacancy for a three-year term expiring February 2025 approved unanimously.
- County Executive Ziegelbauer's appointment of Alternate Gary Mueller and Dan Diedrich to the Traffic Safety Commission approved unanimously.
- County Executive Ziegelbauer's appointment of new member Curtis Green to the Traffic Safety Commission was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Board of Health: Supervisor Nickels gave a report on their meeting of Feb 10. Dr. Nelson is stepping down from the board after many years. Community health assessment being conducted. Covid cases in the county are declining, as are hospitalizations, though deaths remain high, mostly among those not fully vaccinated.
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council: Supervisor Falkowski reported that eleven persons are currently enrolled of which 7 are employed. All are participating in the Comprehensive Community Services program. Four additional candidates are under consideration. Copies of the LWV Mental Health Court study were distributed to each County Board Supervisor.
- Executive Committee: Chairperson Brey reported that the committee unanimously approved Manitowoc County's continuing participation in the Wisconsin Counties Utilities Tax Association.
Resolution 2021/2022-59 Opposing Wisc Senate Bill 829 Relating to the Distribution of Proceeds from the Sale of Tax Delinquent Property was approved unanimously. Corp Counsel Peter Conrad explained that the Senate bill is being fast-tracked by the state legislature, is being promoted by the Wisconsin Realtors Board, and would be a bad deal for counties. Results of the Board's vote will be swiftly communicated to the state legislature.
- Expo-Ice Center Board: Supervisor Sitkiewitz reported that polka music and the sea lion show will be back at the fair for 2022.
- Highway Committee: Supervisor Behnke reported on discussions from their meeting of Feb. 8.
- Human Services Board: Supervisor Henrickson reported that at their 2/27 meeting, Nancy Slattery gave copies of the Mental Health Court Study to all board members. Child protective services referrals and energy assistance cases have increased. Ten staff openings exist.
- Personnel Committee: Supervisor Maresh gave a brief report.
- Planning and Park Commission: Motions to amend the zoning map for Lawrence Shoulak and Jacob Winkel were approved unanimously. A resolution to accept the Farmland Preservation Plan Map Amendments for the Towns of Eaton, Gibson, Kossuth, Meeme, and Two Rivers. Was approved unanimously.
- Public Safety Committee: Supervisor Nickels reported that the sheriff's department has added three new positions. The jail continues to be short-staffed. A motion to accept a donation from the Badger State Sheriff's Association was approved unanimously. The donation consists of \$28,718.40, to be used for equipment to assist officers including drones and launchers.

- Public Works Committee: Supervisor Gerroll reported on amazing improvements at the fairgrounds, where upcoming events include brewfest and a dog show.
- Board of Health and Personnel Committee: A resolution authorizing addition of one full-time health department employee, a Community Health Strategist, was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm

The County Board Meeting is available for viewing at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSYtZldf95Q>

Manitowoc Common Council Meeting Observer Summary- Christine Aguilar

Manitowoc Common Council

2-21-2022

Highlights:

Call to order by Mayor Justin Nickels at 6:30 PM, all present.

Presentations: None

Public Hearings:

- Public hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of a proposed change to the Official Map to remove an unnamed street near the intersection of S. Frontage Road and S. 42nd Street. No public input.
- Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of a proposed Conditional Use Permit for the establishment of a mini-warehouse located at 3737 Dewey Street, No public input.
- Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of a proposed Conditional Use Permit for the establishment of a Community-Based Residential Facility for Treatment and Recovery Services located at 1010 Huron Street. Donna Firman, 4623 S 10th Street, is the President of Prevent Suicide of Manitowoc County, President of NAMI of Manitowoc County (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Chair of Mental Health Action Team and one of the writers of the Mental Health Study done by the League of Women Voters advocating for Mental Health Court. She is also on the State-wide Mental Health Public Policy and Advocacy Committee. Ms. Firman wanted to express her support for this because more services of this kind are necessary in the community. This is personal for Ms. Firman as she is a volunteer for Prevent Suicide and has heard from people in trouble who need places to get help. John Swanson, 728 S Lake Street, said he is concerned that there is nowhere for people to go who will be released.

Public Input: None. Three emails received.

Appointments: Mayor makes the following appointments: Committee on Aging - Jennifer Hudon (term: expires 6/1/2022); Industrial Development Corporation - Debra Meyer (term: indefinite). Appointments were approved.

Consent Agenda: No removals. Consent agenda was approved.

Committee of the Whole:

Adopted Resolution to renumber Annexation of Wards 35, 36 and 37,

Adopted Ordinance to renumber Annexation of Wards 35, 36 and 37,

Approved Report of Special Event Committee recommending approval for the following events subject to Council action: The Fat Seagull Street Parties on 6/25-6/26/2022, 7/30-7/31/2022 & 8/20-8/21/2022 (Closure of Quay St. from S 8th to S 9th; extension of premise for alcohol); Lights in Lincoln Park on 11/22-12/30/2022 (Approval of advertising signs in City right-of-ways); Chewy's Annual Block Party on 9/9/2022 (Waiver of noise ordinance until 11p.m.; closure of portion on block of Buffalo St. east of N 8th St.).

Finance Committee:

- **Approved** American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) agreement with Manitowoc County, Capital Plan for the Manitowoc Marina. Alderman Brey said the County plans to match ARPA funds received by the City and identified several projects the funds would be used for.
- **Approved** Capital Plan for the Manitowoc Marina.
- **Approved** Request for City of Manitowoc to Fundraise for Holiday Decorations,
- **Approved** Potential term sheet / development agreement with Kaysun.
- **Adopted** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$6,440,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes.
- **Adopted** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$3,845,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes.
- **Adopted** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$3,535,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes and Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$3,535,000 Note Anticipation Notes in Anticipation Thereof.
- **Adopted** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$1,420,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes and Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$1,420,000 Taxable Note Anticipation Note in Anticipation Thereof.
- **Adopted** Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$1,500,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds.
- **Approved** Scope of Engagement relative to the Proposed Issuance of \$1,414,000 City of Manitowoc Taxable Note Anticipation Note.
- **Approved** Request for a credit card for Director of Tourism with a credit limit amount of \$5,000.

Personnel Committee:

- **Adopted** Resolution to approve Staffing Overlap for the Fire Rescue Department.

- **Adopted** Resolution to reclassify the Municipal Court Clerk position.
- **Approved** Request to approve revised Seasonal Pay Rates.

Public Infrastructure Committee:

- **Approved** Municipal Field Baseball Diamond transfer to Manitowoc Public School District.
- **Approved** Permission to operate a mobile cookie booth for Girl Scouts.
- **Adopted** Resolution for Ornamental Lighting - River Point Development - 1000 Block of Buffalo Street.
- **Approved** State Municipal Financial Agreement (ID #4100-42-00/71/72) for State-Let US Highway 151 (Calumet/Washington) from I-43 to S. 8th Street.

Public Safety Committee:

- **Adopted** Ordinance to amend section 17.060 of the Manitowoc Municipal Code regulating Plumbing and 18.090 Electrical Permit Fees.
- **Adopted** Ordinance to amend 31.200 of the Manitowoc Municipal Code Prohibited Signs.
- **Adopted** Ordinance to amend section 10.490 of the Manitowoc Municipal Code regulating two-hour parking on South 16th Street at Wollmer Street.

Plan Commission:

- **Adopted** Resolution to vacate an un-named street off of South Frontage Road.
- **Approved** Ortlieb / Pathways for a Better Life, LLC; Request for a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to 15.150(3)f. for the establishment of a Community-Based Residential Facility for Treatment and Recovery Services located at 1010 Huron Street. Alderman Brey spoke in favor because the facility will be licensed by the State of Wisconsin and is needed. Alderman Cummings said it is in his district and while he sees the need, he will vote against it because of the opinions of his constituents. Alderman Czekala said his constituents were concerned. However, he sees the need and he will vote in support. Alderman Brunner said CORE Treatment had received the same concerns but there have been no problems and he will vote in favor.
- **Approved** Zabel / Glasstone LLC; Request for a Conditional Use Permit in the C-1 Commercial Zoning District pursuant to 15.310(3)b for the establishment of mini-warehouse located at 3737 Dewey Street.
- **Adopted** Ordinance to amend 22.010 - Official Map Change for Un-Name Street off of South Frontage Road.

OTHER BUSINESS: A listening session for District 7 is scheduled for Tuesday March 8, Room 217 Band Room, Washington Middle School, from 6 to 7 PM.

ADJOURN: At 7:18 pm.

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

Manitowoc County Human Services Board Monthly Meeting

Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery

***1-27-2022 (Note this is January Report, which wasn't included in the January Observer Corps Report)**

Present: Henrickson, Agnew, Ruggirello, Shimulunas, Williams. **Excused:** Baumann. **Absent:** Burke, Cavanaugh and Nasep. **Staff Present:** Edmonds, Fure, Joas, Kubec, Miller, Randolph, Reindl, Torrison, Dodge and Ziegelbauer.

During public comment League member N Slattery gave copies of the League's report "The Case for a Mental Health Court in Manitowoc County" to the board members and encouraged all to read it.

Education topic Supervisors newly appointed from within the HS staff were introduced to the board with an explanation of the areas they covered.

Christy Torrison, New Child and Family Supervisor

- Has worked for 15 ½ years in Child Protective Services Unit.
- Now supervisor of 3 Child & Family Services workers and collaborating with Lane Kinzel.
- Assisting the foster care team to recruit respite and foster homes.

Lisa Reindl, New Children's Waiver Supervisor

- Has work at HS just over 15 years with the wrap around program and CLTS which currently has 55 providers for services
- will be supervising 11 staff who are looking to create new services and find providers for the gaps in the services needed by those on the current waiting lists.

Wayne Edmonds, NEW Clinical Services Supervisor

- has his master's degree in Community Mental Health and worked at HS for 7 years with the 13 years prior working with a Mental Health Center for chronically mentally ill clients in Madison.
- will oversee 6 workers directly
- Will maintain a small caseload. hoping to help everyone reach their full potential

Amanda Miller, New Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Supervisor

- worked at Human Services for 5½ years initially in the out-patient unit.
- will be supervising 11 workers in the CCS unit which currently has 87 clients with each case having a large number of needs.
- Will continue the search for additional providers while planning to offer as many internal services as possible

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH NOVEMBER 2021:

- Referrals to Child Protective Services through Nov 2021 totaled 199 more than the same time period in 2020. Cases include the whole family, several children and adults in each case.
- The \$\$ spent on Youth & Family Services detention center contract was lower than budgeted ending the year with a surplus of \$26,130. Youth went mostly to Sheboygan and a few days to Fond du Lac.
- Energy Assistance had 200 more cases through November than last year.

- CCS has 87 current cases which, when the new positions are filled, will increase as the wait list is reduced. Family Care Program stats not yet available this month.
- Mental Health In-patient costs will be about \$630,000 by the end of the year as there were 500 more days this year than last year. Local homes such as Lighthouse, CORE and Lotus Homes are currently used to keep persons in the community. HS has gotten some notices this past year from Winnebago Mental Health Center not to send patients due to their inability to have sufficient staff.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Still have 9 openings currently** not counting the 4 new staff starting within the next two weeks. Some of the open positions require certain degrees and are difficult to fill.: 1 CSP case aide, 1 CSP Case Manager, a TAD Grant Case Manager, 3 CCS Facilitators, 1 CCS Psychotherapist in the Clinical Division, 1 Child Protection Services Ongoing, 1 CLTS, 1 Economic Support Specialist.
- Donations for children in foster care and families with open cases for Christmas was awesome **Listing all here to give Kudos to the groups- if you, the reader know these groups, please pass along another Thank You.**
- Backpack Buddies gave a gift to every child in out-of-home care (approximately 175 kids). The YMCA had a Giving Tree and had a huge donation that took multiple trips with a pick-up truck to drop it all off. Good Shepard Church adopted 20 kids and they received multiple items on their lists. St. John/St. James Church adopted a family and provided many items, Precious Memories Daycare collected a large refrigerator box filled with diapers, wipes, formula, pajamas, shoes, socks, underwear and toys. Cross Fit also donated a gift for every child in out-of-home care. HSD staff also had a Giving Tree and had many donations. There were numerous individuals who sponsored families, one anonymous individual donated gifts totaling over \$2,000. There were also donations of handmade hats, mittens, etc.
- **Covid** positive results increased within staff and some persons in certain units were asked to work from home to make sure there was healthy staff available to handle calls.

Updates

- Rehab Resources has moved out as did 20 persons from Economic Support. By April all the moving will be finished into the Expo drive county office building.
- The topic of a respite home for kids in care will be discussed at the Regional Directors of H S Meeting this week as it is a real need here. Another need is a home for the older kids who are very hard to place.

Length of meeting 40 minutes **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 4:45 p.m. in conference room Jay Street entrance.**

Manitowoc County Human Services Board Monthly Meeting Observer Summary- Suzanne Zipperer

2-24-2022

Highlights:

Meeting cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

Manitowoc County CJCC (Criminal Justice Coordinating Council) Executive Committee Meeting

Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery

No Report Available

Highlights:

Manitowoc County CJCC (Criminal Justice Coordinating Council) Meeting

Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery

2-2-22

Highlights:

Attendance: Council members Present: Patricia Dodge, County Board Supervisor James Falkowski, Sheriff Dan Hartwig, Phil Hoff, Capt. Jeremy Kronforst (designee), District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre (Vice-Chair), Attorney Ann Larson, Kevin Mueller, Cindy Oswald, Judge Mark Rohrer (Chair), County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer and Clerk of Court Lynn Zigmunt.

Excused/Absent: Chief Paul Granger, Chief Brian Kohlmeier.

Others: Patricia Koppa, Don Sweet, Nancy Slattery, Jennifer Zick.

Meeting:

Chair Judge Mark Rohrer called meeting to order at 4:49. Attendance sheet circulated. Attorney Ann Larson moved to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2021 Council meeting. DA Jackie LaBre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously after voice vote.

Judge Rohrer noted that Chief Paul Granger was unable to attend.

Don Sweet, Treatment Court and Diversion Coordinator reported on the drug court. Eleven currently enrolled of which 7 are employed. Six are maintaining their living quarters and paying rent. All are participating in the Comprehensive Community Services program. Four additional candidates are under consideration. A referral form is being created to make the initial process easier to access. Also, in process of extending to a minimum 18-month completion period based upon alumni feedback. During the January Omicron surge operated with virtual court, but resumed in person today.

Don responded to Council member questions. There are 10 individuals interested in the alumni program at this point. Enrollment is currently lower but as we go back to pre-pandemic levels, will also need to consider filling the approved position for a separate case manager in addition to the coordinator position.

The diversion program will be discontinued in its current form. Not enough interest. Will consider alternatives down the road.

Discussion moved to resurrecting the pre-trial workgroup and the form the group would take. Willingness to be transparent in work to public but preference for flexibility and less formality. Attorney Larson is willing to continue as chair and will explore this. Should expand beyond individuals directly involved in the bail decisions. Greater Council and public participation desired. Perhaps begin with council education and determine specific issue or public education topics from there. Will report back at next meeting.

There has also been discussion regarding participating in or gaining more information from the Wisconsin CJCC. They have been working on a pretrial tool for example and we should know more about it. Ms. Slattery noted she had attended in the past and that there is public input at the end of the meetings. Officers will look into attending or at least getting information about current topics.

Continued with the elections. Before nominations began, Kevin Mueller noted that he will be stepping back and Jennifer Zick will be the representative for Probation and Parole.

Nominations began with the Chair position. Attorney LaBre nominated Judge Rohrer, the nomination was seconded by Attorney Larson. No other nominations were forthcoming and the nominations were closed. Voice vote taken and unanimously elected.

District Attorney LaBre was nominated Vice-Chair by James Falkowski with the second from Patricia Dodge. Again no other nominations and voice vote in unanimous approval.

The three other positions on the Executive committee resulted in a bit more discussion with some of those nominated declining due to other commitments. Ultimately Attorney Larson, Jennifer Zick and Supervisor Falkowski agreed to accept the positions and were unanimously elected.

With the new Executive Committee in place, Judge Rohrer asked about further needs in the community. Nancy Slattery had copies of the study by the League of Women Voters showing the benefit of a mental health court. Judge Rohrer thought some invitation to the local state legislators might be appropriate. Discussed how this could be done as a way to express what the state could do for local government. Judge Rohrer and DA LaBre will work on how this could be done.

Patricia Dodge noted there are some new grant opportunities for housing and treatment costs. Human Services will be looking into those further.

The next Council meeting date is March 2, 2022. The Executive Committee will continue to meet by videoconference; next session is February 21.

