

LWV Observer Corps Report March 2024

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

Two Rivers City Council Meeting Observer Summary- Sue Matczynski

3-4-2024

Highlights:

- Two citizens spoke at the Public Hearing regarding issuance of a conditional use permit for the Hawk Battery Energy Storage Project proposed at Woodland Industrial Park; one was a business owner in the Industrial Park who expressed safety and financial concerns about the project and the other had questions about the project. A representative of the project answered the questions posed and the Assistant Fire Chief stated his staff has been trained on fighting fires related to this technology. The Council approved the permit.
- One citizen asked a question at the Public Hearing on Roosevelt Avenue special assessments. The Council approved the resolution authorizing special assessments for the reconstruction of Roosevelt Avenue.
- The City Manager thanked all agencies, Departments and citizen volunteers engaged in the search for missing child Elijah Vue, and the Police Chief provided an update regarding search efforts.
- The City Council:
 - Awarded Mammoth Construction the bid for reconstruction of Roosevelt Avenue.
 - Awarded Steinies Water Gardens the bid for the irrigation system in Central Park West.
 - Adopted a resolution naming May11, 2024 as International Migratory Bird Day.
 - Adopted a resolution authorizing submission of a Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Grant for funding to improve the West River Lofts Site.
 - Discussed an amendment drafted by the City Attorney regarding the placement of decal-type signs by private businesses on the surface of public sidewalks.
 - Approved the City Manager's appointments to the new ad hoc Aquatics Committee.

Meeting time: 2 hours, 15 minutes

Two Rivers City Council Meeting

3-18-2024

Highlights:

- The Council observed a moment of silence in memory of former City Council member Herb Bunke.
- A citizen shared his concerns about a draft proposal regarding private businesses placing advertising decals on public sidewalks.
- Representatives from Accurate Appraisal did a brief presentation on their plan to revalue all properties in the city in 2024.
- The Police Chief provided an update on the search for missing child Elijah Vue.
- The City Council:
 - Received and filed the City’s report to Manitowoc County on the use of ARPA funds.
 - Adopted a resolution authorizing application to Wisconsin’s DNR for an Urban Forestry Grant.
 - Approved a resolution amending the City’s 2024 budget to provide increased funding to help offset extraordinary Police Department costs associated with the Elijah Vue search and investigation.
 - Adopted a recreated ordinance entitled “Water Service Replacement” as it relates to the mandatory replacement of illegal lead and galvanized water service laterals.
 - Adopted a new ordinance to facilitate loans to property owners to replace private lead and galvanized water service laterals.
 - Received and filed the Stormwater Annual Report.
 - Approved the appointment of Ryan Kroiss to the Ad Hoc Aquatics Committee.
 - Discussed the proposed amendment to allow private business signage on public sidewalks in the business district.

Meeting time: 1 hour, 50 minutes

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

3-12-2024

Highlights:

The staff advisor explained the Sources of Strength program which is a national student led program. Two Rivers has trained 70 students across grade levels to be peer mentors and leaders. Currently they are planning an event to support Eliah Vue and his family.

On April 18 the Board will have a work session on the issue of student behavior which will be open to the public and include reports from each school’s behavior teams.

The 7th and 8th grade science teachers explained their new science curriculum. Rather than focusing on one area of science for the whole year, they are bundling them together and will focus on all areas each year and how they interrelate.

It was reported that 4 ELA curriculums were recommended by the state literacy council and Wit n Wisdom which Two Rivers uses is one of the 4. A group of teachers from Appleton came to observe classes and learn more about it.

There will be a Community Summit in the evenings of June 5 and 6 with community stakeholders. There will also be a survey available to all residents.

3-27-2024 (No second meeting due to spring break)

Highlights:

**Manitowoc Public School District Meeting
Observer Summary- Linda Gratz**

3-13-2024 No Report (The minutes for this meeting are available on the MPSD website)

Highlights:

Public Input:

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting

3-27-2024 Meeting Cancelled

Highlights:

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

3-19-2024

Highlights:

REPORTS OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS, OFFICERS, AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

County Exec Ziegelbauer and Chairperson Martell presented the following proclamations:

Proclaiming the Month of April Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month; in Honor of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; and to Supervisors Baumann, Brey, and Vogt in recognition of their years of service to the County Board.

PUBLIC INPUT: Chris Culotta, WI Department of Health Services Regional Representative presented the Manitowoc Cty Health Dept Director Korina Aghmar with the Level 3 Certification. The Health Dept attained Level 3 following a quality improvement audit last Oct. Strengths cited include the environmental health program, and the air and water monitoring and emergency planning and management related to the nearby nuclear plant. Opportunities for improvement mentioned: improve contact with the rural portion of the county and reduce staff turnover.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Supervisor Metzger reported that influenza-like illnesses are at moderate to high levels while RSV and Covid are decreasing.

PLANNING & PARK COMMISSION The Board unanimously approved Ordinances 2023/2024-70 through 2023/2024-6372 amending Zoning Map for David and Cheryl Schneider, Tn of Schleswig, Aryln and Lori Eickert, Tn of Rockland, and Dennis and Mary Frenz, Tn of Gibson. The Board also unanimously approved Resolution 2023/2024-73 authorizing the 2024-2025 Snowmobile Trail Aids Program. Manitowoc Cty has provided aid for maintenance of 240 miles of snowmobile trails for 51 years.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL: Supervisor Falkowski reported that there are currently 18 drug court participants.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Chairperson Martell reported that the committee met to go over Board rules and ordinance changes which will be presented for the next term.

EXPO-ICE CENTER BOARD: The Board approved polka music for Thursday through Saturday afternoons at this year's county fair. The board appointed Amber Schneider to fill a vacancy on the board.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Board unanimously approved adoption of Resolution 2023/2024-74 awarding the sale of \$4.2 million General Obligation Promissory Notes, a 10-year bond for roads with an interest rate of 3.275%, better than the committee had hoped for. The Board approved adoption of Resolution 2023/2024-75 awarding the sale of \$4.075 million in General Obligation Courthouse Improvement Bonds, for courthouse windows and HVAC, a 20-year bond with an interest rate of 3.628%. Supv. Klein voted no; all others approved.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE: Supervisor Behnke reported that bids for asphalt work have come in a little better than expected. Compliments were given to the Highway Dept for their safety training for employees.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: On the recommendation of the insurance broker, court-ordered services and self-inflicted injuries will now be covered by insurance. Also changed was the deadline for timely filing of a claim.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: The Board unanimously approved Ordinance 2023/2024-76 Amending Manitowoc County Code S. 4.13 (Sheriff's Department Fees) and Ordinance

2023/2024-77 Amending Manitowoc County Code CH. 6.275 (Prostitution). The coroner reported that deaths in hospice care are becoming more common, as is cremation. The coroner recommended consideration of changing to a medical examiner system.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Annual Clean Sweep event will be on May 19. Temporary repair of the copper portion of the dome roof continues. The State Historical Society recommends that new windows in the dome should match the old ones.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm This County Board meeting is available for viewing at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsnGQR0gDNs&t=3355s>

Manitowoc Common Council Meeting

Observer Summary-

Anyone Interested in Reporting on the Manitowoc Common Council?? Usually, one meeting a month and you can observe on line. If you are interested just let me know at llgratz47@gmail.com

Manitowoc County Human Services Board Monthly Meeting

Observer Summary- Suzanne Zipperer

3-28-2024

Highlights:

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 with a quorum present. Minutes and agenda were approved. Staffing issues were moved forward on the agenda to accommodate a member who needed to leave early.

Staffing:

Director Lori Fure requested that a vacant accounting position be reclassified to financial manager. This would eliminate the “silo” in financial information that exists now and allow for more transparent reporting. There is no financial impact in the reclassification. Request was approved.

A request was made by Director Fure to reclassify an administrative support position to contract specialist. There are now 150 contracts throughout eight programs and someone needs to monitor these. The duties of the current administrative support person will be divided up. There is no financial impact caused by the reclassification. The request was approved.

Education Topic: Mental Health Crisis Management

Court Liaison Heidi Barnes presented on her role in managing mental health cases that involve a court process. These cases start with the police detaining a person who is in eminent danger of harming themselves or others and refuse treatment. The police call the crisis manager who meets with the person to determine if the problem is caused by substance abuse, cognitive delays, or mental illness.

If the individual meets the criteria the detention process starts and psychiatric facilities are contacted for placement. If they don't meet detention level of care less restrictive options are explored, such as voluntary hospitalization, crisis bed placement, a safety plan, or an emergency

appointment with Human Services. The court liaison files detention paperwork with Probate, contacts psychiatric hospitals to provide additional information, also contacts Probate and the Corporation Counsel to advise if the individual will be discharged from the psychiatric hospital within 72 hours, agrees to a Settlement Agreement or proceed with a Probable Cause Hearing. Probable Cause Hearings must be held within 72 hours of the individual being detained. A final hearing must be held in circuit court within 14 days from the second probable cause hearing. The court appoints two physicians to examine the individual and make recommendations. If the physicians determine the individual needs treatment, the client may return to the inpatient psychiatric unit until ready for discharge. The court liaison meets with all involved to provide options. They also meet with the client a week after discharge to develop a crisis plan, discuss treatment, and review conditions of release.

In 2022, the total number of detentions in Manitowoc County was 176. In 2023, the number was down to 129. The unit has a good relationship with NAMI, and all police units in the county re trained in crisis management for people experiencing a mental health crisis.

Director's Report:

Governor Evers just signed Act 199 which recognizes "like-kin" relationships for children in out-of-home care. "Like-kin" are people who have a familial relationship with a child but are not blood relatives. This new rule makes them eligible to get financial assistance when caring for the child.

Manitowoc County HS was recognized for meeting the federal requirement that visits to children in out-of-home care must be done and documented once a month in at least 90% of the cases. Manitowoc reached 99% and was commended for this.

The Administrative Code has changed so that substance abuse and mental health conditions are not separated but a co-occurring. This will involve changing some policies which is already underway.

Adult Protective Services reported that in for 2023, \$1,376,388.23 was lost to adults in this program through financial exploitation.