

**JULY 10, 2012 SESSION
OF THE
WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Walworth County Board Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Chair Russell at 5:02 p.m. at the Government Center, 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Roll Call

Roll Call was conducted and the following Supervisors were present: Richard Brandl, Tim Brellenthin, Vice-Chair Jerry A. Grant, Daniel G. Kilkenny, Kenneth H. Monroe, Carl Redenius, Joe Schaefer, Tim Schiefelbein, Rick Stacey, David A. Weber, and Chair Nancy Russell.

• **The purpose of the meeting is for:**

- Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District Commission (WalCoMet) presentation of the 2011 WalCoMet Annual Report
Presenters: Karla Eggink, P.E., Administrator; Dean Logterman, President

Dean Logterman, President of the WalCoMet Board of Commissioners, stated they normally mail their annual report to the county; however, they wanted to personally present this report to the County Board this year. Mr. Logterman gave a brief description and history of WalCoMet. WalCoMet was formed after the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ordered the creation of a metropolitan sewerage district to serve the Delavan Lake Sanitary District, City of Elkhorn, and City of Delavan. WalCoMet strictly focuses on waste water collection and waste water treatment. The district has five commissioners, who serve five-year terms and are appointed by the County Board. He stated the district has expanded to include the Village of Williams Bay, Geneva National, Como Sanitary District, Village of Darien, and other smaller entities. He said WalCoMet has never issued a tax and it strictly maintains a fund balance by use of user rates. He introduced Karla Eggink, who is the Administrator of WalCoMet.

Karla Eggink gave a brief presentation detailing the formation of WalCoMet and the communities served by WalCoMet. Ms. Eggink stated their service area is defined through Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). She said they have a waste water treatment plant, ten lift stations throughout the service area, and approximately 38 miles of collecting sewer. She said WalCoMet employs 20 individuals to treat waste water. Ms. Eggink gave an overview of how waste water is treated, which is a process copied from nature. In 2011, WalCoMet collected approximately 4 million gallons of waste water per day, which is the lowest amount collected since 2004. She said the recession and the decrease in rainwater have impacted waste water collection and treatment. She stated the City of Elkhorn is the largest entity served with 4453 customer units, and the Town of Walworth is the smallest with 65 customer units. A customer unit is equivalent to a 5/8-inch water meter, which is found in the average residential home. She gave an overview of the revenue collected in 2011. She said 81% of revenue was collected from user fees and 7% was collected from investment interest income. She said the investment interest income has traditionally been much larger, but has declined due to the economic downturn. She also said the loss of the revenue has been offset by increasing user fees. She stated WalCoMet does not collect taxes or receive state aid. She gave an overview of how revenue collected in 2011 was distributed. She stated the new phosphorus limits set

by the DNR will cause the costs of waste water treatment to increase dramatically. She gave an overview of initiatives implemented in 2011, such as restructuring debt, a retirement from 2011 being left vacant, and investigating new management techniques for managing assets. WalCoMet has a countywide impact even though it does not serve the entire county.

Supervisor Kilkenny asked if WalCoMet was successful in handling the odor problem in Delavan. Eggink stated they had a 98.9% success of handling this problem; however, you will have some odors with waste water. Supervisor Kilkenny also asked if the lack of rainfall has assisted in determining better statistics for infiltration. Eggink said WalCoMet's base load low is being determined with the very dry conditions. Supervisor Stacey asked what the average cost is for sewer. Eggink stated the average cost is \$3 per 1,000 gallons of waste water treated; however, every community served by WalCoMet adds their own costs to this average and it is variable by community. Logterman said WalCoMet does not do any billing to individual customers. He stated each entity has to distribute the fee from WalCoMet to its customers through their own billing. Supervisor Weber asked if there was any way of putting the water back into the resource base rather than discharging the treated water into Turtle Creek. Logterman stated the waste water treated is discharged into Turtle Creek, which goes into the Rock River and heads south. He said it is a costly process to contain the water, and they do not have a means of putting it back in the ground. Chair Russell thanked Ms. Eggink and Mr. Logterman for the presentation.

- Gateway Technical College (GTC) presentation of Gateway's Structure and Vision and Campus Programs
Presenters: Bryan Albrecht, President; Mike O'Donnell, Dean of Campus Affairs for Elkhorn/Burlington; Gary Olsen, Gateway Technical College Board Representative; Colleen Henningfeld, Student Representative; and, Lauri Howard, Director of Workforce Training

Bryan Albrecht, President of Gateway Technical College, started the presentation by introducing Colleen Henningfeld, who is a student at Gateway Technical College. Ms. Henningfeld stated she is a nursing student from East Troy and she is not your typical college student as she is 37 years old, married, and has children. She said the instructors at Gateway are excellent and she has had a great experience. She also said she has been very involved in school and is proud to be a student ambassador. Albrecht stated 20% of students served already have a Bachelor's degree, over 60% of students work, and the average student age is 31 years old. He also stated Gateway has an 88% job placement rate. Albrecht introduced Mike O'Donnell, Dean of Campus Affairs for Elkhorn and Burlington. Mr. O'Donnell gave a presentation of the Elkhorn Campus and explained what each building on the campus houses. Albrecht stated Gateway is the oldest technical college in the nation. He said 3,000 high school students attend Gateway and Gateway's Alternative High School is the largest high school in the area. Albrecht introduced Lauri Howard, who is the Director of Workforce Training. Ms. Howard gave an overview of the Workforce and Economic Development Department (WEDD) at Gateway. She said she has been asked to ensure that Gateway has a good presence in Walworth County; therefore, in partnership with Walworth County Economic Development Alliance (WCEDA), Walworth County Job Center, and the UW-Whitewater Innovation Center, they will be hosting events for area manufacturers to obtain their input on their training needs.

Albrecht introduced Gary Olsen, a trustee serving on the Gateway Technical College Board of Trustees. Mr. Olson said the focus of the board is determining how the college can best serve the community. He also said the college is a means for members of the community to get the skills they need to do jobs in the community. He stated there are sixteen technical colleges in Wisconsin and

Gateway is recognized as a leader and role model for other colleges. He also stated Gateway is recognized at a national level.

Supervisor Schaefer asked if Gateway has any capital improvement plans coming up and how Gateway budgets for those. Albrecht stated Gateway's budget is set through a budget council and they also have a borrowing process. He said they will be borrowing \$12 million this year for capital improvement plans throughout the district, which will be for equipment in the classrooms and facility renovations. He also said every project goes before Gateway's Board of Trustees and the state board for approval. He stated these projects are done in partnership with the private sector and they have sponsors for nearly every building project done. Supervisor Schaefer confirmed Gateway is taxed on equalized value. Albrecht stated Act 10 has frozen their taxing authority for the last couple of years. He said they have increased enrollment, which increases tuition received and they are receiving more aid due to serving more students. He said this has helped offset Act 10; however, this is not a long term solution. He also said they are working with the legislature to determine what the funding model should be for a technical education. Supervisor Schiefelbein asked what percentage of Gateway's budget is supplied by Walworth County taxes and what percentage of the services does the county receive. Albrecht stated the taxes received are approximately one-third for each county and it has been that way for several years. He said the fastest growing campus is Elkhorn serving approximately 2,000 students; therefore, they are expanding programs at this campus. Chair Russell stated that constituents have expressed concerns to her about the availability of programs at the Elkhorn campus and students in the nursing program having to take classes at the Racine and Kenosha campuses. She said those nursing students experience classes being full and having to wait to take these classes until there is availability, which they cannot afford to do as they need to seek employment. Albrecht stated he will personally look into these issues. He said students in the nursing program are in the same pool to be selected for clinicals regardless of which campus they attend, but it is perceived that all the attention is given to Racine or Kenosha. He said this is due to those campuses having more students; therefore, the percentage is always going to look higher.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Brandl, seconded by Supervisor Weber, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

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COUNTY OF WALWORTH)

I, Kimberly S. Bushey, County Clerk in and for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors for the July 10, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting.