

Walworth County History

Excerpts Of The Walworth County Proceedings

(1839-1962)

(Researched and written by Virginia “Ginny” Hall)

On January 7, 1839, the first meeting of the County Commissioners was held at the home of Daniel Bradley. On April 1st of that year, the Commissioners appointed places to hold their first elections in the six current townships: Elkhorn, East Troy, Troy, Delavan, Geneva and Walworth. They also worked on creating districts within some of the townships. Later some of these districts became townships as we know them today. The Commissioners also numbered the townships. A good share of their time in those early years was spent on deciding the location of roads. On July 1, 1839, they met in the Clerk's office (McCracken). They worked on locating roads and property assessments. The latter was determined to be 5 mills on the dollar. On September 10th, they established a \$1.50 bounty for each wolf scalp caught within the county by a county resident. On September 12th, they met in the Register's office in Elkhorn. On October 8, 1839, they appointed school inspectors.

On January 6, 1840, the Commissioners met in the Courtroom in Elkhorn. The next day they assigned two homes as election sites in the Town of Elkhorn and established school districts within the townships. On January 3rd, the wolf bounty was increased to \$3.00. The Commissioners continued working on road sites, school districts and granting licenses for stores and taverns. They received petitions for roads and for dividing school districts. Grand jurors and Petit jurors were appointed. On July 29th, the board examined and accepted the jail built by Millard B. Johnson for \$300. On October 28th, they received a petition that the county should support Mrs. Catherine Kane and her two children. The next day after ascertaining that Mrs. Kane had been a resident of the county for twelve months, the Board contracted with Rufus Clark to take Mrs. Kane, her belongings and her children into his family and to find her employment. Clark would be given reasonable compensation for this. This was the beginning of the Poor House.

On March 5, 1841, the Commissioners resolved to complete the contract to build a Courthouse. They had received a petition against building a Courthouse signed by 208 persons and another petition to build a Courthouse signed by 308 persons. The minutes of the August 7th meeting show assessments established which included poor tax, school tax and for the expense of county roads.

On January 7, 1842, \$150 due on a contract for building the Courthouse was allowed for Gaylord Graves. On January 19th, Levi Lee was paid \$250 as first payment on a contract to build the Courthouse. Commissioners approved the building of a cupola on the structure. On March 4th of that year, the minutes indicate the meeting was held in the Register's office, prior to this the meetings were held in the Courtroom.

On January 3, 1843, a resolution created a committee of three to examine the Courthouse and report to the Board whether the same is so far completed as to entitle the contractor to lots of land and money as mentioned in the contract. On January 5th, the Board resolved to pay Levi Lee \$150 for building the cupola for the Courthouse and to pay him \$250 as part of the payment to build the Courthouse. They further resolved that the contractor and master builder of this Courthouse were authorized to erect the [unable to decipher the hand writing] of the Courthouse agreeable to a plan now submitted by them to this Board. The next day they resolved that Levi Lee was entitled to a deed of Lots 9, 10, 11 and 12 of Block 20, Lots 9, 10, 11 and 12 in Block 8 and Lot 9 in Block 17 with exception of Lot 11 in Block 20 because of a writ of injunction and to provide a deed of conveyance to Levi Lee with a general warrantee. They further resolved that the Board would place in the hands of Levi Lee \$30 for a stove and 24 feet of pipe...to be given to the sheriff before the 1st day of April. The stove to be one of the largest stoves with ten plates and with 7-inch Russian pipe. On January 7th, they resolved that a sum of \$25 be appropriated for the purpose of erecting a privy near the Courthouse and the sheriff was authorized to have as good a one as possible. That day they also determined that the deed for Levi Lee was to be prepared along with the seal of the Board and delivered to Lee.

On April 17, 1843, the contract for building the Courthouse was called for and read. It was again resolved that a committee of three be appointed to examine the Courthouse and report back to the Board. The next day that committee reported and the report was placed on file. They then resolved that an order on the Treasurer be drawn in favor of William Burgis for \$150 agreeable to the order of Levi Lee to apply on his contract for building the Courthouse and cupola. The next day, LeGrand Rockwell was authorized to be an agent to lease or rent the building now used as the Register and Clerk's offices after said building was vacant. They also resolved that the sheriff be authorized to "cause the floor of the piazza of the Courthouse to be painted with two good coats of paint." Also, the sheriff was not to receive the stove from Levi Lee unless it matches the specifications of the Board and if not

received, to obtain the money which had been advanced to him. They resolved that \$15 be appropriated for building the privy for the Courthouse and that it be paid to R. H. Mallary. They decided that they would meet at any time when Levi Lee was ready for a settlement on the Courthouse contract. He would need to notify the Commissioners at his own expense and the chairman would authorize the meeting.

On September 6th, they resolved that the Board accept the Courthouse and give Mr. Lee a deed of which he is entitled on the completion of the contract provided he provide a bond of surety and put on an additional coat of paint...on or before the first day of the District Court. The next day the bond of Levi Lee was examined, approved and placed on file. The Board resolved that a deed for said contract lots be delivered to Levi Lee with the exception of Lot 7 in Block 16 and Lot 8 in Block 16. The next day they determined that Lot 9 in Block 16 would be reserved instead to Booth B. Davis; this with the consent of Levi Lee.

On September 9th, the Board resolved that the sheriff be instructed to permit religious denominations to use the Courthouse for religious worship so long as said house was uninjured. The sheriff was directed to prepare the middle room on the east side of the Courthouse for the reception of county records and that Mr. Davis be directed to move said records and other fixtures belonging to his office to the same as soon as possible. The sheriff was to procure a suitable chair and foot stool for the judge's seat in the Courthouse and a suitable number of benches or stools for the two jury rooms. He was further directed to obtain the necessary quantity of stove pipe to complete the fitting of the three offices on the east side of the Courthouse.

On January 3, 1844, the Board resolved to accept the clerk's desk from Levi Lee and additional painting and that he be discharged from his contract. They further resolved that his bond be cancelled and given to him along with bonds in the sum of \$5,000. On January 6th, the sheriff was asked to make sure that the wood around the Courthouse was used only for the District Court sessions and the Board of Supervisors. If used by others, he needed to collect compensation. He was also asked to cut a door in the rear of the Courthouse "in a workman like manner" and with as little expense as possible. On October 4th, the sheriff was directed to lease the two middle rooms on the lower floor of the Courthouse at the rate of \$25/year/room. The sheriff was to furnish the rooms if it was not provided before.

On January 8, 1845, the sheriff was directed to buy a desk for the Register's Office not to exceed \$10. He was instructed to require the different denominations to pay for wood used based on the time they used the Courthouse. On January 10th, the sheriff was asked to change the locks on the Courthouse for the safety of the officers and the rooms. On September 19th, the only order of business was for the 16 supervisors to elect Nathaniel Bell as chairman. The next day, committees were appointed and bills considered.

On October 1st, the Board continued to appoint committees and discuss bills. The next day, a committee of two was appointed to investigate the cost of a fire proof office. They approved bills for sawdust from four individuals for \$1.00 each and approved a bill for articles for the jail totaling \$2.66. Later in the day, the committee reported that it would cost \$425 to build a fire proof office. The Board approved raising \$400 and another committee was appointed to determine the place for this office. The next day, the Board learned it should be located on the public square on the east side of the Courthouse about five rods from the building. There was a stake located at what would be the center of the building. [I believe that the surveyor's stake is still in place, north of Veteran's Park.] On October 3rd, the sheriff was directed to obtain a ladder of sufficient height to reach the top of the Courthouse in case of fire.

The next day, the Board allowed a bill of \$2.00 from Charles N. Meigs for drawing plans for a fire proof office. There was another bill from him of \$1.00 for fixing the Judge's seat. The Board approved the plans and directed the sheriff to give public notice of at least 8 days to receive proposals for building the office. Costs were to show if the project was completed by January 1st and also completed by June 1st of next year. If the cost difference was not more than \$25 then it should be done by the earlier date. On completion of the walls and roof, the sheriff was to pay the contractor one half of the sum of the contract.

On January 6, 1846, the Board asked for a report from the sheriff on the fire proof building. They approved the alterations made by the sheriff regarding door and window sills. The Board approved bills from several townships for the expenses of board and care of sick, transient persons. On January 7th, the Board ordered that the Treasurer be allowed to occupy the SE corner room on the first floor of the Courthouse until June 1st or until the office now occupied by the Clerk of the District Court becomes vacant. A committee

was appointed to inspect the progress of the fire proof building and accept or reject the manner in which it is built. On completion of the building and acceptance by the committee, the balance of payment was to be made.

On January 8th, the Board reconsidered the motion about the ladder. They considered several amendments which were rejected and then approved the original motion. They then resolved that the sheriff pay the contractor of the fire proof building \$50 to have an inside brick wall four inches thick with a vacancy of one inch between the inside and outside walls to be bound together with sufficient brick to support the inner wall. Payment to be made at the end of this project. The sheriff was ordered to lease, without rent, the middle office on the east side of the Courthouse for the use of the Historical Society when said society was formed in the county and shall desire the use of the same for a library and cabinet. Said society was to be prohibited from keeping a fire and lights in same room without special consent of the sheriff.

On January 9th, a committee was appointed to inspect a possible desk for the Treasurer's office. They reported back that it could be appropriate. The Board resolved that if the desk was completed according to agreement, the sheriff could accept it and pay \$15.

On October 6, 1846, a committee was appointed to inspect the fire proof building. They continued to approve compensation for families/townships caring for sick transient persons...the payment often going to the township. The fire proof building committee reported that Mr. Walling should be allowed \$18.33 over the amount already paid to him for his work. A motion to add \$5 to this payment was approved, making the payment \$23.33. On October 7th, the Board approved a motion to pay Sheldon Walling \$10 for losses incurred when changes were made in the plans for the fire proof building after he took the contract. October 8th was the first mention of village property assessment. Prior to this, only township assessment was mentioned. Geneva: \$6918, Whitewater: \$4584, Delavan: \$4583, Elkhorn: \$3970, Lyons: \$527. A committee reported that it would be necessary to raise \$3000 to defray the expense of insuring [unable to decipher the hand writing] Repartee. They allowed \$6.00 for plastering around the roof of the fire proof building to be done by Daniels and Wyley, and \$3.38 to J. F. Bruce for fixing the stove pipe in the Courthouse. A committee was appointed to examine the desk for the Treasurer. After a brief absence, they reported that it was acceptable if two more locks were installed.

On October 9th, the Sheriff was authorized to lease one of the lower rooms in the Courthouse to the Judge of Probate Elect as an office for the sum of \$15/year/annum. The County was to have the use of said room for a jury room if necessary. A committee was appointed to determine the cost of a lightning rod for the Courthouse and for insuring the building. The Board ordered the Sheriff to lease unused rooms in the Courthouse at the same rate as above. The next day, a committee was appointed to determine if the Courthouse needed to be painted. The committee reported that painting should be done. The Sheriff was directed to issue proposals for the painting and to let it go to the lowest bidder that meets the specifications.

On January 4, 1847, the committee on lightning rod, insurance and maps reported that they divided the responsibility. The committee on lightning rod was not prepared to report. The Board moved that the motion to have the Sheriff collect rent from the Judge of Probate be rescinded. The Judge would be given a room in the Courthouse. A committee was appointed to investigate the purchase of desks for the Clerk of the Board and Clerk of District Court and a seat for witnesses. The next day, the Board allowed Mr. Smith \$10 to remove an insane person from the Town of Whitewater. They established a committee to investigate all accounts presented to the Board regarding paupers. They reported that some should be fully allowed, some partially allowed and some rejected. There followed 32 motions to allow specific payments for specific people and/or townships regarding pauper payments.

On January 6th, they ordered that the Treasurer could occupy the NW corner room at such times as when it may not be wanted for jury purposes. The next day, they moved that a desk be ordered for the Clerk of the Board not to exceed \$20. Also a large arm chair for the witness seat and a large platform to be placed west of the judge's chair for witnesses were to be ordered. The committee on lightning rod reported that a 3/4-inch rod would cost \$16.20 and a 1-inch rod would cost \$20.48 plus making and installing. The committee recommended that "it should commence on the North end of the Courthouse and go into the ground ten feet, thence along the ridge to the tower, then up the Tower twenty five feet or as high as it can be well secured to have on the top three prongs pleated with silver." There was a motion to proceed with this project. The record followed with twelve points to direct the tax assessments for the county. On January 8th, the Board ordered that the Clerk put up the lightning rod in such a manner as he shall think judicious and proper.

On October 4, 1847, the Board elected their officers. On October 5th, they adopted 14 rules for the governing of this Board and established standing committees of treasury, roads, miscellaneous accounts and another for poor accounts. The following day, they added another standing committee-Public Property. On October 7th, they appointed a committee to draw a plan for a good and substantial jail and to ascertain the possible expenses and materials needed. They moved that no persons other than public officers shall occupy any rooms of the Courthouse or in buildings provided for the Register of Deeds or Clerk without payment for said use. They appropriated \$75 for a bell for the Courthouse as long as Elkhorn appropriated an equal amount. The Board then examined the jail.

On October 8th, the Board approved pages of bills and the assessment amounts for the townships and villages. The villages listed (in order of the amount of assessment) were: Geneva, Delavan, Whitewater, Elkhorn, East Troy, Hudson and Spring Prairie village. It was reported that the Courthouse foundation was out of repair. The Sheriff was directed to cause the same to be repaired and to place good gravel around the building in sufficient amount to protect the same from water damage. The Board directed that Oliver Cowan have the privilege of occupying the North West corner of the Courthouse at the rate of \$15 to be paid into the Treasurer quarterly provided that such occupancy does not interfere with the present officers occupying the same or the jury. They resolved that the Sheriff be the agent to procure the lightning rod. The next day, the Board voted that all motions about procuring a desk for the Clerk of District Court be rescinded. The Clerk was given responsibility for obtaining the desk at no more than \$40.

On January 3, 1848, the Sheriff was again ordered to bank the Courthouse, using good gravel at a cost of about \$10. The Board appointed a committee to examine the desks. The desk for the Clerk of District Court was made and cost \$50.

The next day, the Board ordered the Sheriff to place a few loads of gravel around the fire proof building. The desk committee recommended that the extra \$10 be allowed on the desk if suitable locks are installed. The desk for the Clerk of the Board is entirely unsuited and should be rejected and that the former Clerk of this Board be required to refund the sum of \$20 drawn

by him for procuring the desk. It should be given to the present Clerk to be applied to the purchase of a suitable desk. An additional \$5 was added for this latter desk.

On January 5th, the committee on jails recommended that the Board offer a reward of \$40 for the best plans for a fireproof jail and jailor residence. Cost of said building to be not less than \$2000 or more than \$4000. Plans to be accompanied by specifications and estimates in detail of expenses. The Sheriff was ordered to remove the three front seats in the SW corner of the Courtroom and supply in their place with twelve good arm chairs at an expense not more than 14 shillings each. Chairs to be made fast to the floor. The Board ordered that all religious, philanthropic and political meetings and all free public lectures may be held in the Courtroom, free of charge provided that the Sheriff may require the persons in charge to clean the house after the meeting.

On January 6th, the Sheriff was directed to prohibit the Courthouse or any rooms therein from being used or occupied for or by any meeting, exhibition or other gathering except for religious, benevolent, scientific or political purposes, discussing the affairs of government, or consulting on the general welfare and good of the public. The Sheriff was directed that when he procures the chairs for the Courtroom that he remove the first seat running crossways in the SW corner of the room and that he place said seat against the South wall in that room. The report of the jail committee from the previous day was adopted by a voice vote of 11 to 5.

On September 11, 1848, the Board held their annual meeting with 17 supervisors present along with their Clerk, E. K. Frost, and Sheriff, Nathaniel Bell. After electing Geo. Gale as chairman, he appointed the following standing committees: assessments, roads, pauper accounts, miscellaneous accounts, public property and tax titles. The Sheriff reported that the 12 chairs were secured at a cost of 12 shillings each, making it a total of \$12.

The next day, the Board resolved that a special committee be appointed to equalize the village property in the county. That committee to include one member from each village – Delavan, Whitewater, Elkhorn, Hudson, Geneva, East Troy and Spring Prairie.

On September 13th, the Public Property Committee recommended that the desk for the Clerk of the Board be accepted with the addition of some stays placed inside the doors. The Board adopted this report. The Board allowed a bill from the Sheriff of \$20 for banking the Courthouse and the fire proof office after it was referred to the committee on miscellaneous accounts. They rescinded an order concerning the care of paupers after discovering that it was a county responsibility. The Board heard a report from Mr. Bradley from Racine about a plan for a jail. He presented two plans. No decision was made and the Board gave Bradley leave to withdraw his plans to amend the specifications.

Bradley returned the next day with new plans for the jail. The Board adopted the assessments for the 16 townships and the Town of Elkhorn. Later that same day, they accepted the assessments for the villages.

On September 15th, the Board reviewed several plans for a new jail and jailor residence. The Board adopted a motion that it was inexpedient at this time to build a county jail. They resolved that \$4,500 be raised in taxes for county purposes next year. The Clerk of the Board was authorized to collect rent for such rooms as may be occupied in the lower part of the Courthouse at a rate of \$15/year and pay the same to the County Treasury.

On September 16th, the Board again reviewed two plans of Mr. Bradley, one from Whitewater, one from Mr. Harrington, one from Mr. Stanford, and one from A. K. Allen. The Board ordered the Sheriff to “repair the front steps of the Courthouse by putting in new treads where there are holes through them and also to make such repairs as will keep the plastering in the Register’s office dry.” The Board took an informal ballot on the jail plans. There were 5 ballots for Mr. Bradley’s #1 plan and 11 ballots for A. K. Allen’s plan. They then took a formal ballot with the same results and Mr. Allen’s plans were declared adopted.

On January 1, 1849, the Board dealt with accounts and naming jurors. They discussed 11 rules for assessment, which were to be sent to all assessors in the county. A great deal of time was spent on stationery for the offices and Board – last year and continuing into this year!

On January 4th, the Board gave authority to the Sheriff to collect the rents for office use in the Courthouse. The chair appointed two members to procure an iron safe for the Treasurer’s office. Grand and petit jurors were selected.

The Sheriff was again directed to install the lightning rod, repair the steps, do the plastering and glass and whitewash. He was also to procure an ash pail, shovel and fire poker. Also to clean the stove pipe and procure a dust brush. \$25 was allowed for the above.

The next day, the Public Property Committee reported that most of the rooms on the lower level of the Courthouse were in woeful condition. One room was filled with about 200 bushels of wheat. Another was filled with lumber. Another was locked and someone had taken possession of the key. The group could not enter it. The committee recommended that the Sheriff direct that the rooms be cleaned forthwith by those who have been occupying them. The Sheriff to take possession of the keys and not allow any merchandise to be stored in the Courthouse. A new stove with additional pipe and some more bedding was to be procured for the jail. The Board allowed \$12 for the latter.

On January 5th, a resolution to appropriate \$500 for the purpose of “commencing a jail in the county” was placed on the table.

On November 13th, at their annual meeting it took seven ballots before A. E. Ray was elected chairman. The rules of 1847 were adopted as the current rules of the Board. Hollis Latham challenged the seating of E. R. Utter as representative from the Town of Elkhorn. Committee assignments were made for: assessments, roads, miscellaneous accounts, treasury, public property, and tax titles. The Board reviewed the voting for Elkhorn...43 for Utter and 42 for Latham with several other Latham votes in question. A motion for Utter to vacate his seat lost. The Board voted to have a committee on pauper accounts following a report on pauper claims. The chairman then appointed three members to the committee. The next day, the assessment committee had added members from the villages of Elkhorn, Delavan, Hudson and Whitewater.

The Board reviewed numerous bills on November 15th. They adopted a report on the assessments for the villages of Delavan, Geneva, Whitewater, East Troy, Elk Horn (sic), and Lyons. Various accounts were adjusted and then adopted. The next day, the Board agreed to pay Bradley’s claim of \$40 for the jail plans. They adopted a Public Property report asking the Sheriff to make sundry repairs on the jail, banking up on the outside around the bottom and pointing up the cracks and replacing and nailing up the boards

on the end of said jail. He was to procure two good scrapers and erect them on the steps of the Courthouse and charge the same to the County. The committee for the iron safe was asked to report at the January meeting.

On January 7, 1850, the committee on the iron safe reported that the safe cost \$110 and \$10 for transportation to Elkhorn. The remaining \$5 was handed to Mr. Spaford. Phiny Allen sent this report to the Board on January 1st. The next day, Mr. Allen and Mr. Goodsell addressed the Board regarding the plans for a jail. On January 9th, a bill from A. Delap for two scrapers for the Courthouse of \$2.00 was referred to committee. After a couple of votes, the Board allowed \$1.50 on the bill.

On January 11th, there were many pages of the proceedings devoted to a report from the Treasurer ending with a total of expenses of \$4,023.30. A committee of two was appointed to review the report and report to the Board. The Board voted to pay Delap an additional 50 cents on his bill. It was reported “the jail as being in a comfortable condition.” The Public Property Committee was ordered to do a further examination of all public property. Later that day, the committee reported that the tin with which the Register’s office is covered has become incised or cracked so that it leaks badly and also that hinges are broken off from two of the window blinds. The committee recommended that \$4.00 be given the Register to repair said office. Report adopted.

On January 12th, the Sheriff was ordered to get two locks and “cause them to be put upon the Doors (sic) of this room”. \$2.00 was appropriated for this purpose. After 3 motions to appropriate money for stationery for the Treasurer were lost, finally a 4th one for that purpose carried. A Treasurer’s report of 8 pages included a total of 6 men receiving a total of \$33 for wolf bounty. A motion followed receiving that report to have the bounty increased to \$5.00. The clerk was authorized to have the Treasurer’s report published in either of the papers printed in the county – not to exceed \$10. He was further authorized to sell and assign tax certificates for lands taken for unpaid taxes. Grand and petit jurors were selected. Money for mileage at 6 cent/mile and \$12.00 per diem were assigned to the supervisors.

The annual meeting was held on November 12, 1850 with 17 supervisors, Lyman Cowdery, Clerk, and O. Preston, Sheriff, present. John P. Snell, Linn Township, was elected chairman on the 2nd ballot. The rules of last year were adopted with changes in #14 and #15. The chairman made

committee appointments. A motion for a special committee on village assessments was approved. After the Sheriff's report on the jail condition, the Public Property Committee was asked to examine said jail. They were excused and returned to report that the jail was clean, but insufficient for use and cannot be used or repaired for immediate use. Thirteen different accounts were presented and sent to the appropriate committees.

On November 13th, accounts #14 through #29 were presented. In the midst of this review, the Board moved that the Treasury committee ask the Clerk of Courts, Treasurer and the Clerk of the Board to report tomorrow on the finances of this county. The Board acted on some of the accounts and received more - #30 - #35. A motion to help the Town of Geneva in the cost of repairing the bridge across the inlet of Duck Lake (Como) was placed on the table.

The next day, a motion that a committee of five be appointed "to inquire into the propriety of abolishing all distinction between town and county poor and make a report of their doings to this Board as soon as practical" was placed on the table. A committee on foreign accounts was established and three members assigned; account #36 was referred to this committee. The Board voted to change the wolf bounty back to \$3.00 – although there were several motions and amendments regarding this topic which lost. The Sheriff was ordered to furnish a stove and necessary pipes to be put up in the Treasurer's office - \$12 to pay for the same. Mr. Snell introduced a resolution that the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin pass a special act allowing the county to sell part of the Public Square that the Board may deem expedient for the purpose of building a jail. Said Public Square being part of the greater quarter section purchased by the County from the U.S. on which the Courthouse is located – part of SE ½ of Sect. 26 [? 36] Town 3, Range 16.

A motion to assist the Town of Delavan in erecting and repairing a bridge over the inlet of Delavan Lake was placed on the table. The motion to assist the Town of Geneva was considered with both a \$400 and a \$200 figure, but both lost. A motion to reject the motion carried.

On January 15th, the Sheriff was authorized to have the wall between the Grand Jury and the middle room taken down and have it fitted as one room. Also to have new steps built in front of the Courthouse. Another motion about raising money for the jail was rejected. The Public Property Committee reported that several deeds to property on the Public Square were

recorded from Walworth County to Levi Lee, recorded in the Register's Office. [This was in partial payment for his building of the Courthouse.] A select committee appointed earlier in the day reported that a tax of two mills on the dollar should be levied for school purposes. This was changed to one mill per dollar and approved. [It was interesting to note that in these early days the Board would meet morning, afternoon and evening.]

On November 20th, the Sheriff was ordered to put up a stove in the Treasurer's office; \$12 was authorized for the stove. On November 22nd, the Sheriff was directed to "demand and receive of the religious societies who occupy the Courthouse a sufficient sum of money to pay for whitewashing and keeping said Courthouse in repair." A resolution to ask the state legislature to repeal the present County Court Law was approved. County funds were low and fees were not being paid because cases were being appealed. The Board approved a resolution that the Legislature pass a law that school funds could be loaned to the railroad company. The next day, the Board resolved that the Clerk of the Board be "instructed to inquire of Superintendent of the Lunatic Assylum (sic) at Chicago the expense of maintaining Insane persons at that institution and if insane person from this county will be received..." Clerk to report at the next meeting of the Board.

On January 10, 1851, the Public Property Committee recommended that back rents, estimated at \$25, be used for tables and chairs for the Grand Jury room and wood for the Courthouse. A special session was held on April 21st for the purpose of condemning the present jail and building a new one. A committee was appointed to examine the jail. A resolution was approved to declare the present jail insufficient to meet the needs of this county. The Board declared it condemned. A motion to move the jail to Delavan lost by a vote of 7 to 9. A motion was adopted, 15 to 2, that a committee of 5 be appointed to inquire whether the means can be acquired to build a jail immediately, what rate can be obtained, and that the committee report the next day.

The next day, they reported there were no funds on hand in the County Treasury or at their disposal of the amount that could be applied for that purpose. The only means would be to let it out on contract, pledging the faith of the county for the future payment of the same. Their report was adopted. There followed several resolutions and amendments which lost. One was that the jail be built in Delavan if that village would build a \$4000 jail for \$2000. That also lost. Finally, they adopted a resolution that a jail

would be built not to exceed \$4000, a building committee was established and the rents on rooms were now due and there was a \$2 per room as an advance. In addition, the Sheriff was given \$40 to furnish chairs for the Grand Jury room and for cleaning and whitewashing the Courtroom.

On November 11, 1851, there were 17 supervisors and Lyman Cowdrey, clerk, present at their annual meeting. The main order of business seemed to be a resolution to see what changes were made in the Clerk of Courts financial record, which was rejected by the Board at their last session. Mr. Frost, Register of Deeds, was sent as a messenger to the Clerk of Courts. The next day, the Board dealt with committee reports and various accounts. They adopted a resolution to have \$5 as the wolf bounty. A great amount of time was spent on motions and amendments regarding pauper accounts. They did approve several of these accounts. On November 13th, they asked the Sheriff to report on money advanced to him for chairs and making repairs to county property, and rents for rooms in the Courthouse and from Religious Societies. They dealt with accounts and approved adding an additional person on the assessment committee from each township in which a village was located. That evening, they approved the assessment report.

On November 14th, they approved a resolution asking for clarification on fees collected by public officials after their election. The Select Committee reported on the apportionment of Grand and Petit Jurors by townships. The report was adopted. A motion that a portion of Linn Township lying north of Geneva Lake be annexed to the Town of Geneva was placed on the table. A list of eight townships with delinquent taxes was reported. A new assessment report was amended and then approved. The committee on village assessments made a minority report which was placed on the table. The next day, the Board approved a resolution that the Building Committee agree with the builders of the jail to substitute a shingle and mineral paint roof instead of tin or brick as per contract "provided roof so constructed as to be a good and sufficient roof." They dealt with accounts and rejected the village assessment report.

On November 24th, the village assessment report was approved. It included Lyons, East Troy, Delavan, Geneva, Genoa, Whitewater and Elkhorn. The next day, they adopted a resolution that no wolf bounty be paid unless the officer before whom proof is made will certify that said scalp of wolf was destroyed in his presence. They approved "that any Religious Society be permitted to occupy the Courthouse provided the said society pay to the

Clerk of the Board, a sum equal to one dollar for each day occupied and all mountebank and puppet shows be kept out of the Courthouse.”

On November 26th, they modified yesterday’s resolution regarding Religious Societies to read \$10/quarter. They adopted a resolution that all persons not county officers occupying a room in the Courthouse pay \$15/year as rent. If they refuse, the Clerk of this Board is authorized to lock up said office.

On January 5, 1852, there were 16 supervisors present and Lyman Cowdery, clerk. A petition received earlier regarding the north part of Town of Linn was again placed on the table. They adopted a resolution that because Walworth County assessments were made higher than other counties, Walworth County was paying an unequal amount of state tax. Therefore, assessors must meet to make a more perfectly equalizing assessment. The next day, they again laid the Linn resolution on the table and dealt with accounts.

On January 7th, the Linn resolution was rejected. They adopted a resolution asking the Building Committee to report on their actions and the status of the jail. The Treasurer’s report showed a balance of \$1,180.86 and land certificates in the Treasury totaling \$1,197.97.

On January 8th, the Clerk of the Board was directed to occupy the lower South West room in the Courthouse as his office. A resolution to accept the jail built by Levi Lee and Richard Flack was laid on the table after an amendment to reject it was lost. After being laid on the table again, Lee and Flack offered a guarantee on the waterproofing of the roof. A new resolution along with the warranty was adopted. They adopted a resolution to give Levi Lee the lot on which the old jail was situated and another resolution to give him \$30 on jail extras was referred to committee. A resolution that when the jail was finished as contracted the sum of \$4,000 would be drawn from the Treasury was adopted. They adopted a resolution that Lyman Cowdery would have the care and supervision of the Courthouse from and after January 8, 1852.

A special meeting was held on July 6, 1852 with 17 supervisors present. They elected George Cotton, chairman. A committee of five was appointed to ask Lee and Flack to meet with the Board to examine the jail. A resolution regarding the jail roof and to start proceeding against Lee and Flack to complete their contract and to recover damages was placed on the

table. A resolution that the jail roof was insufficient, the prisoners had to be removed and a good and sufficient roof had to be put upon the jail so the sheriff could return prisoners to jail was approved.

On November 9th, the Board asked the Sheriff to report the name, age and cause of committal of each prisoner and all other matters required by Section 4, Chapter 153 of the revised state statutes. They asked the District Attorney to report the full amount of business he did for the county. The Board asked the Sheriff to report as soon as convenient the condition of the jail and its roof. The Treasurer was asked to report the amount of money and other property belonging to the county and any outstanding orders against the county. There was a resolution that town supervisors in presenting pauper accounts state the items of evidence for making these claims.

On November 10th, the Board asked the Clerk of Courts to report the amount of jury certificates and other outstanding expenses. The Public Property Committee reported that the jail roof was insufficient and has done damage to the jail and asked the Board to take immediate action to procure a good and sufficient roof. A resolution to have the Public Property Committee confer with the jail builders was rejected. On November 11th, the Board resolved that the entire Board examine the jail as a group. They heard reports from the District Attorney and the Treasurer, and then adjourned to visit the jail. Next, they asked the committee on tax titles to recommend disposition of any tax certificates in the Treasury. They adopted the report of village assessment for: Whitewater, Delavan, Geneva, East Troy, Elkhorn, Geneva, Lyons and Allen's Grove. After a report of the committee on wolf bounties, they adopted the bounty of \$10 to be paid until April 15th then reduce it to \$3 for adult wolves and \$2 for whelps.

On November 12th, they passed a resolution that a committee of three procure the "letting down of the South end of the jail roof to its original position and otherwise restore the building to its original position...." Also to cause a first quality tin and mineral paint roof to be placed on the jail and to examine and assess the damages caused by the insufficiency of the roof and to report to the Board in January. They approved the amount of taxes to be raised for school purposed for the 17 townships - \$2,191.62. Also \$4,500.00 for county needs and 3 ½ mills on the dollar for state tax. They referred a resolution to the District Attorney that a pauper be sent to Connecticut (at a cost of \$125), there being a friend willing to take care of him. The D.A. reported and the resolution was placed on file. The D.A. was

instructed to examine the criminal record for the county and discover if there were any bonds or securities beholden to the county and if so, to proceed to collect them.

On November 23rd, they again dealt with wolf bounties and set it at \$10 for each female, \$8 for each male until April 15th and then \$3 thereafter. They referred the above pauper case to the Circuit Judge and asked for his immediate attention because said pauper was not in the county jail. They asked the D.A. to prosecute all cases of illegal banking in the county. They adopted a resolution that there would be no distinction between town and county paupers. Also, that the county levy a tax of 1 ½ mill/dollar to purchase a farm not to exceed 160 acres and the necessary stock and equipment for the same. That there be 3 elected superintendents to begin: 1 for 1 year term, 1 for 2 years and 1 for 3 years. Thereafter, they would be elected for a 3-year term. The superintendents to purchase said farm, stock and equipment and to give county bonds in the amount of double the amount of taxes to be raised and that they receive per diem of \$2/day. The committee on assessments gave a detailed report, showing township acreage, assessed value of real estate, assessed value of personal estate, total of the last two columns, state tax, county tax, total of last two columns, school tax and Poor House and Farm tax. The Board decreed that money raised for the Poor Farm not be used for any other program. The committee on the Public Square fence recommended the county raise \$250 for materials. Elkhorn citizen had promised to construct a good and substantial fence and give it two coats of mineral paint and oil. The report was adopted. Balloting for the Superintendent of the Poor House took several votes before N. L. Gaston, H. B. Clark and David Williams were elected. Their terms were 3, 2 and 1 years, respectively.

On November 25th, three members were appointed to supervise the building of the Public Square fence; they would not receive any compensation from the county for their services. On December 29th, they adopted a report on the Register of Deeds office that a desk was needed to write on and that the present one should be removed to keep records in better condition and to move the safe and the clerk of the bound records to another office. On December 31st, the Superintendent of the Poor House reported on 3 areas for their operation regarding a quorum, when they would receive paupers, etc. The committee on the jail reported that damage to the jail was about \$100.

Cost to put on a tin roof, by Mr. Barlow, was \$220 exclusive of painting. He would guarantee no leaks for one year. The committee decided on that roof, but it would not be painted for one year to determine if it leaked.

The next meeting recorded was November 15, 1853, their annual meeting. The following committees were assigned: assessments, roads, pauper accounts, treasury, miscellaneous accounts, public property, tax titles, justices and constable accounts. A resolution that benches for the jury were not suitable was referred to the Public Property Committee.

On November 18th, the Public Property Committee was asked to examine the County farm and report to the Board the condition of the same and if money was judiciously spent. There was another resolution to report on the condition of the paupers. The next day, they received the report that the Poor Farm was in good a shape as could be expected for the short time it existed. They recommended that the superintendents obtain a few luxuries for the aged and infirmed. David Williams was again elected; this time to a three year term. They allowed \$200 at the disposal of the Superintendent of the Poor to obtain medical help for a blind pauper. They approved the assessment for the villages: Elkhorn, Genoa, Lyons, Allen's Grove, Whitewater, Geneva, Delavan and East Troy. The assessment report on the 17 townships was laid on the table. A special committee was appointed to examine the Register of Deeds desk. They adopted a resolution that the practice of smoking in the Courtroom during business hours of the Board was a nuisance and ought to be prohibited. There were 11 yes votes, 4 noes, and two absent.

On November 22, 1853, the assessment report was again placed on the table. The Board dealt with accounts. The assessment report was amended, but still lost. Finally after a few more amendments, the resolution was passed. The next day, the Treasurer's report included the apportion of state school funds among the 17 towns, amounts appropriated for the poor, medical aid for the poor, county officer salaries, expenses for the Circuit Court, Board expenses and school tax. The State tax was listed at 6 mills. The Sheriff was allowed \$2 to act as messenger for the Board. A resolution was approved for a desk for the Register of Deeds. The Public Property Committee was asked to examine the Courthouse to determine if it needed to be painted. The D.A. was asked to review the jail contract to see if the builders complied with all conditions of the contract, especially regarding the roof and report back to the Board.

On November 24th, the Superintendent of the Poor reported that they purchased a farm of 80 acres in the East half of the SW quarter of Section 4 in Town 2 North of Range 17 East, which was in a high state of cultivation. They also purchased 12 ½ acres of the East half of the NE fractional quarter of section 28 of Town 2 North of Range 17 East as a wood lot. There were good and substantial buildings on the 80 acres. They erected a building capable to house over 50 persons at the cost of \$1000. That building was ready to receive paupers last May 15th. They found it necessary to build a separate building to house the insane at a cost of \$300. They now have 3 insane paupers and 15 other paupers in residence. The report continue:

cost of farm	\$1,500.00
cost of dwelling	850.00
cost of asylum	<u>250.00</u>
total	\$2,600.00
cost of farm stock	176.00
cost of tools	100.00
cost of seed grain	<u>30.00</u>
total	306.00
cost of household furnishings	<u>306.00</u>
total of permanent investment	\$3,212.00
overseer's salary	\$350.00
female assistant	90.00
renting 40 acres	56.00
also food, medical assist. supt. per diem, etc.	388.70

Total liability for the county: \$4441.45. The report went on to indicate the farm had produced 300 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of oats, 800 bushels of corn, 350 bushels of barley, 30 tons of hay and 100 bushels of potatoes. That gave a total value of farm produce of \$817.50. The total cost of maintaining all paupers was \$400.00. The cost of the care of paupers not able to move to the Poor Farm was \$408.55. The cost of those paupers conveyed to the Poor Farm from April 1 to May 15 was \$220.25, giving a total of these accounts of \$628.80.

On January 9, 1854, the Clerk of Circuit Court presented his report of cases and amounts... 159 cases along with the costs. The next day, the Board appointed a select committee to settle the jail contractor's bills on the new

roof and damages to the jail and to prosecute if necessary. On January 11th, Lee and Flack settled the account of the roof with \$116.00 and the money was put into the treasury. A resolution from the Bar of Walworth County asking for a suitable stove for the Courtroom was laid on the table. The Public Property Committee was asked to examine the jail and report back to the Board. The Treasurer's report took up pp. 132 – 140*...these were circuit court case costs which were paid into the treasury. They approved money for a desk for the Register of Deeds. Eighteen treasury certificates were cancelled as worthless. They approved \$42 to buy chairs for the Courtroom. A resolution to limit the use of the Courthouse to only county business lost. The Public Property Committee reported the jail was in good, clean and first rate condition.

On November 14th, at the annual meeting there were 17 supervisors present along with C. W. Sibley, clerk, and J. C. Crumb, Sheriff. E. K. Frost was elected chairman. Committee appointments included assessments, pauper accounts, public property, tax titles, miscellaneous accounts, treasury, roads, justice and constables. On November 16th, the Clerk of the Board was ordered to repair the steps of the Courthouse, the floor of the porch, the plastering and windows, and to use the monies from rents to pay for the same and to report to the Board at the next meeting. \$200 was approved to build a horse barn, a cistern, a pump, putting on conductors, plastering and putting in an additional door and painting the roof of the jail and premises. The Clerk of the Board, Sheriff, and supervisor from the Town of Elkhorn to procure the work to be done and report at the next meeting. \$40 was appropriated for wood for the jail to be procured by the Clerk of the Board. The Board requested a report from the Superintendents of the Poor. A report of the assessment committee combined the Town and village assessments together. 17 townships were listed.

On November 17th, the Superintendent of the Poor reported that \$300 was spent building a barn, \$100 to improve and rebuild fences and \$25 to build an ash and smoke house. The next day, the Board approved \$110 to erect a fence around the jail. The work to be done under the supervision of the Clerk of the Board, Sheriff, and the supervisor from the Town of Elkhorn. The Board authorized \$30 to purchase the necessary equipment for the safe keeping of prisoners arrested on criminal process.

On January 3, 1855, the report on repairs to the Courthouse was approved. They asked the committee charged with building the fence around the Courthouse to report why said fence was not completed. They appropriated \$25 for a desk for the Clerk of the Board to keep record. They approved a resolution that the Clerk of the Board was authorized to grant use of the Courthouse to any Religious denomination for purposes of holding their fair or donation parties.

On January 5th, the Board as a whole examined the jail and expressed general satisfaction, but asked the Public Property Committee to examine the same with a view to improve its security. They adopted a resolution that \$130 be appropriated to make necessary repairs to better the jail security and to purchase wood. They again resolved that the Clerk of the Board repair the Courthouse steps, the floor of the porch, plastering and painting the Courthouse and applying the rents to those costs and that \$50 be appropriated to cover the balance. \$25 was approved to purchase 2 stoves for the offices of the Clerk of Courts and the Register of Deeds. They decided to insure the county buildings for one year with Etna Ins. Co.

On November 13, 1855, they held their annual meeting with 17 supervisors present along with C. W. Sibley, clerk, and P. Gates, Sheriff. E. K. Frost was chairman. The next day, a special committee was appointed to examine the jail, determine its value if sold, cost of repairs needed, cost of a suitable lot for a new jail and for the erection of a safe, substantial jail. On November 15th, they gave approval for Mr. Russell to use the Courtroom to give a lecture that evening. On November 16th, they adopted a resolution to appropriate \$70 to purchase a bell for the Courthouse. They approved a resolution to have the Board Clerk purchase 1 ½ dozen chairs for use of the Bar of Walworth County during court. They ordered the Clerk to purchase suitable lamps for the Courtroom not to exceed \$20.

The December 17, 1855 meeting started with no quorum present for the morning session; adjourned to afternoon. A committee of three was appointed to find someone to transcribe the Register of Deeds records and organize an index. The committee reported that a suitable book should be obtained and names recorded therein. The Clerk of the Board was ordered to obtain a proper index book for deeds and mortgages. The jail committee reported that at this time it was inexpedient to build a new jail, but the following repairs were needed: fill in the space between the ground and floor with stone and grouting, make a new floor with 2-inch plank, take

down and reconstruct the cells making a hall between them in both of the rooms, replace the window and plank the sides of the jail room and do such other improvement to make the jail secure. Another committee was appointed to determine the means for raising the money for these improvements.

On December 18th, the Sheriff gave a report on all prisoners held in the jail since the first of the year...name, reason for arrest, fine and status in detail in the records. The Board adopted a resolution that the middle room on the east side of the first floor of the Courthouse be granted to the Elkhorn Literary and Library Association for a library and reading room until such a time the Board may need it for another purpose or rescind this resolution. A great deal of paper was used for the report from the committee looking at collected court fees and court expenses. They reported that \$15 was collected, but there were \$437.69 in expenses. The Board asked for a “memorial” to be sent to the legislature asking that court fees cover all court costs.

The next day, the Ways and Means committee to raise funds for the jail repairs had two means to suggest: petition the legislature to authorize the county to borrow the money or say the work can be done on credit until money can be raised next year. The County could pay part of the cost and be charged interest on the balance. They later rescinded the resolution to have the committee find the lowest bidder to transcribe the deeds and mortgages for the Register of Deeds.

On December 21st, Mr. Elderkin was asked to report the amount of money in his hands due to the County. Mr. Elderkin made an immediate report and the resolution was withdrawn when he showed a receipt for the same from the County Treasurer. The Clerk of the Board reported on the repairs to the Courthouse as requested. The expenses total \$151.51. Rents from letting of Courthouse rooms totaled \$91.50. Grand and petit jurors were selected by township. They recommended changes in the bylaws and regulations for governing the committee of the Poor Farm – 8 articles covering certification of the poor, inventory of pauper’s possessions, committee action, etc. The report was adopted. There are now 21 paupers in the Poor House. Total receiving help during the year at the Poor House was 43. Average number at the Poor House was 22. Cost of maintaining the paupers was \$1341.25. The

Public Property Committee reported the condition of the house and barn at the Poor Farm was very adequate. However, the condition of the housing for the insane was not humane. They questioned the total expense of this effort.

On December 22nd, the Sheriff was ordered to procure white oak plank and plank the lower hall floor of the jail. The Sheriff was put in charge of granting the use of Courthouse rooms to various religious societies if not needed for county purposes and to charge such fees to keep the Courthouse in good repair and clean.

The Board met on November 11, 1856 for their annual meeting with 17 supervisors present. The Sheriff was appointed messenger and S. Sibley appointed the assistant Clerk of the board. Standing committees were appointed: assessments, roads, pauper accounts, misc. accounts, treasury, public property, justices and constables, and tax titles. The various accounts were referred to the proper committee. The next two days they dealt with accounts.

On November 14th, they approved \$1,000 for jail repairs and continued to deal with accounts. They heard a report on needed repairs to the insane house. They decided that a meeting was needed of all town assessors to equalize their process. They did adopt the report of the assessment committee. They approved the purchase of a coal stove for the insane.

The next day, the Board dealt with county officers' salaries, tax titles and assessments. The totals for the county were: state tax - \$10,500.00, county tax - \$11,500.00, school tax - \$2,868.95, delinquent tax - \$175.41. They set the wolf bounty at \$5 for a full grown adult and \$3 for a whelp.

On December 22nd, the Board dealt with accounts. The committee to examine the jail reported that it was totally inadequate. They recommended that the first floor be taken out and be lowered 2 feet and the space below it to be filled with stone. The cells should be reformed. [A depiction of the jail cell formation that was recommended is pictured on County Board Proceedings Book 3 p.314.] The report was adopted. Another resolution to develop suitable plank or gravel walks on the Public Square was adopted, was recalled and then was placed on the table. A committee was appointed to supervise the repairs to the jail.

The Board did meet on December 25th to do some business, but all resolutions lost. The next day, the resolution about the Public Square was adopted when shade and ornamental trees were eliminated. At the end of the year, the balance in the county treasury was \$325.10.

On November 10, 1857, the annual meeting was held. Adam Ray was again named chairman with 17 supervisors present. Supervisors were named to the standing committees and the Board started to deal with accounts. The next day, they dealt with accounts, tax titles and delinquent taxes. Accounts took some of their time the following day along with naming jurors. They heard a report from the Clerk of Courts and named a special committee to examine the repairs made to the jail. That report and the report of the Superintendent for the Poor were both accepted.

On November 13th, the Board received the reports from the committee on the jail and the committee on assessments and placed them on file. The committee to examine the financial books indicated there was a balance due to the superintendents for the poor of \$10.95 and the Sheriff's books were off \$1.00. After attempting some changes in the assessments report, it was finally adopted for the 17 townships. It showed a total valuation for the county of \$3,337,201.00. The Clerk of the Board had the approval to buy a new map of the county at a cost of \$5.00. The report on the jail showed that the repairs were done and some money remained in that account. The committee suggested plastering the cells, obtaining locks, plastering the kitchen and other repairs. The report was adopted.

On December 21st, the Board dealt with accounts and continued with this the next day. There was a resolution that wolf bounties be \$20 for adults and \$10 for whelps. It was laid on the table. There followed changes of \$10 for adults and whelps, then \$15 for adults and \$10 for whelps, then \$25 for adults and \$15 for whelps. All of these lost. They reconsidered the resolution making it \$12 for adults and \$8 for whelps and it was adopted. They then appointed jurors by township. They worked on accounts on the 23rd and 24th.

On September 20, 1858, the Board chairman appointed a committee to examine the bases for equalizing assessments. The next day, the committee reported and the report was adopted. A motion to reconsider the report lost.

The Board's annual meeting was held on November 9, 1858. Committee appointments included: roads, pauper accounts, misc. accounts, public property, tax titles, treasury, and justices and constables. The Sheriff was appointed Board messenger. They approved a resolution that no account would be dealt with unless the supervisor from the township from which the account came was present. That day they dealt with 229 accounts. The next day they dealt with accounts #230 to #261 and the following day with #262 to #277, plus some of the earlier accounts which had been referred to committee. A committee was appointed to meet with the superintendents for the poor to amend their rules and bylaws.

On November 12th, the Board dealt with accounts and then voted that no bills would be accepted after 10:00 a.m.; they would be laid over and no action taken on them. They received a report from the Superintendent for the Poor, which recommended that \$1000 be raised to build an "Insane House." They then dealt with tax titles. A resolution that no wolf bounty be paid lost. After many motions, the report of the Superintendent for the Poor along with a resolution of building an Insane House at the cost of \$800 finally was adopted. They adopted a report on the allocation of state tax, county tax, and school tax by townships...also listed delinquent taxes by township.

The next day, there was a report from the Public Property Committee regarding the examination of public buildings. The Poor and Insane buildings were ample, praiseworthy, commodious and in good repair. The jail was clean, healthy and in praiseworthy condition. The Courthouse needed substantial chimneys to receive the stove pipes. The Register of Deeds and Clerk of Courts offices were adequate for keeping the county records. The building between the Courthouse and the Register of Deeds and Clerk of Court offices could not be entered because of "stubborn, foreign soldiers who prevented them from entering. This needed to be changed." The committee recommended "that the Sovereigns of Elkhorn and the County Legislature may have in the future a safe and undisputed access to said Public Property." The Board elected a Superintendent for the Poor. The Sheriff's report showed rent collected from:

	Public lecture	\$10.00
	Literary Society	3.00
	Methodist Society	2.00
Rents due:	Congregational Society	\$ 8.00
	Singing School/Glee Club	17.50
	Universalist Society	8.00

On December 14th, they dealt with accounts, #298 to #418, and tax titles, referring them to committees or laying them on the table. The next day the Board worked on the rules and bylaws for the Superintendents for the Poor. They went through these section by section. [These can be found in Proceedings Book 3 on pp. 425 to 427] They ordered that 200 copies be printed for \$10. They continued working on accounts.

On December 16th, the Board again dealt with accounts. The Sheriff was ordered to paint banister and stair railings, fix the roof with paint and mineral paint sufficient to keep it from leaking, and plaster the hall of the jail. They adopted a resolution to ask the local legislators to use their influence to change that part of the law related to the sale and redemption of land returned from non-payment of taxes. The law in force puts a heavy burden on the county. They adopted a resolution that wolf bounty would be \$10 for adults and \$5 for whelps. They allocated names for the two juries. The next day they dealt with the Sheriff's bill for jail repairs of \$137.98. They ordered the Board Clerk to deliver the rules and bylaws for the Superintendents for the Poor to each township chairman. Then, they dealt with the Sheriff's bill for committing persons to prison and accompanying persons to court...almost two pages of names. The Whitewater Register was designated as one of the papers of the Board, along with the Elkhorn Independent and the Delavan Northern.

On July 11, 1859, the Board met and the chairman named a five person Committee to Equalize Assessments. The next day that Committee reported. The report was accepted and then there was a motion to change the report and send it back to committee. Finally, the revised report was accepted. The total real and personal property valuation for the county was \$7,292,822.00.

The Board held their annual meeting on November 15, 1859 and elected their chairman and adopted their rules. Members were appointed to the standing committees: treasury, justices and constables, sheriff and clerks accounts, public property, tax titles, miscellaneous accounts, road – bridges and town plats, and Superintendents for the Poor. They dealt with accounts #1 - #126. The next day they dealt with accounts #127 - #211. The following day they dealt with accounts #212 - #251. They appointed a drainage commissioner – Otis Preston, who was also the sheriff. They ordered that he use as much funds as needed from the Drainage Fund to drain the area known as Court House Square.

On November 19th, the Board apportioned state, county and school taxes and delinquent taxes. They heard a report from the Superintendent for the Poor. He indicated that there were 33 paupers in the Poor House, 30 paupers had been received since the last report, 44 was the highest number of paupers in the Poor House at any one time, and the least number was 29. 209 paupers were supported outside of the Poor House at a cost of \$1,425.52. The cost of improvements at the Poor House was \$470.32. That left a balance of \$623.77 looking at the total expenses and total income including the budgeted amount. \$800 was allowed for the building of the insane house; the cost was \$1,063.60. He asked for \$250 this to include \$100 to purchase wheat or flour and \$50 for repairs to the building. He also suggested that the buildings be insured. The Board elected a new Superintendent for the Poor.

On December 12th, the Board met to deal with accounts from the November meetings. A new Superintendent for the Poor was needed; the one elected the last month was not qualified to serve. The next day the Sheriff reported as requested the day before regarding repairs to the Courthouse and jail. He reported a total of \$605.84 spent on the Courthouse. The Clerk noted this was an error; the total should be \$515.60 with jail repairs at \$94.24. The Board asked the Superintendent for the Poor to make a complete report to their body, starting from the initiation of the Poor Farm and covering all costs. The Board dealt with pay for the jurors and agreed to pay for medical service needed by the prisoners. The Sheriff was asked to contract with the lowest bidder, not to exceed \$25. The Board voted to delay the election of the new Superintendent for the Poor.

On December 14th, the Board agreed that the Methodist Society could meet in the Courthouse for one year free of charge. That was later reconsidered and lost. Later, the Board adopted a resolution that any religious society in the Town of Elkhorn without a house of worship could use the Courthouse on Sundays at no cost for one year, upon the schedule of the sheriff. There would be a cost if fuel and/or lights were used.

On December 15th, the Board spent some time determining that infractions of licensing laws should be tried in the occurring township and bail in criminal cases. The information to be sent to the various Justices of the Peace. They elected Mr. Gage as Superintendent for the Poor and called for an audit of all accounts approved during this session. They asked that the Superintendent for the Poor and the Sheriff obtain all needed provisions

within the county and keep a record of all expenditures in a book open to any of the supervisors. They heard a report on the treasury and then one from the Superintendent for the Poor. The latter included information on the amount of outside relief by townships, pay to those who certify pauper eligibility, superintendent's pay, physician's bills, etc. They rescinded the wolf bounty. The Public Property Committee reported that the Poor House and farm buildings were in good repair, were ample and commodious, clean and praiseworthy. The jail was in clean and healthy condition. The Courthouse and offices were clean and convenient. The recent improvements were satisfactory. The Board asked Hollis Latham to investigate and ascertain what would be the best policy in furnishings or building a good, safe, efficient way to protect the public records of the county. They appointed a committee of three to report to the Board the expediency of continuing the county system of maintaining the poor.

The Board held their annual meeting on November 13, 1860 with 17 supervisors present. They elected Edwin Hodges, chairman; he was from the Town of Elkhorn. They established the same standing committees as last year and then dealt with accounts. They dealt with accounts the next two days and delayed the report of record keeping by Lathan.

On November 16th, they again dealt with accounts and then tax titles. Hollis Latham was elected to a three year term as a Superintendent for the Poor. The Board voted that Latham be required to give bond to the County in the sum of \$5,000. The Board voted to visit the jail as a group that day at 4:00 p.m. The Superintendents for the Poor were told to dispose to the best advantage the 14 acres of land on Duck Lake (Como). They deferred a group visit to the Poor House and Farm.

On November 17th, they adopted a resolution that a committee of three be appointed to "perfect a plan for a building suitable for the offices of the Judge of the County Court, for the Clerk of Circuit Courts and the Register of Deeds, with the probable cost thereof" and report it to the Board. They approved that the County Surveyor have the use of the Grand Jury room for an office except when used by the Circuit Court. They learned the Hollis Latham bond was received and approved the apportionment of the taxes from 1860 by township.

On December 10th, the Board met to deal with accounts. The next day the drainage committee report was referred to a special committee. A report on a new building was made a special order of business for the next day. They passed a resolution that the wolf bounty would be \$3 for each and every animal caught in the county. They again dealt with accounts and appointed jurors.

On December 12th, they met and delayed action on the building report and resolution. The resolution to build was lost 3 to 14. They passed a resolution that each supervisor discuss with his constituency about building a fire-proof building for the courts and records. The next day they asked the Clerk to establish a list of furnishings as required by law for each office.

On December 14th, the Board requested that the drainage and school tax monies be apportioned appropriately by township. There was a detailed report by Hollis Latham on the preservation of county records. It can be found in the County Board of Proceedings Book 3 on pp. 551-552. This was followed by another report by Latham as an agent for the county on pp. 552-553. The next two pages in Book 3 dealt with the report of the Superintendent for the Poor. He reported that there were now 33 residents in the Poor House; there had been 4 deaths, one birth, and 3 persons sent to the state hospital since the last major report. Pp. 558-559 recorded the report on the new building by Hollis Latham. It called for a building 56' by 30' containing three offices with a cost of approximately \$2,034. There was also a report by the Public Property Committee on the county buildings.

On February 11, 1861, the Board met with only 13 supervisors present. The resolution on a new building lost. They adopted a resolution to ascertain the ownership of titles to the square on which the Courthouse now stands. Another was to renew the insurance on the Courthouse. Three more resolutions on erecting a new building lost. The next day they adopted a resolution to investigate title to the Public Square land and not build any more buildings until the county owns the land. This was voted in two parts and approved. They adopted a resolution that the Methodist Society could use the Courthouse for holding a meeting on the Sabbath at \$25 a year. Other societies could have occasional use if the house was not otherwise occupied, at the discretion of the Sheriff for 50 cents a meeting.

On July 8, 1861, the Board met with 17 supervisors present. Each took a separate oath concerning the fairness of the equalized value of property in their township. Then a committee was named to equalize the assessment for the county. The next day the committee reported, adjustments were made and the report was adopted.

On the afternoon of November 12, 1861, the Board held their annual meeting. Only 12 supervisors were present; this included one from the Town of Elkhorn. E. Hodges was unanimously elected chairman. They adopted the rules of the last Board as their rules and then recessed until 3:00 p.m. when four more supervisors appeared. Standing committees were appointed – treasury, justices and constables, sheriff's and clerk's accounts, public property, tax titles and illegal assessments, miscellaneous accounts, and roads and bridges. They adopted a resolution that Mr. Leland be employed at \$2 a day to report the proceeding of the Board with the understanding that they be published in the Independent at no further cost. Henry Adkins was elected assistant clerk. They approved a resolution that the Board of County Equalization and their clerk receive the same compensation as the Board and that money be drawn from the treasury for this service. They dealt with accounts #1 - # 56 and referred them to the proper committees.

On November 13th, they dealt with more accounts #57 - #81. They heard a report regarding the title to the Public Square. A. W. Farr investigated and indicated "title was perfect in the county until the dedication of the Public Square by the County for the use of the public in accordance with the provisions of the statute when the title of the County became extinct and was vested in the public." They dealt with the District Attorney's salary at \$400.

On November 14th, they adopted a resolution that the County Superintendent of School's salary would be \$600/year for all services required of him. Elisha Huber was elected Superintendent for the Poor. They again dealt with accounts. A resolution to raise \$3,000 to support families that might be in need because family members were serving in the military service was defeated. The Board apportioned state, county, school and delinquent taxes by township (17). The Board moved that the Superintendent for the Poor be required to give a bond for \$3,000. They approved a report of apportioning a total of 90 Petit jurors and 75 Grand jurors by township. The purchase of suitable cases for the Board Clerk to store the Board's papers was also approved.

On December 9th, the Board dealt with accounts and appointed members of the committee which would name the jurors. They asked the Public Property Committee to visit the Poor House and report back to the Board. They changed the D.A.'s salary to \$600/year. The Superintendent for the Poor report indicated that two more insane paupers were removed to the State Lunatic Asylum giving a total of 5 patients there from the county. The health of these patients is good but no improvement in their condition. The health of the Poor House residents is good. Doctor bills totaled less than \$25 while the cost of doctor bills for paupers outside the Poor House was \$250. There were 34 paupers in the Poor House: 6 are advanced in years so they cannot care for themselves, 5 are confined to cells for safety, 7 others require attention and watching...being partially insane, 4 are idiotic and the rest are just paupers. The crops were relatively good – 210 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of oats, 800 bushels of corn, 240 bushels of potatoes, 7 bushels of beans, 60 bushels of beets, 150 bushels of carrots, 100 bushels of turnips, 6 bushels of onions and 15 bushels of apples. All of this produce will be used by the Poor House. The inventory of the county property at the Poor House was listed as \$1358.86 in value. They gave a financial report (found in Proceedings Book 4 on p. 20) which showed a balance of \$566.88.

Edwin Hodges was approved as the agent for the county for supplying offices with stationery, fuel and light, to insure the Courthouse, the Poor House and insure that all county buildings or property had such repairs as needed and to draw needed money from the county treasury for these duties. There were resolutions to pay the salaries of A. J. Cheney, Superintendent of Schools, and G. S. Murphy, D. A. The Public Property Committee reported that they visited several apartments at the Poor House and found them spacious, convenient and clean. The Insane House was neat and substantial, well adapted to its purpose. The County farm was in excellent condition – barns, fences and out buildings are in good repair. The Superintendents for the Poor are doing a good job, as are the overseers. The jail was in good repair, having been thoroughly renovated by the sheriff. The Courthouse and other buildings are repaired.

On December 11th, the Board heard that the financial report of the county, which was sent to the State, showed a balance in the treasury of \$2,094.62. They received a report from the Clerk of Circuit Court on the certificates issued to jurors and to the sheriff and deputies for work with the courts. [This report is in Proceedings Book 4 on pp. 26 – 30.] The Board adopted a

resolution that the Sheriff could allow Soldiers Aid Society of Elkhorn free use of the Court House. Qualified jurors were selected by township.

On January 13, 1862, the Board met with 4 supervisors and declared a quorum. In 1862, the County Board was composed of 5 supervisors – one from each Assembly district and 1 supervisor at large. C. H. Sturtevent was elected chairman. [In 1861, there were 16 named supervisors; it included one from the Town of Elkhorn]

At the morning meeting of the Board on April 21st, there was no quorum present so they recessed to the afternoon. With 4 supervisors present, they decided that taxes had been paid on some disputed land. They also decided not to deal with any accounts.

A special session of the County Board was called for August 25th to consider support of families whose members were serving in the U. S. Service (Union Army). They decided to delay action on this resolution until the last Monday in September. On September 29th, the Board dealt with accounts. The resolution concerning support of troop families lost 3 to 3.

On November 11th, the Board met for their annual meeting with 5 supervisors present. They elected Sturtevent chairman and dealt with accounts. The next day they dealt with accounts until 10:30 p.m. and adjourned until 8:00 a.m. the next day. On November 13th, they adopted a resolution “that the partitions between the Clerk of the Board’s office and the Grand Jury room be moved to the north as far as the casing of the southernmost door of said Grand Jury room and to have a new floor laid in said office all not to exceed \$12.00. Their evening session was devoted to the selection of jurors. On the 14th, they re-elected Thomas Gage as a Superintendent for the Poor. They visited the Poor House and then apportioned the state, county, school and delinquent taxes by township. The next day they changed the amount of taxes to be raised by an increase of \$600. They received a report from the County Treasurer dated November 11th which showed a balance in the treasury of \$2,027.03. Jurors were selected by township.

On December 16, 1862, the Board again dealt with accounts. They received a report of the Superintendents for the Poor. In it they mentioned that Elihue Gray, the overseer, receives \$600/year. “He is to furnish the household furniture for the dwelling part of the house, a team and harness and all of the

help that is necessary to do the work, both in and out of doors with such assistance as he may get from the paupers.” An inventory was submitted, also a listing of their crops (found in Proceedings Book 4 on pp. 67). They fattened 12 hogs and 3 beefs for use. They propose to build about 40 rods of board fence and a small brick kitchen. There were 5 paupers in the state lunatic asylum in Madison. The whole number of paupers in the Poor House as of November 11th was 41. Of this number, five had to be confined to cells because they are too insane and several other are confined in cells at night but are at liberty during the day. There were five deaths ... two were very aged and inhabitants of the Poor House since its inception. The others were brought in sick and never recovered. The superintendents had a balance of \$558.45 in their financial account. The Board authorized that the land certificate in the hands of the Superintendents for the Poor be turned over to the Treasurer and their account be credited with \$54.17.

On December 18th, the Board authorized payment of the Superintendent of Schools salary of \$600 and another of \$150 if he discharged his duties as charged. Edwin Hodges was appointed agent for the county to purchase and furnish stationery, fuel and lights for which county offices may be legally entitled – except for the Superintendents for the Poor. He also was to insure the Court House, Poor House and all county buildings and property. The Board set the Clerk of the Board’s salary at \$500 per year and authorized payment of all county officers on a quarterly basis. A resolution was adopted that all monies from licenses for selling alcohol be put in the county poor fund. Thomas Gage was elected as a Superintendent for the Poor. The Sheriff was charged with proper care of the Courthouse and use by charitable and political purposes unless payment was made in advance and not except at his discretion.

On July 13, 1863, there were 12 supervisors present and 5 townships not present for the Board of Equalization. The supervisors swore before Peter Golder, County Judge, that they would fairly and impartially equalize the assessments for the county. H. S. Winsor was elected chairman. The groups decided that the county, with the exception of the Town of Elkhorn, would be divided into five classes.

1. Sharon, Darien, Walworth, Delavan and Spring Prairie were rated at \$16.50 per acre.
2. Troy, East Troy, LaFayette and Sugar Creek rated at \$15.25/acre
3. LaGrange and Richmond at \$14.00/acre
4. Linn, Geneva and Bloomfield at \$12.75/acre
5. Hudson and Whitewater at \$11.50/acre

Elkhorn to be rated at \$28.00 per acre. They further decided to deduct \$2,000 from the aggregate value of each township and what remains of the surplus to deduct in equal parts from Richmond and LaGrange. Valuation of the villages to remain the same except that \$20,000 be added to the aggregate value of Delavan, \$10,000 be deducted from the village of Whitewater and \$5,000 each from Geneva and Elkhorn.

On November 10th, they held their annual meeting with 4 Board supervisors present. T. W. Hill was elected chairman and they dealt with accounts. The next day they again dealt with accounts and heard a resolution about an armory at Delavan. They discussed this, but took no action. The following day they again spent on accounts. On November 13th, they again dealt with accounts and in the evening session made an estimate of expenses for the coming year. The next day they postponed decision on the Armory and dealt with accounts. They apportioned the state, county, school and delinquent taxes by township.

On December 28th, after dealing with accounts they adopted the resolution about the Armory. "The Militia Company known as the Delavan Union Guards be authorized and empowered to procure at the expense of the county a suitable armory for the use of the Company for the year commencing November 1st 1863 and to employ an Armorer to take charge of the same in accordance with Sec. 17 of Chapter 242 of the Session Laws of 1863...provided that the expense of the same shall not exceed the sum of \$110 for the year for said purposes." They selected jurors.

The next day they re-elected Hollis Latham as a Superintendent for the Poor. They adopted a resolution to ask the Board of the Town of Walworth to re-examine the assessment of one individual and take proper action. They heard a report from the Superintendents for the Poor. There were 34 residents at this time in the Poor House. The health of all was good. They gave a report of the produce and a financial report showing a balance of \$320.38. The Board visited the County Poor House from 1 to 4 p.m. and then reconvened to work with the County Treasurer.

On December 30th, they again dealt with accounts. They appointed Edwin Hodges as county agent for supplies and heard his report. They asked that the County Treasurer, Board Clerk and D. A. prepare a report of monies received by them and in the county treasury. They fixed the D. A.'s salary

at \$500/year and the Superintendent of Schools' salary at \$800/year. They allowed \$25 for A. J. Cheney to attend the Teacher's Association meeting.

The Board met on May 28, 1864 with five supervisors present. They adopted a resolution to require the Register of Deeds to make a tract index of abstracts of the titles of land in the county as required by state legislature on April 23, 1864.

The Board held their annual meeting on November 15, 1864 with all five supervisors present. They dealt with accounts and heard explanation of a delinquent tax claim in Whitewater. They again employed Frank Leland to report Board proceedings and publish them in the Elkhorn Independent for \$2 a day. The next day they again dealt with accounts. On the 17th, along with accounts they decided that no sheriff, constable, marshal or deputy sheriff would be paid for services rendered unless said officer sends a written report of the kind and amount of services rendered to the Board. They accepted the resignation of Thomas Gage as a Superintendent for the Poor. They adopted a resolution to send a bill to Rock County for expenses of a resident who should have been charged to that county. They resolved that if the Court House was used by anyone other than county officers or the Soldiers Aid Society that the Sheriff shall charge for keeping the area clean and for fuel and light.

On November 18th, the Board appointed Mr. Wiswell as county agent for supplying wood and Edwin Hodges as county agent for other supplies, except for wood, for all county offices. T. W. Hill was elected to fill the Gage vacancy. The Board received reports from the County Treasurer, Superintendents for the Poor and from the Clerk of Circuit Court. The next day they again dealt with accounts.

On December 20th, they dealt with accounts, the Superintendents for the Poor, county agents and selected the number of jurors for the coming year. They decided bonds for the County Treasurer for the next two years would be fixed at \$60,000.

On the 21st, they heard a report from the Superintendents for the Poor. Three inmates from the State Lunatic Asylum were taken back to the county leaving only one from the county in Madison. There were 40 residents at the Poor House, 23 were received this year. 14 have left the Poor House, 1 enlisted in the service, 2 were sent to Reform School and 3 died. In their

report on the crops, they mentioned that the grass crops were very light but were saving some of the coarse fodder and hoped to provide for the farm stock in this manner. They purchased 8 ¾ acres of timberland about four miles from the Poor House to give adequate wood for fuel at a cost of \$250. They gave a financial report for the Poor House, also for the support of paupers outside the Poor House, by township. They reported the Poor House residents by township. They selected the Grand and Petit jurors and re-elected E. Heulce as Superintendent for the Poor. They set the county Treasurer's salary at \$800/year and the Board Clerk at \$700/year. The Treasurer was changed to \$900 and the clerk to \$750. They voted to pay Rufus Cheney \$10 for plans he submitted in 1861 for a building for county offices. That evening they reconsidered it and changed this to \$20. The next day they met and approved the bond for Elisha Heulce.

On July 10, 1865, all five members of the Board met and swore before Peter Holder, county judge, that they would be fair and impartial in equalizing valuation of real and personal property in the county. They had not received information from all of the townships so they adjourned until the next day.

On July 11th, they met and decided to value land in the townships as follows:

1. Sharon, Darien and Delavan at \$16.25/acre
2. Walworth and Spring Prairie at \$15.75/acre
3. LaGrange at \$15.25/acre
4. Sugar Creek, Richmond, LaFayette & East Troy at \$15.00/acre
5. Bloomfield at \$14.75/acre
6. Troy at \$14.00/acre
7. Geneva and Linn at \$13.75/acre
8. Whitewater and Lyons at \$13.00/acre
9. Elkhorn at \$24.75/acre.

\$15.00 to be taken from Delavan and added to Whitewater. \$1,000 taken from Sugar Creek and added to Spring Prairie. Personal property as determined by the town assessor was to remain the same. The Board then did a chart for the seventeen townships noting: number of acres, equalized rate per acre, assessed value, assessed value of village lots, aggregate value of land equalized, aggregate value of village lots, personal property equalized and total aggregate as equalized. They noted that the value of village lots in Whitewater and Delavan were altered by the State Board of Equalization.

They held their annual meeting on November 14, 1865 with all five supervisors present and dealt with accounts. They again employed Frank Leland to report their proceedings and publish them in the Elkhorn Independent. The next day they corrected some incorrect assessments and dealt with accounts. On November 16th, they paid George G. Green \$85.35 for services and materials in case of small pox in the Town of Walworth and \$65.75 to E. Pardick for the same.

On December 18th, they worked on accounts and decided on the amount of tax to be raised for the year, 1865, for state tax, county tax, school tax, appropriation for the poor, county office salaries, county agents, assessments, and other county expenses for a grand total of \$64,014.39. They adopted a lengthy resolution to erect a fireproof building for the safe keeping of records of the Clerk of Courts and Register of Deeds in 1866. The cost of the building not to exceed the sum equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 mill on a dollar on the taxable property of the county, according to the assessment of 1865. \$1,000 to be appropriated out of the general fund toward the cost of this building and the rest of the balance to be raised in 1866.

On December 19th, they dealt with accounts and then appointed a committee of three to inspect the jail and county buildings and report their condition, if they are insured and if not, whether they should be insured. The next day they again dealt with accounts and corrected a double assessment for Pliny Allen. Thomas Will was re-elected as a Superintendent for the Poor. They received a report from the County Treasurer.

On December 21st, they fixed the salary of the Superintendent of Schools at \$750 and the D. A. salary at \$600. They fixed the bond for the Superintendent for the Poor at \$3,000; this was presented to the Board and approved. There was a report from the Superintendent for the Poor. Mr. T. B. Gray, overseer, furnished all of the help at a salary of \$600. The inventory of personal property at the Poor House was \$1,985.86. On April 20th, they purchased 40 acres east of the Poor Farm from Jessie Rhodes for \$175.00. They showed aid to the poor outside of the Poor House at \$1,422.26. There were 34 now at the Poor House, this represents 10 township plus 4 transients; 6 were admitted this past year, 11 left and one died. There was a report on the crops (this can be found in Proceedings Book 4 on p. 159). That day they also listed the jurors by township for both the Grand and petit juries. The report on county buildings indicated that the farm was in a high state of cultivation and buildings there were in good

repair. The jail was clean and in healthy condition. The Courthouse and offices were in good condition. The building with the offices of Clerk of Circuit Court and Register of Deeds was too small to hold the increasing records. It was out of repair and unfit to contain these records. B. Humphrey was appointed county agent for the coming year and he was given \$500 to carry out these duties.

On December 22nd, the Board dealt with accounts. They approved an order to pay \$70 to Geo. Wylie for money he expended in search of burglars who broke open the Rockwell & Co. Bank. A committee of three was appointed to procure plans and specifications for a fireproof building and present them at the next meeting of the Board.

A special meeting was called for January 18, 1866 to take measure for erecting a building for Public Offices. Five supervisors were present. On the sixth ballot, Geo. Allen was elected chairman. There was unanimous approval to a resolution to erect a building for Public Offices. They approved advertising for sealed proposals for the building according to specifications presented by the committee of three. Proposals to be received until February 5th.

The Board met on February 5, 1866 and approved the building proposal of Squire Stafford, Alex Stevens and George Dowling for the erection of a fireproof building...said proposal being the only one offered. A building committee of three was approved...2 from the Board and 1 from the village of Elkhorn. Named were Thomas Hill, Lucius Allen and John Brett. They approved giving the committee power to sign the contract, dig a well in the park and make any other adjustments in the plans as they deem necessary as long as the cost does not exceed \$4,265.00. They were authorized to draw an order for the \$1,000 raised in taxes in 1865 and to sign any notes for this purpose. John Britt was authorized to hire a "good and reliable man to watch the Courthouse during the time of erection of the new building..."

The Board met on November 18, 1865 and made the apportionment of state, county, school and delinquent taxes by township.

A special meeting of the Board was called for June 9, 1866. All five supervisors were present. This was to discuss a possible ditch, drain or waterway in Section 8 of the Town of Bloomfield. This was to make adjacent land useable. The petition was signed by 10 residents with a side

bar of 2 non-residents and 5 other residents. The resolution to grant the petition passed. They amended the wolf bounty to fix it at \$20 per wolf. They adopted a resolution that the above ditch project be divided into 14 sections – numbering from the North end. The first 13 sections, being 40 rods each and the 14th section to cover the balance of the distance. They moved to meet at the home of John E. Ford in Bloomfield on June 13th at noon.

On June 13th, the Board voted to defer construction of the ditch over the part proposed from Point 1 to Point 2. The Board instructed the clerk to advertise in the Elkhorn Independent for proposals for constructing the ditch from Point 3 to Point 6. (The minutes gave further details about the ditch specifications on p. 183*.)

On July 9th, the Board met to equalize assessments for the county. Not all of the information had been received from the townships so the Board adjourned until August 1st.

On August 1st, the Board met to equalize the assessment of personal property. The aggregate of personal property show a reduction for Sharon, Spring Prairie, Lyons, LaGrange and Bloomfield. Those deductions were added to Darien, East Troy, Troy, Geneva, Linn, LaFayette, Sugar Creek and Walworth. The Board then approved a graph shown by township: Personal property as assessed, personal property as equalized, aggregate value of lands equalized in 1865 with additions made in 1866, aggregate value of village lots equalized in 1865 with additions made in 1866, and total aggregation. The total for the county was \$7,885,100.00. The Board asked the County Treasurer to inform each township that “monies in the hands of” was hired to guard the Building at \$2/day. He worked from April 5th to August 1st and was paid \$336.00. Then D. L. Fairchild was hired from August 1st to completion of the building at the same rate. The Board voted to pay the contractor the balance of their money – less \$20 which was needed for watching the building after August 1st.

On November 13, 1866, five supervisors were present for the annual meeting. They dealt with accounts and again hired Frank Leland to report the proceedings at a rate of \$2/day. The next day they again dealt with accounts. They approved \$76.00 for O.T. Bright to attend Teacher’s Institute. They approved the Treasurer’s bond at \$60,000.00 for the next two years and the Clerk of the Board’s bond at \$2,000. They approved a

petition of Iris Stowe, Anna Goodsell and Horace Arnold to vacate the area known as Walworth Street in the Arnold addition between Wright St. and Jackson St. between Blocks 2 and 3 in Elkhorn. This area is to be sold for a public school.

On November 15th, the Board dealt with accounts. Where there had been a double assessment, money was ordered paid to the person and that township was billed. That evening, the Board mainly dealt with accounts of the sheriff and undersheriff. Accounts and over assessments were on the agenda the next day. Three supervisors were appointed to visit the Poor House and make a report on its condition. The Clerk of the Board was asked to inform all townships to comply with the law that they inform the county of all persons selling intoxicating liquors by November 1st of each year. Only three townships had complied.

On November 17th, a lengthy resolution was adopted to allocate the cost of the construction of the ditch in Bloomfield township to those benefiting from it. The total cost of the project listed as \$847.73. 14 landowners would be assessed for a total of \$848.00. They then dealt with accounts. The Committee reported that the Poor House was all in good order. It was clean, comfortable and home-like. The farm and stock were in good condition and repair. The Board decided on a total county tax of \$38,709.92 to cover all county expenses. They then made the apportionment for state, county, school, delinquent and ditch taxes by township. The latter tax only for Bloomfield.

On December 18th, the Board met with 4 supervisors present. They dealt with accounts and in the evening selected the number of jurors needed by township. The next day they again dealt with accounts and the sale of land in Town of Linn lying below Geneva Lake. \$19.16 was to go back to the estate, Town of Linn was billed for the amount and the title certificate was voided. They named the jurors selected by township.

On December 20th, they set the County Treasurer's salary at \$900 and the Clerk of the Board at \$750. B. B. Humphrey was named county agent to purchase stationery and C. Wiswell as county agent to purchase wood for fuel. They dealt with accounts and approved an order to pay First National Bank of Elkhorn \$2,590.41 – the amount loaned for erection of the county offices. They rejected an account of W. A. Stone in the matter of the Elkhorn Bank robbery. (Two resolutions regarding this were rejected.) In

the evening they heard and adopted the report of the Superintendents for the Poor. There were 29 paupers in the Poor House; 7 were received since the last report and 12 left during the year. There were no deaths and health remains good. Doctor bills for the Poor House were \$19.50 while doctor bills for paupers outside the Poor House were \$163.00. 40 acres of land was bought for \$1,315.14. Total relief outside the Poor House was \$1,630.90. The overseer's salary for 1866 was \$600/year; the salary for 1867 is \$750/year. The inventory value at the Poor House is \$2,065.84. A report on the crops was included. Balance on hand in their account was \$215.13.

On December 21st, there was a lengthy report by the Sheriff concerning the escape of the bank robber from the county jail. The rejected accounts regarding the bank robbers were reconsidered and approved. After the 3rd formal ballot, Hollis Latham was re-elected to the Superintendents for the Poor. His bond was set at \$4,000. It was received and approved. The Board received the report of the Clerk of Circuit Court and his accounts.

The Board met on January 2, 1867 with 4 supervisors present and dealt with accounts. They approved a resolution that the sheriff not provide tobacco at the expense of the county to prisoners. They approved a resolution that because the floor and steps of the portico in the front of the Courthouse and the underpinning were in dilapidated condition that a committee of two be appointed to see to said repairs as soon as practical.

On January 3rd, there was a lengthy discussion and resolution regarding the Wylie and Stone bills for the apprehension of robbers of the Rockwell Bank. The vote was 2 for and 2 against and the resolution lost and the accounts were withdrawn – Wylie for \$250 and Stone for \$993.

A special meeting was called for January 21st with 5 supervisors present. On the third ballot, Lucius Allen was elected chairman. The accounts of Wylie and Stone were again presented. Stone's bill was allowed at \$899.92 and Wylie's bill at \$94.30. They also allowed Wylie the sum of \$237.60, the amount he paid detectives for hunting the Hamilton Brothers who were charged with robbing the Rockwell bank.

On July 8, 1867, the five supervisors met as the Board of Equalization and swore to do their duties impartially and fairly. Not all returns were in so they adjourned until July 18th. On that day, all members were present and they set the land value rates:

Darien and Sharon - \$16.50/acre
Spring Prairie, Walworth and Delavan - \$15.50/acre
Sugar Creek, LaFayette and East Troy - \$14.50/acre
Richmond - \$14.00/acre
LaGrange and Troy - \$13.75/acre
Bloomfield - \$13.50/acre
Linn - \$13.25/acre
Whitewater and Geneva - \$13.00/acre
Lyons - \$12.50/acre
Elkhorn - \$24.00/acre

They also made some additions and deductions on the personal property values turned in by the town assessors – see pp. 234-235* – and then set the tax for each township – see p.235*. The total county aggregate and equalized value was \$7,869,794.00.

On November 12th, the five supervisors were present for their annual meeting. They dealt with accounts and double assessments and approved that the county agent put up a clock in the office of the Treasurer and Board Clerk at a cost not to exceed \$10. Frank Leland was again hired to report and publish the proceedings at \$2.00/day. The Clerk of Circuit Court reported on jurors and the list of certificates issued related to criminal cases.

On November 13th, the Board dealt with accounts and then heard reports. The committee dealing with Courthouse repairs indicated that the floor was rebuilt at a cost of \$71.59. The Board approved this bill. They received petitions from several parties in the Village of Whitewater to allow several streets to be vacated. That evening they received another petition not to vacate any part of Summit Street in the Village of Whitewater. The “wood agent” presented bills for the purchase of wood totaling \$449.93 leaving a balance in his account of 7 cents.

On November 14th, the Board re-elected Elisha Hulce as Superintendent for the Poor. They resolved that only orders which are certified by the county agent for office supplies would be considered. They dealt with accounts and appointed a committee of three to visit the Poor House. The next day the minutes indicate that some time was spent on Sheriff Stone’s accounts. The Board fixed the price for boarding prisoners at \$3.50/week. They rejected a bill from the Sheriff for cash he paid someone for keeping and guarding the jail.

On November 16th, the report from the committee visiting the Poor House was adopted. The house was clean and tidy, inmates appear comfortable and content, well fed and clothed. Overseer is doing a good job. The Board approved giving J. Simmons \$450 for wood to be delivered to the Courthouse and Jail and that he measure all delivered wood. They fixed the D. A. salary at \$600/year and the Superintendent of Schools at \$800/year. They decided that \$48,225.11 be levied in taxes for the year 1867 for state tax, school tax, court expense, county office salaries, stationery, support of the poor, accounts allowable, wood, etc. A listing of the taxes by the 17 townships is on p. 252*.

On December 16th, the Board met to deal with accounts. They did the same the next day along with naming two committees...one to deal with accounts of the Treasurer and the other to deal with accounts of the Superintendents for the Poor. They fixed the bond for E. Hulce at \$3,500. The next day they dealt with accounts and illegal assessments.

On December 19th, they dealt with accounts, juror expenses and double assessments. They received the annual report from the Superintendents for the Poor. There were 42 paupers in the Poor House, listed by township. They spend \$1,273.50 for paupers in 13 townships and \$100 for poor transients. They gave report on crops and machinery purchased. Personal property value at the Poor House was \$2,593.63 as of March 22, 1867. T. B. & E. W. Gray overseers got a salary of \$750/year. There were two deaths of paupers. The Board set the salaries of the Treasurer at \$800/year and the Clerk of the Board at \$700/year.

On December 20th, they disallowed an account of \$5,279.13 for expenses related to the Hamilton case. A committee of the Board examined the Sheriff's accounts and reported they would deduct \$249.95 and allow the bill at \$937.59. It was accepted as reported. The Board dealt with accounts, juror expenses, double assessments and selected jurors for the coming year. They approved a petition that Wilson and Back Streets in the Wilson Addition in Whitewater be vacated. They did not approve vacating the north end of Summit Street, also in Whitewater.

On December 21st, the Board dealt with accounts and appointed James Simmons as agent for stationery, etc. and appropriated \$500 for this account. Simmons, Clerk of Circuit Court, reported on juror certificates which had

been issued, also witness certificates. The Board heard a report from the County Treasurer.

On May 26, 1868, the Board held their annual meeting. [I believe this was the annual meeting of the Board of Equalization. – Ginny Hall-Author] 4 supervisors were present. They proceeded to determine the value of land other than city or village lots. [This is the first time the word “city” is mentioned; and it is not listed again for some time.] They decided the following:

1. Elkhorn at \$40.00/acre
2. Sharon, Darien & Delavan at \$30.00/acre
3. Spring Prairie and Walworth at \$27.50/acre
4. Richmond, Sugar Creek, LaFayette & East Troy at \$25.00/acre
5. LaGrange, Linn, Geneva, Bloomfield & Troy at \$24.00/acre
6. Whitewater and Lyons at \$23.00/acre.

The personal property for each town to be assessed for 1868 at “precisely double the amount of the equalized assessment of Personal Property in each said town for 1867”. The assessment of city & village lots for 1868 will be 80% plus the 1867 assessment. They then computed the value for each township with a total valuation of \$14,438,819.00. (see p. 281*)

The Board met on June 15, 1868 with 4 supervisors present and heard various representations and complaints regarding the decisions of their May 20th meeting. They decided the value of Sharon township be fixed at \$31.00/acre. Personal property of Richmond be \$110,000.00 instead of \$99,756.00. The value of land in the Town of Elkhorn be \$38/acre. They apportioned school taxes by township to raise \$4,560.48 and decided to levy taxes to obtain \$22,600.32 for state tax, \$5,000.00 for pauper expenses and \$15,000.00 for other county expenses. [There followed on pp. 284-286* charts of tax levies by township.]

On November 10, 1868, the Board held their annual meeting. 5 Supervisors were present. John M. Evans joined the group that met in May and June. They dealt with accounts. Frank Leland was again hired at a rate of \$2/day. They also dealt with excessive and illegal assessments. The next day they dealt with account and payment of election workers.

On November 12th, accounts were again on the agenda along with witness fees. They re-elected Thomas Hill as a Superintendent for the Poor. They decided that Florence Street in the Tripp Second Addition should be vacated and so ordered. The next day they dealt with accounts and then appointed a committee of 3 to inspect the Court House, jail, county offices and institute any needed repairs.

The Board met on December 14 with 4 supervisors present and dealt with witness and jury fees. They fixed the County Treasurer's bond at \$60,000. A committee of 2 was appointed to settle with the County Treasurer and a committee of 3 was appointed to settle with the Superintendents for the Poor. The Board Chairman would act as chairman of the committee to deal with the Treasurer. The next day the Board dealt with accounts and established the list of people by township from which jurors for Grand and Petit juries would be selected. They adopted a resolution that three orders be drawn for Wm. Humphrey for \$200 for each quarter for his duties as Sheriff. They approved an order for \$2,000.00 for B. C. Yates for full satisfaction on judgment and costs related to the Hamilton case – No. 66 of 1867.

On December 16th, the Board decided on \$1,100 for the County Judge's salary and \$750 for the District Attorney. A resolution to exempt people owning dogs in the county from buying a license lost 4 yeas to 1 nay. Mr. Conger was appointed wood agent and gave him \$400 to purchase 60 cords of wood. The County Treasurer's bond was submitted and approved. The committee reported on county buildings: the Poor House was in good order and good repair, the paupers in comfortable condition. Mr. Gray and the superintendents are to be commended. The Board appointed James Simmons as county agent for stationery and office supplies. \$300 was appropriated for this purpose.

On December 17th, they again dealt with accounts. The Board resolved that there be no further pursuit of the case of the State of Wisconsin vs. Charles A. Perry. It had been tried twice in Circuit Court with great cost to the county. J. Simmons was asked to procure insurance for the Court House and Jail also to draw an order for the Superintendents for the Poor to insure the buildings in their care. The Superintendents gave their report. There were 34 in the Poor House, shown by township and 6 transients. They gave a listing of their crops, produce, sale of excess crops and land. (see p. 305*) They rebuilt a barn at a cost of \$1,209.36. The Board decided that the record of delinquent taxes was in dilapidated condition. The Board clerk

was asked to make a fair copy of these records and the book or books needed be procured at county expense and the clerk be paid \$100. They appropriated \$250 to repair the fence and walks of the Public Park in Elkhorn in which the county buildings were located. W. H. Conger was ordered to carry out this order and use as much of this money as necessary. The report of the Clerk of Circuit Court is on pp. 309-317*.

The May 24, 1869 minutes list it as the annual meeting. [It was the meeting to equalize assessments.] 5 supervisors were present and D. Chapin elected chairman. They determined value per acre for each township as listed below. [bracket figures explained on next page]

1. Sharon - \$31.00/acre [\$30.00]
2. Darien - \$30.00/acre [\$29.00]
3. Delavan - \$30.00/acre [\$29.00]
4. Richmond, Sugar Creek, LaFayette - \$25.00/acre [\$24.00]
5. Linn - \$25.00/acre [\$23.00]
6. Whitewater - \$24.00/acre [\$22.50]
7. LaGrange - \$24.00/acre [\$23.50]
8. Troy, Bloomfield, Geneva - \$24.00/acre [\$23.00]
9. Walworth - \$27.00/acre [\$26.50]
10. Lyons - \$23.00/acre [\$22.00]
11. Spring Prairie - \$28.00/acre [\$26.50]
12. East Troy - \$26.00/acre [\$24.00]
13. Elkhorn - \$36.00/acre [\$35.00]

They then made another change: Whitewater to \$24/acre and East Troy to \$26/acre. Then followed the aggregate value of village lots:

- Sharon - \$80,000
- Darien - \$50,000
- Whitewater - \$700,000
- Delavan - \$400,000
- Geneva - \$240,000
- Bloomfield - \$30,000
- Lyons - \$30,000
- East Troy - \$75,000
- Elkhorn - \$190,000

This was followed by the personal property value by township and a chart of their total deliberations showing a total aggregate value of the county at \$14,403,129.

On June 21st, 4 of the supervisors met and decided to change the assessed value of the land. This is the figure in the brackets above. This changed the total valuation of the county to \$13,971,932.

On November 9, 1869, the Board held their annual meeting with 4 supervisors present. W. H. Conger was chairman. They dealt with accounts the next two days and again hired Frank Leland at a rate of \$2.00/day to record and publish their proceedings. James Aram was authorized to provide a suitable Armory for the Delavan Volunteers and report the cost of the same at the next Board meeting. Hollis Latham was re-elected as a Superintendent for the Poor. The Board voted to refund money that was paid as taxes on the parsonage of the M. E. church in Elkhorn and then charge the same to the Town of Elkhorn. The Board divided the taxes paid into accounts for state tax, school tax, support for the poor and other county expenses totaling \$45,471.50. This was charted by township. The Board allowed the Delavan State Guards \$12.50/month to procure a suitable room. They received a petition from the Town of Linn to have the county act in building bridges over two outlets to Geneva Lake.

On December 14th, the Board met and laid the petition about Linn bridges on the table. They dealt with accounts and stopped the sale of a lot in Delavan if the back taxes were not received. There was a lengthy petition to vacate Summit Street in the Village of Whitewater. It was verified by Prosper Cravath that the street was never traveled. The next day they fixed the bond for Hollis Latham at \$5,000. The Board visited the Poor House and found everything in excellent order and good condition, neat and orderly. The management of the inmates was systematic and orderly, well done by "Overseer Gray and his excellent lady."

On December 16th, they again dealt with accounts. They adopted a list by township of persons from which jurors would be selected in the coming year. They heard a report from the Superintendents for the Poor. Included in their financial report there was a sale of a hat for \$23.30, a sale of a kettle for \$2.00, and a sale of 58 bushels of oats for \$27.50. There was a listing of aid to the poor in the county outside of the Poor House and an inventory of the Poor House value - \$3,407.80. There were 40 paupers in the Poor House. The Chairman assigned committees to report on the Superintendents for the Poor and the County Treasurer. James Simmons was appointed to insure the county buildings, procure wood for fuel and care for the buildings; \$700.00 was appropriated for this. The Board determined that county

officers would be paid quarterly. They ordered that 123 feet of the north end of Summit Street in Whitewater, including that portion of the alley, 30 feet in width, bordering the west end of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 18 of Chapman and Ludington, be vacated.

On December 17th, they set the salaries of the Clerk and Treasurer at \$750/year. They thanked the various county officers and officials via a resolution. The report of the Clerk of Circuit Court, submitted by J. Simmons, Clerk of Circuit Court is on pp. 349-355*.

On May 23, 1870, the Board met with 20 supervisors present...one from each of the 17 townships plus the villages of Whitewater, Geneva and Delavan. E. Richardson was elected chairman. They adopted the rules of the Wisconsin Assembly as their rules until other provisions were made. They appointed a committee of 5 to report on a basis for assessments in the county. A committee of 3 was appointed to look into the salaries of the Superintendent of Schools and the D.A. The Board decided to proceed with the Bloomfield ditch and appointed a committee of 3 to investigate the petition of the Bloomfield farmers and report back to the Board. J. Simmons gave a report on the park walks and a committee of 3 was appointed to look into the matter. Another committee of 3 was appointed to report on Board rules. Frank Leland was hired at a rate of \$2/day.

On May 24th, the Board fixed the salary of the Superintendent of Schools at \$1,200 for the present term. The Committee on Rules reported and their 24 rules were adopted...see pp 361-364*. The report on the Bloomfield ditch was accepted, but the matter was delayed to give publication of notice as required by law. The Committee on Park Walk reported that \$125 should be spent on the project...also \$25 for stationery. Board members were assigned to standing committees: treasury, justices & constables, equalization, public property, tax titles and illegal assessments, miscellaneous accounts, roads and bridges, and Superintendents for the Poor. The Committee on Assessments Report...chart on p. 367*. Value of acreage in townships ranged from \$40/acre for the Town of Elkhorn to \$21/acre for Lyons and Whitewater. This was adopted by the Board. Total county aggregate value was \$14,642,301.00.

On June 20th, a number of resolutions were submitted and referred to committees. A committee was named to report on the Bloomfield ditch and draw up an order if necessary. By afternoon all 20 supervisors were present;

there was a quorum in the morning. The valuation of property as determined yesterday by the Board, except \$20,000, was deducted from the Village of Sharon. All other resolutions were rejected. The Board voted that improvements be made on the jail barn, not to exceed \$50. The Bloomfield ditch project would proceed. It would be divided into 13 sections of 66 rods each starting at the mouth of the ditch. The ditch to be completed by November 1, 1870. Costs to be apportioned among the benefiting land owners. The Board adopted resolution that village lots recorded in Volume I of Village Plots be transferred into Volume 3 provided the fees for such do not exceed \$40.

The annual meeting was held on November 15, 1870 with 12 supervisors appearing in the morning. They adjourned until afternoon when 8 more supervisors were present, the total Board. They dealt with accounts and hired Frank Leland again at a rate of \$2/day. The Committee on the Superintendents for the Poor was asked to visit the Poor House.

On November 16th, the Board dealt with accounts. A special committee was appointed to investigate the amount charged in court costs over and above docket charges. They visited the Poor House in the afternoon and met in the evening. M. E. Dewing was appointed agent for stationery and office supplies. He was to keep a separate account of these. The Superintendent of Schools' stationery and supplies budget was not to exceed \$150/year. His salary was \$1,200; the D. A.'s salary was \$750. The Board selected names for the jury. A motion to reject the Sheriff's account lost and a new one to accept the account of \$315.00 prevailed.

On November 17th, the Board again dealt with accounts and tax titles. The committee for the Superintendents for the Poor reported by T. W. Hill, overseer, that the farm buildings, stock and surroundings were all excellent. Mrs. Hill, matron, is all that can be desired. The health of inmates are as good as can be expected; they are cheerful and content. The county agent was instructed to take an inventory of the jail furniture and other public property that is coming into the hands of the incoming sheriff. The County Treasurer was authorized to cancel any tax certificates issued more than 5 years ago upon receipt of the sum for which the tract was sold with 7% interest and all fees. A motion to eliminate the 3 Superintendents for the Poor and have it supervised by a Board committee along with other stipulations lost. Elisha Hulec was re-elected as a Superintendent. The committee reported that the Bloomfield ditch was half completed and gave

an apportionment of the costs (see p. 387*). The Board received an estimate of needed funds and dealt with costs. Taxes were apportioned by township including special tax for Bloomfield ditch (see p. 391*).

On December 20th, the Board heard the report from the Superintendents for the Poor. Their financial report included the sale of 2 beef cows for \$150, sale of pigs for \$27, labor of paupers on fair grounds for \$9.00. T. Hall is overseer with \$1,000 salary and he provides all of the help for the farm and home. There are 44 paupers in the Poor House; the average for the year was 43. The total cost of the operation was \$3,032 or \$70.48/pauper or \$1.35/week; of this amount \$2,319.32 was spent on paupers outside the Poor House. A committee was appointed to investigate the best way of dealing with the poor in the county. The Board dealt with accounts. They authorized the Superintendents for the Poor to sell all lands they owned other than the land the Poor House and Farm were located. They adopted a resolution that all county supplies be furnished by the county agent and appropriated \$125 to pay for room rent of the Delavan State Guards. They appointed a committee to visit the jail and ordered that all county salaries be paid on a quarterly basis. They gave the county agent a budget of \$1,000 for supplies. They passed a resolution asking our state senator and assemblymen to work to repeal Sect. 17 of Chapter 242 of Laws of 1863 and section 10 of Chapter 407 of Laws of 1864.

The committee to visit the jail reported the jail was in very bad condition and unsafe for the prisoners. The Jail needs a new stove for the prisoners. The other one is defective. The fastening to one of the windows is almost sawed off. The privies are full and we recommend they be cleaned by digging a vault under the wall. A new floor needs to be laid in the middle passage of the lower prisoner's room and the ceiling patched. The report was adopted and the county agent was instructed to carry out the needed repairs.

On December 21st, it was reported that the supervisor from LaGrange no longer lived there and a resolution to substitute another person passed. The Clerk of Circuit Court reported on the certificates issued since the last annual meeting (see pp.405-410*).

A special meeting of the Board was called on June 10, 1871 with 19 supervisors present. Richardson was elected chairman. A resolution to encourage raising sheep and not raising dogs was adopted. A motion to add

a tax of \$1.00 for male dogs and \$3.00 for female dogs lost. They adopted a resolution that the D. A. take an appeal to Circuit Court in the county's claim against Rock County and another resolution that the county would indemnify and "save harmless any persons that may become security on bond" for the above appeal.

They held their annual meeting on November 14, 1871 with 17 supervisors present and accepted the resignation of Richardson as Chairman. J. F. Lyon was then elected. The 8 standing committees were appointed: treasury, justices – constables – sheriff and clerks, equalization, public property, tax titles and illegal assessments, miscellaneous accounts, roads – bridges and town plats, and work with Superintendents for the Poor. Frank Leland was again hired at a rate of \$2/day. They approved using the Board rules of 1870 as their rules and dealt with accounts.

On November 15th, they again dealt with accounts. The Public Property Committee reported the jail was well kept, prisoners were clean and well. They recommended a new floor in the south half of the prison room, the north hall and kitchen or cook room in the jailer's residence. The repairs were authorized.

On November 16, 1871, the Board dealt with accounts from the county agent and various committees. The Public Property Committee was charged with inspecting the Courthouse and determining any needed repairs, also any measures needed regarding the erection of a new Courthouse. They authorized the Superintendents for the Poor to erect a woodshed not to exceed \$50.00 and to purchase bedsteads as needed. The Committee on the Treasury submitted an estimate of money needed for the coming year, a total of \$45,620.24. The Committee on Equalization reported that they valued land in the townships ranging from \$45/acre to \$21/acre, see p.428*. Their report was approved. The chairman of public property was instructed to put a window in the east side of the Clerk of Circuit Court's office and on the east side of the County Judge's office for a total of \$50. The total aggregate value of the county was listed as \$14,362,332.00 (p. 430*), followed by a listing of taxes by township (p.431*).

On December 19th, the Board met and referred accounts to the proper committees and then took action based on committee reports. They again dealt with accounts the next day along with payment of salaries and a resolution to have the County Board Chairman attend a meeting of the Rock

County Board to secure payment of an account due Walworth County. They approved having the Superintendent for the Poor sell property of “a lunatic from Whitewater” whose family is without support. The financial report of the Poor House and Farm showed a total expenditure of \$5,767.17 of which \$1,477.79 was for relief outside the Poor House. They had a balance on hand of \$727.35. There were presently 38 in the Poor House; the largest number at any one time was 47 with an average of 41 paupers. The actual cost of the facility was \$2,958.68 which shows a cost per pauper of \$72.16/year. The personal property value of the home and farm was \$3,829.43. They gave a listing of the crops and produce for the year. Their committee reported on a visit to the facility. Inmates were well cared for and comfortable, farm buildings and fences in good order, machinery securely housed and the stock well cared for. They authorized the construction of another cellar room to store vegetables, also to insure the buildings and property. T. W. Hill was re-elected as a Superintendent.

The Superintendent of Schools was given \$100 for travel expenses in the coming year. They adopted a resolution that the Sheriff be allowed 50 cents per day for feeding prisoners. Names were selected for Grand and Petit juries. The Public Property Committee reported that the Courthouse was small and altogether not safe for the number of persons who are in it. It was not advisable to make repairs; therefore, they recommended that a committee be appointed to obtain plans and specifications for a new building during the coming year. The report was adopted. A listing of Clerk of Circuit Court certificates issued is on pp. 447-455*.

The Board met for their annual meeting on November 12, 1872 with 20 supervisors present. J. F. Lyon was elected chairman. Standing committee assignments were made and they dealt with accounts. Frank Leland was again hired at a rate of \$2/day. The County Treasurer’s report showed a balance of \$7,667.69.

On November 13th, the Board dealt with accounts and heard a report from the Superintendents for the Poor. They had receipts totaling \$5,910.54 which included the sale of potatoes, oats and lard. They had a balance on hand of \$599.78 and total expenses of \$5,310.76, of which \$2,025.17 was for relief outside of the Poor House. The average number of patients was 45, giving a cost per patient of \$51.26/year. There had been 60 persons at the Poor House since the last report; the greatest number at any one time was

48. They asked the Board to examine the 40 acres adjoining the farm for possible purchase. This was approved at a price not to exceed \$45/acre.

The Board heard a report from the Equalization Committee reporting a value range of acreage of \$45 to \$22. They approved the erection of a wood house for the Court House and county offices not to exceed \$125. Hollis Latham was re-elected as a Superintendent for the Poor. The Board determined that the tax levy would be \$46,023.35. The Public Property Committee reported that the jail was in good condition, the windows in the Clerk of Circuit Court and the County Judge's offices were not installed. They recommended that this be done. Also the roof of the county offices be repainted. M. E. Dewing was appointed county agent. The total aggregate value of the county was \$14,335,866.00 (see p. 469*).

On December 18th, the Board dealt with accounts and moved to reconsider the wood house. They decided to appoint a committee to consider the issue. The Committee on the Superintendents for the Poor reported that T. W. Hill was doing an excellent job both for the taxpayers and the paupers; the farm and property were well taken care of. They needed to purchase the 40 acres because of the large number of paupers in the Poor House. The Board dealt with juror certificates and witness fees and heard committee reports. They selected the names for the juries.

On December 19th, the Board set the salary of the D. A. at \$650, the County Judge at \$1,100 and the Superintendent of Schools at \$1,000. The committee on the wood house recommended purchase of coal rather than wood for heat and to erect a temporary building of cheap construction for the deposit of coal. The county agent is to compromise and deal with the person already engaged to build the wood house regarding damages suffered not to exceed \$16. The Board adopted a resolution that the Whitewater Register, Delavan Republican, Geneva Herald and Sharon Gazette be compensated at the same rate as the Elkhorn Independent for publishing the Board proceedings. They adopted a resolution that the Superintendent of Schools spend at least ½ day in each of the common schools in the county and in each department; when the school has more than one department, at least twice in the scholastic year. He is to examine the mode of teaching and management of the school and give instructions of the most approved methods of instruction and management. They heard the report of the Clerk of Circuit Court; a listing of certificates issued is on pp. 485-490*.

A special meeting of the Board was called for February 14, 1873 with 19 supervisors present. A resolution regarding exemption from Chapter 67 – the dog law was withdrawn. A communication regarding the Superintendent of Schools was referred to that committee. One member asked to be excused from that matter and a substitute was named. A resolution to pay the Superintendent of Schools was laid on the table but another motion to pay him passed. A resolution to name a committee to confer with the Superintendents for the Poor regarding a new building for the Poor House passed. The Board decided it should be built of bricks and that a building committee be appointed – 2 from the Board and 2 of the Superintendents for the Poor. The committee was to receive plans, specifications and estimated costs and submit the same to the Board. The committee was authorized to get immediate delivery of sand, brick and stone for the building.

On March 5th, the Board met with 19 supervisors present. The Building Committee reported that three plans were submitted. These were given back to the committee for their recommendation. They favored the Gilbert plan. The Board approved this plan with the cost not to exceed \$10,000. The committee had authority to make adjustments and to draw up to \$5,000 from the county treasury and to borrow up to \$5,000.

On November 11, 1873, the Board held their annual meeting with 19 supervisors present and R. T. Seymour was elected chairman. The rules of last year were accepted for the current year with the exception of standing committee #2. Justices and Constables to be changed to Sheriff's and Clerk's accounts. This was changed by the next motion to leave #2 as is and create a new standing committee of Sheriff's and Clerk's accounts. Those 9 standing committees were then appointed. The Board then dealt with accounts, the first 10 being wolf bounties. A petition from Bloomfield asked that the name of their village be changed; this was referred to the committee on Road, Bridges and Town Plats. A resolution to pay several papers to publish the Board proceedings passed. There was a report from the Poor House Building Committee. 14 different bids for the work were received, some for the entire project, some for only parts of the project. The low bid of \$9,375 was received from Sykes & Hulbert and the job was awarded to them. Some changes were needed and the final cost was \$9,662.55. A few more changes brought the figure to \$10,134.12. The building was accepted as complete on September 25, 1873. Some labor was done by Mr. Hill and some of the inmates and they were paid by the builder - \$249; therefore, the final cost to the county was \$9,885.12. This report was referred to a special

committee to review. They reported all was in order and recommended adoption of the report, which prevailed. There was a resolution to raise the wolf bounty to \$20/animal, but it lost.

On November 13th, the Board dealt with accounts. The Public Property Committee report was adopted. The new building is now occupied and is very satisfactory. The property is now insured: new building at \$6,500, other buildings at \$3,900 and the cost of the insurance for 3 years was \$312. The committee recommended putting blinds on the windows in the new building for \$300. The county jail was clean and well cared for. All of the county offices now have coal stoves. They recommended “digging a vault and putting in a stone wall under the out building in the Courthouse Square for the sum of \$45.” They also recommended putting off the building of a new Courthouse. The Committee on Equalization reported and there were some motions to make changes, but it was laid on the table. Then it was brought back again and passed (see p. 510*).

The financial report from the Superintendents for the Poor showed a balance on hand of \$1,655.96. Of their total expenditures of \$6,781, they spent \$2,000 on outside relief. The committee found the Poor House run in a very business-like manner. The Committee on Roads, etc. recommended that the petition of a name change of Bloomfield to Genoa Junction be approved. It was. The resolution on the dog law was again postponed. They approved the purchase of blinds for the Poor House and re-elected E. Hulec as a Superintendent for the Poor. They authorized payment of bills for building a coal house – fuel storage for the Courthouse and county offices. Material and labor cost \$89.35. M. E. Dewing was appointed county agent for purchasing supplies. The petition to change Highland Street name in Whitewater was postponed. The Board adopted a resolution that the total tax levy in the county would be \$52,282.88 which included state tax, school tax, county expenses, support of the poor, erection of Poor House, insurance of county buildings and blinds for the County Home. The valuation by township can be seen on p. 519*. The total county value was \$14,300,090.00.

On December 16th, the Board met with 15 supervisors present and dealt with accounts and over assessments. In the afternoon 20 supervisors were present. A committee was appointed to apportion the number of jurors. The Board received a financial report from the Superintendents for the Poor which included the sale of property, crops and rent of land. The outside

relief was shown as \$2,388.61 and the purchase of farm land was \$1,800.00. The average number of paupers was 34; the cost of the Poor House was \$3,446.74 showing a cost/pauper at \$80.16 or \$1.52/week. The total number of paupers in the Poor House over the year was 62, the present number was 48. A listing of crops and produce can be seen on p. 523*. The Board ordered payment of notes from building the county building. A resolution on building a new Courthouse was laid on the table until tomorrow.

They adopted a resolution that railroads be assessed like other property in the county and taxed – now the railroad pays the state treasurer 3% of their earnings.

A resolution was adopted to build a Courthouse on the Public Square and a building committee of 5 supervisors was named. The total cost not to exceed \$25,000 and not more than \$12,500 to be raised in taxes in 1874. The committee is to have the power to borrow money. The petition to change the street name in Whitewater from Highland to Center Street was approved. A committee of three was appointed to lay out a road in the Towns of Linn and Bloomfield. The Board approved the list of jurors and approved the salaries of the County Clerk and County Treasurer at \$750/year. They received a report of the County Treasurer and the list of certificates issued by the Clerk of Circuit Court (see pp. 533-536*).

On November 10, 1874, the Board held their annual meeting with 19 supervisory positions listed. [Last year Whitewater Village and the Town of Elkhorn was listed. This year neither of the two was listed but the Village of Elkhorn was listed.] John W. Boyd was elected chairman and they adopted the rules of last year and named people to the 9 standing committees. A resolution to suspend collection of dog licenses lost. They approved a resolution that the Board proceedings be published in the Delavan Republican, Walworth County Independent, Geneva Lake Herald, Sharon Inquirer, Whitewater Register and the Walworth County Liberal, each for \$2.00/day. They dealt with accounts and illegal assessments and referred them to the proper committee. They appointed D. L. Fairchild as county agent for procuring supplies and put \$1,000 in his budget. They adopted the report on equalized assessment, for 17 townships including the Town of Elkhorn at \$45/acre. The Town of Whitewater was the lowest at \$20/acre. The report also included valuation of village lots – Sharon, Darien, Whitewater, Delavan, Geneva, Bloomfield, Lyons, East Troy and Elkhorn. The budget for the Superintendents for the Poor was presented. Estimated

costs were \$6,000; they had a balance on hand of \$900; so they asked for \$5,000. They received the Treasurer's report and proposed budget for taxes of \$50,543 which included \$12,500 for part of erecting the new Court House. The committee on tax titles reported on double assessments and sales of land that doesn't exist. A resolution was adopted changing the tax to be levied at \$50,543.51. The aggregate valuation of the county was \$13,453,414.00. Apportion of taxes by township can be seen on p. 548*. The certificates issued by the Clerk of Circuit Court are on pp. 549-556*.

On December 22nd, the Board met with 14 supervisors present. They dealt with accounts. Four more supervisors were present in the afternoon. T. W. Hill was re-elected as a Superintendent for the Poor. They passed a resolution to reduce wolf bounties to \$5, but immediately reconsidered it and placed the resolution on the table. They decided to use last year's allocation for jurors and set the salary of the Superintendent of Schools at \$1,000 and the D. A. at \$650. They then approved the jury list. The report of the special committee to deal with the road in the Towns of Bloomfield and Linn was referred to the Roads and Bridges Committee. The Public Property Committee reported that their visit to the Poor House found everything in good condition. The Jail was well cared for and in good condition. The old cistern caved in and the county agent had a new one built. They recommended that the Building Committee be authorized to dispose of the old Courthouse after the spring term. This report was adopted. The Board approved payment of notes totaling \$10,715.32 on loans from the First National Bank of Elkhorn.

The report from the Superintendents for the Poor included their financial statement showing a balance on hand of \$227.00. They spent \$1,866.66 for support of paupers not at the Poor House and \$304.50 for transient paupers. They included a report on crops and produce. They contracted with T. W. Hill, overseer, for \$1,100.00; he would furnish all help for the home and farm and one team. The inventory value was \$5,427.10. 66 paupers had been at the Poor House since last year; the average number was 48. The Board approved their budget of \$5,000. The Board asked the County Treasurer and Clerk of the Board to look at all tax certificates held by the county of a date older than 4 years and to select from them, those in their judgment, least likely collectable to the amount of \$2,000/year until all certificates are disposed of and charge the amount back to the proper township.

The Board ordered that the road in Bloomfield and Linn be opened and the special committee be paid \$2/day for laying out said road and traveling expenses of \$4.90 each and charge this to the towns of Bloomfield and Linn equally. They charged the Committee on Road and Bridges to take the necessary measure to open this road. The report on the Poor House and Farm found it well taken care of and livestock in excellent condition. The buildings were all in good order. The new house is kept neat and clean. Inmates, around 50 of them, all treated with care and kindness. The books were in good order. There was good management.

The Board held their annual meeting on November 9, 1875 with 19 supervisors present...4 villages and 15 towns. Minutes indicate this was a full Board but the Town of Lyons was missing. David Williams was elected chairman. The rules of 1870 of this Board were adopted, but added two standing committees...Justice and Constables and Sheriff's & Clerk's accounts. The nine standing committees were appointed. They approved a special committee on insurance to report back within 24 hours on the amount of insurance carried by the county, with whom and to make recommendations on future insurance. The Board then dealt with accounts and asked for a review of the accounts of the Building Committee. A request that the County Judge's room be used as an abstract room was referred to the Public Property Committee.

On November 10th, the Board voted to give the D. A. \$50 in lieu of office space and fuel. A resolution to have the Sheriff in charge of county buildings and allow use of them only for county business and county conventions and be empowered to employ someone to put and keep in order the Public Park was referred to the Public Property Committee. Several newspapers were allowed \$2/day to publish the Board proceedings...The Independent, Liberal, Herald, Inquirer, Republican and Register. The Public Property Committee recommended that B. B. Humprey be allowed the use of the vacant room in the fireproof office of records as an abstract room. The county buildings be used only for county business. The county buildings and park be put in the hands of the Sheriff. The Superintendents for the Poor be allowed to use the D. A.'s room and the coroner be assigned an office with the Sheriff. The Board approved their report and action. The Board Clerk was asked to get an itemized statement from the Supt. Of Wisconsin Hospitals on the account of each patient of the costs and expenses charged to Walworth County. The Building Committee reviewed the charge given them and reported that they choose the lowest proposal and contracted

for completion on or before August 1, 1875 with Squire Standford. They presented a detailed financial report totaling \$23,755.47. Their original resolution was to keep it not to exceed \$25,000. They used strict economy to keep with the budget.

A special committee was asked to examine the records of the Building Committee. They were fully satisfied and recommended that the committee be discharged. The special committee on insurance reported there was no insurance on the Courthouse or any other county property. They recommended the Courthouse be insured for 5 years for \$15,000, equally in Aetna, Hartford and Phoenix of Hartford, Conn., Continental of New York, and House of New York and all policies be made concurrent. The furniture in the Courthouse be insured for 5 years in the Phoenix of Brooklyn, N.Y. for \$1,600 and to have the County Treasurer carry this out. The report was rejected. The Committee on Equalization reported on values within the county ranging from the Town of Elkhorn at \$45/acre to Richmond, Lyons and Whitewater at \$21/acre. The report was adopted.

A resolution on the Coroner's salary was referred to the Committee on the Treasury. Hollis Latham was re-elected as a Superintendent for the Poor. They then gave their financial report and proposed budget of \$5,850 and asked for \$5,550 because that had \$300 on hand. It was adopted. They set the bond for Latham at \$300.00. D. L. Fairchild was appointed county agent and \$1,000 was appropriated for this budget. The Board adopted a resolution to provide such furniture and fixtures necessary for the use of the vaults in the offices of the county & Circuit Court. They dealt with accounts and tax titles and witness fees. The Treasury Committee reported on the amount of tax to be raised – a total of \$36,569.26. This was accepted and then state tax was added into the total to become \$58,192.33. Apportionment by township can be seen on pp. 594-595*. Juror and witness certificates are on pp. 596-604*.

On December 21st, the Board met with 15 supervisors present; 5 came later. A variety of accounts were referred to the proper committee. A petition to lay a road in Delavan and Sugar Creek was referred to the Committee on Roads. The Board authorized the County Clerk, under the direction and advice of the S.A. to collect from the property of patients at the Hospital for the Insane the cost of the county to maintain that person for years 1872, 1873, 1874 and 1875. They heard the financial report from the Superintendents for the Poor. They expended \$1,825.81 on support of the

poor outside the Poor House and \$173.65 for transient paupers. The average number in the Poor House was 54 giving the expenses per capita at \$53.33 or \$1.03/week. This includes the salary of the overseer. The present number in the Poor House is 56 of which 24 are insane and 2 are idiotic. A listing of crops and produce was given along with the inventory value of the Poor House as \$6,015.60.

On December 22nd, the Board dealt with accounts and authorized payments to Citizen Bank of Delavan for \$11,020.70, First National Bank of Elkhorn for \$356.40, James Aram for \$7,500, and S. Stanford for \$800...all related to the new building loans plus interest. They approved the Superintendent of Schools to have necessary office room in the office of the Clerk of Circuit Court. The County Clerk's and the County Treasurer's salaries were set at \$750. The Board set the wolf bounty from December 1st to March 1st at \$10; the rest of the year it was \$5. They adopted a resolution to be sent to the Speaker of the State Assembly asking that liquor license monies be kept in the county collected. The resolution about the road in Sugar Creek was referred back to the Town of Sugar Creek with recommendation.

The Committee on Roads asked that the D. A. to instruct farmers to remove fences to open the area for a road. The county agent was asked to provide a book case and table for the Circuit Court room and any other needed furnishings, also a table for the Clerk of Circuit Court. The Board received a report of the Public Property Committee on visits to the county property. The Poor House and farm is in good condition and excellent order. Bricks used in the chimney were of poor quality. A competent person needs to examine and, if necessary, make needed repairs. The jail is in good condition for as poor a building as it is. It is neat and clean. The jail is practically a wreck, unfit for public use. The jail lot is too small; there is no place for a barn and necessary out buildings or no garden spot. They recommended a committee of 3 to examine the jail, find a suitable spot and construct a new jail. The Courthouse seems to be alright. Some furniture needed in the offices, especially the Judges and the Clerk of Courts offices. They recommended that the county agent insure the Courthouse for \$15,000 for a 5 year term. The privy on the Public Square needs to be painted a neutral color outside and a lead color inside...something that will not accept fancy penciling.

On December 23rd, the Board heard a report that the condition of the Poor House and Farm was found all in good order and recommended that the salary of the overseer be \$1,000. The resolution to insure the county buildings was postponed. They set the salary of the County Clerk at \$800 and the County Treasurer at \$750. The photographic reporter employed by the Circuit Court was to be paid a sum not to exceed \$10/day and not include Sundays and holidays. The Treasurer's report show a balance left in the treasury of \$1,269.33.

On November 14, 1876, the Board met for their annual meeting with 20 supervisors present... 16 township representatives and representatives from the villages of Whitewater, Delavan, Geneva and Elkhorn. On the 3rd ballot John DeWolf was elected chairman. The 8 standing committees were named and appointed. A special committee on the jail reported it was too small and was unsafe. The Public Property Committee presented a resolution to build a new jail and Sheriff's residence. A committee of 5 was named to be the Building Committee. They were to purchase a suitable site, not remote from the Courthouse and procure suitable plans and specifications and proceed with its erection. They would have the power to draw orders from the treasury and borrow money if necessary. After being postponed, a motion was adopted to have a committee of three investigate possible sites and costs and report at the next Board meeting. A resolution to insure the county buildings was again rejected.

On November 16th, the Board dealt with accounts. A resolution was presented that the County Clerk procure furnishing for the Board room (seats for supervisors, table and chairs for the chairman and clerk) not to exceed \$200. It was rejected. They determined the total tax needed to be collected in the county was \$45,988.78. This was state tax of \$24,174.14, county school tax of \$3,814.64 and county tax of \$18,000.00. The Committee on Equalization reported the value of township acreage ranging from Elkhorn at \$45/acre to Lyons, Richmond and Whitewater at \$21/acre. The report was adopted. The chart of taxable property by township showed an aggregate valuation for the county of \$13,764,316.00. (see p. 639*) Certificates issued by the Clerk of Circuit Court are on pp. 641-646*.

On December 19th, finally 19 supervisors were present and they dealt with accounts and illegal tax titles. The salary of the Supt. of Schools was set at \$800 and the D. A.'s salary at \$600. Dyar L. Cowdery was named county agent for purchasing office supplies and was given a \$1,200 budget. The

D. A. received \$50 in lieu of fuel and office rent. A special committee was appointed to apportion jurors for the coming year. The annual financial statement of the Superintendent for the Poor showed \$1,879.64 spent on support of the poor outside the Poor House and \$142.73 for transient paupers, leaving \$3,392.44 spent on the Poor House and Farm. There were 79 paupers in the Poor House over the year; the present number was 48. The cost/pauper was \$1.21/week. The report included a listing of crops and produce. The aggregate value of the Poor House and farm was \$5,939.90. The Public Property Committee reported no changes in the Courthouse and county offices. The jail has not improved – it is a miserable, old, rotten, tumble down concern utterly unfit for the purposes of a prison and inadequate as a Sheriff's residence.

On December 20th, the Board dealt with accounts and illegal assessments. The Public Property Committee was ordered to obtain a desk and furniture for the Clerk of Circuit Court not to exceed \$250. The Committee on Roads reported that the Town of Sugar Creek has improved the road in question and it is now in good and passable condition. The Treasurer's report was received and approved by the Committee on Treasury. The balance on hand was \$742.04. J. J. Starin was elected Superintendent for the Poor in place of E. Hulce. The committee on the new jail reported they were not ready to report and asked to have a new committee appointed. Motion to have them stay on the committee and report at the next annual meeting lost. A new committee was voted for and appointed. The County Judge's salary was set at \$1,100. The listing of county jurors for the coming year by townships followed in the minutes.

On November 13, 1877, the Board held their annual meeting with 20 supervisors present and elected J. A. Treat on the first ballot. They dealt with accounts. A petition to increase the wolf bounty was referred to the Committee on Roads. A petition to preserve fish in Booth Lake was referred to a special committee of three. The County Surveyor asked for a copy of the field notes of the original survey of the county. Mr. Aldrich was authorized to obtain this, not to exceed \$100.

On November 14th, the Board again dealt with accounts. The committee on roads recommended the wolf bounty be increased to \$15; this was adopted. They amended Rule 19 so no account acted on by the Board could be reconsidered. They ordered the County Clerk to deliver to the Superintendent of Schools at the beginning of each quarter \$45 for supplies

and printing. The Superintendent was to prepare a statement of expenditures. T. W. Hill was re-elected as a Superintendent for the Poor. E. Hulce was elected to fill a vacancy on that group. The bonds for each were \$3,000. The Public Property Committee reported that because of the weather they could not make a complete examination of buildings. All they have seen so far was in good condition except for the jail, which is in very poor condition and wholly unfit for the detention of prisoners who do not want to stay or for the Sheriff's residence.

On November 15th, the Board adopted a change in Rule 14 to strike out the words "and all amendments not accepted shall be deemed lost". The special committee on fish in Booth Lake reported that the town of Troy is considering an ordinance to take care of this. (see p. 673*) A motion to act on this ordinance was postponed until the next meeting. The committee on the jail reported a lot across from the SW corner of the Park is for sale, the Barlow lot, for about \$1,200. It does not have easy drainage, but an excellent location. A lot directly west of the present jail, known as Mrs. Lee's lot, is available for \$150, but is not as desirable. A lot south of the jail, known as the Luke Taylor property, contains 2 acres, has good drainage and location – but cannot ascertain the price because the owner is not in town. The committee recommended that if Luke Taylor property can be bought for \$600 it would be the most desirable offer. The committee asked several other Board members to examine the three lots.

The Board voted to amend Rule 19 (p. 675*) so if an account was not obligatory, disposal was not made until it was read in full at a regular Board meeting. They voted again to have several county papers publish the Board proceedings in full at \$2 per day. A resolution to appoint a Building Committee of 5 to procure proposals for a jail was laid on the table. The Committee on Equalization reported on the county value of taxable property. Values again ranged from \$45 for the Town of Elkhorn to \$21 for Lyons and Richmond. The jail building committee resolution was taken off the table and approved but the committee appointment was delayed until December. A motion to spend \$300 to repair the jail roof was rejected. The committee on the Superintendents for the Poor presented a budget for that group of \$6,061.00. They asked for \$4,500 because of a balance on hand of \$1,510.00. The Board then asked for \$49,787.40 for needed taxes for the county budget. See pp. 681-684* for the tax apportionment by the 17 townships. The Circuit Court certificates issued are listed on pp. 685-693*.

On December 18th, the Board met with 18 supervisors present and dealt with accounts. The room adjacent to the courtroom now used by the Judge of Circuit Court was assigned to the District Attorney as his office, provided the arrangement is not objected to by the Judge.

On December 19th, the Board again dealt with accounts and tax titles. They adopted a resolution to obtain storm windows for the Treasurer's and Clerk's office and window back of the Judge's desk in the courtroom and pay for them out of the county agent's fund. The Booth Lake ordinance was passed by the Board. They approved a special committee to revise the rules of the Board. An ordinance to disallow fishing in any inlets of Geneva Lake for the next 3 years was passed. (see p. 699*) They apportioned the number of jurors by township. The Superintendent for the Poor reported to the Board. Their financial statement included an appropriation from the Board, 3 payments from pauper estates and the sale of wool, oats, cheese, buckwheat, lard, a plow, a gun, pigs and roots – totaling \$7,106.95. They spent \$6,001.34, leaving a balance on hand of \$1,105.61. They spent \$1,953.13 in the care of county paupers outside of the Poor House and \$98.65 for transient paupers. Permanent improvements to the county farm cost \$394.45. They appointed Dyar Cowdery as county agent with a budget of \$1,200. They elected a building committee of five. Several motions concerning the jail lost.

On December 20th, they again dealt with accounts and gave the Building Committee authority to select and purchase the right lot for the jail. The Board voted that the Sheriff let the washing for the prisoners go to the lowest bidder doing satisfactory work and that he certify each month the amount of work done and price to be paid. Then the county agent is authorized to pay such bills as certified by the Sheriff. An ordinance to protect fish in Delavan Lake similar to the one in Troy and East Troy was presented. The Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$218.89. They set the D. A.'s salary at \$700 and the Superintendent of Schools salary at \$900. They adopted a resolution that the Building Committee could use any part necessary to purchase the lot for the jail. The Board voted on new rules for their governance, seen on pp. 709-713*. These were adopted and voted that 200 be printed. They voted to finish and furnish the office of the County Clerk and Treasurer, not to exceed \$250. They approved the list of jurors.

On November 12, 1878, they held their annual meeting with 19 supervisors present – 4 villages and 15 townships were represented. The Town of Darien was not represented. M. B. Bishop was elected chairman. Rules as revised last year were adopted for the present Board. Members on the 9 standing committees were announced. A petition from John McCune asking for \$50 expenses to bring a fugitive from the state of Michigan be paid to him. It was referred to the Misc. Accounts committee. The County Clerk showed \$33.10 collected in fees for the past year. The county agent reported that he spent \$242.53 furnishing the Treasurer and County Clerk’s office. The Board directed the Treasurer and County Clerk to cancel the tax certificates issued on lots in the Village of Delavan, sold at the last annual tax sale for delinquent village taxes and to charge the amount represented on the certificates so cancelled to the Town of Delavan.

On November 13th, there were 16 supervisors present. They adopted a resolution that the county sue and collect from the property of a patient at the Hospital for the Insane at the cost of this county or from anyone legally bound to support such patient and pay the money into the County Treasury.

The County Board chairman was asked to name a Committee on Equalization on or before June 1 of next year so the named persons can become acquainted with the relative value of the land in various townships.

The budget for the Superintendents for the Poor was presented totaling \$5,593.00. The balance on hand was \$937.00. The budget included:

wood and coal	\$ 225
groceries, salt, etc.	250
dry goods, boots, shoes	250
clothing and bedding	200
stoves, hardware, etc.	100
fencing	100
wheat or flour	100
outside relief	2000
salary and help	1368
unpaid accounts	1000

The committee asked for \$4,500.00. The Board adopted a resolution that the Superintendent of Schools receive a quarterly order of \$40 to cover printing and supplies. The County Treasurer bond was set at \$50,000. Hollis Latham was again re-elected as a Superintendent for the Poor; his bond was \$300.

On November 14th, the full Board was present. They received a petition from Geneva asking for full protection of fish in the lakes of this county. It was referred to a special committee. They decided that the Elkhorn Independent, Geneva Lake Herald, Sharon Reporter, Whitewater Register, Delavan Republican and the Delavan Enterprise all be hired at \$2/day if they publish the Board proceeding within 3 weeks of its adjournment.

The Committee on Public Property reported the new jail building was substantial and well built. A barn was also built and a fence was in the process of being built. A building to store fuel was needed. The old jail was unoccupied except a section for storage. The building no longer is of use to the county and we should dispose of it. The Committee on the Treasury presented their estimate of needed tax.

State tax	\$23,832.16
School tax	3,540.03
County tax	<u>30,450.00</u>
Total	\$58,122.19

The items identified for the county tax can be seen on p. 726*. The Committee on Equalization showed the value of land in the 17 townships ranged from \$40/acre in the Town of Elkhorn to \$20/acre in the Town of Richmond. The Board authorized the building committee to sell the old jail and sight (sic) at the best price for the county. The Board apportioned the taxes by township, seen on p. 730*. The certificates issued by the Clerk of Circuit Court are on pp. 731-739*.

The Board met in the morning of December 17th with 19 supervisors present; 20 were in attendance in the afternoon. They decided that bond for the Sheriff, S. S. Babcock, would be \$10,000. They dealt with accounts. The bond for James Child, County Surveyor, was referred to a special committee. They set the salary of the D.A. at \$700 and that of the Superintendent of Schools at \$800. The resolution on naming the Equalization Committee by June 1st passed. The petition of John McCune again was laid on the table.

On December 18th, the Board directed the county agent not to buy any furniture of any description for the use of the Sheriff's residence, whatever, unless there was a statute law providing for the same. They directed that the county officer salaries be paid on a quarterly basis. The county agent was

directed not to pay more than 6 cents/piece of washing for prisoners. The ordinance for protecting the fish in the county was laid on the table until tomorrow. The Building Committee reported that they advertised the sale of the old jail and received six offers. They sold the property to Miss A. Bulkley for \$800 cash and have received \$100 which was turned over to the County Treasury. The Board passed a resolution to give Miss A. Bulkley a good and sufficient deed upon receipt of \$700 and the County Clerk would furnish an abstract of the title at no cost. The Board ordered that D. L. Cowdery be paid \$35 as payment for his services as county agent.

The Board ordered payment of \$6,625.84 to the First National Bank of Elkhorn for notes drawn by the Building Committee. The Board adopted a resolution that the county agent purchase a cistern pump for the pantry in the Sheriff's residence and to put up suitable molding and hooks to hang pictures to save the walls of the building. The Building Committee report indicated that the final cost of the jail was \$9,904.35. The added costs were for improvements which were made with the advice from other Board members. There were additional costs beyond that for the contractor totaling \$641.88 making the total cost \$10,546.23. Another listing of related bills totaled \$525.19 and 2 bills for painting totaling \$43.75. Another two bills totaling \$57.00 and the cost of the lot was \$1,000.

On December 19th, the full Board received a report from the Superintendent for the Poor. They showed a total receipt of \$6,218.70 which included the sale of hogs, wool, cheese and butter, rent of the E. Dunbar property and the sale of Mrs. Pierce's home. They spent \$1,749.69 on outside relief, \$132.31 on transient relief and \$292.90 on tramps. Over the year there were 66 paupers in the Poor House. Presently there are 49 with the average number as 50 1/3. They have been subsisted, clothed and cared for at \$54.45/person or \$1.10/week. The inventory of personal property was valued at \$6,294.85. A listing of crops and produce is on p. 752*. A special committee on the building committee reported that the final total cost of the jail was \$12,525.73 and the report was adopted and ordered that bills be paid. The fish ordinance adopted by the Board can be seen on p. 754*. The Committee on the County Treasury audited the financial records and found them to be correct.

The official bond of the Sheriff was received. The Building Committee for the jail was discharged after receipt of money for the old jail. The title was referred to the D. A. to take the necessary action to give a clear title. Bonds

for the county officers were approved. There was discussion about the wages for the turnkey; it ended with a salary of \$20/month. The Public Property Committee inspected the Courthouse and the building known as Register's Office and found them in good condition and well cared for. The Poor House and Farm all were excellent order and the farm properly cared for. The County is fortunate to have the services of "Hon. T. W. Hill and lady to superintend the same."

On December 19th the Board adopted a resolution that there be no future employment of a turnkey unless the Sheriff shall find that those services are indispensable. The list of jurors submitted by Board members was accepted. The Board voted to settle the account of the Superintendent for the Poor. It showed a balance of \$858.81. The committee felt all was being conducted at the Poor House properly and efficiently. The jail building committee was thanked. The Board appropriated \$4,500 for expenses for the poor in the coming year.

The Board held their annual meeting on November 11, 1879 with 20 supervisors present. M.P. Bishop was elected chairman. Rules of 1878 were adopted for this year's Board. Board members were assigned to nine standing committees. A resolution from Rock County was laid on the table. The County Clerk reported that \$29.30 in fees was turned over to the treasury. The Board dealt with accounts #1 – 68. They adopted a motion that towns and villages have the authority to determine the use of funds from licenses. Charles Dunlap was elected Superintendent for the Poor in the vacancy because of T. W. Hill's death. They also re-elected E. Hulce as Superintendent for the Poor.

On November 12th, the Board met with 19 supervisors; one was excused. They voted that the list of delinquent lands to be charged back to the township with interest of 10%. A petition regarding road repair in the Town of Richmond was referred to the Roads Committee. The concern for worn records in the Register's office was referred to the Public Property Committee. The estimate of the Superintendents for the Poor budget was referred to the Committee on the Treasury. The county agent was asked to purchase furniture for the County Board room not to exceed \$350. They also asked for the purchases for the jail and Register's office totaling \$96.75. No action was taken on a motion to remove the fence around the park and sell it. The D. A. reported that \$70.12 was collected on the accounts at the Insane Hospital this past year.

On November 13th, the Board adopted a resolution regarding total county taxes of \$40,735.65. This included:

State tax:	\$16,677.05
School tax:	3,408.00
County tax:	20,650.00

A list of unclaimed county orders that were cancelled is on pp. 776-779*. They approved the apportion of taxes by the 17 townships. (see p.780*) Farmland was valued from \$40/acre in the Town of Elkhorn to \$21/acre in the Town of Richmond. The Board approved a resolution that a committee of three be appointed to confer with the Register of Deeds on the propriety and cost of securing a tract index and report such at the next meeting. They adopted the resolution that the Public Property Committee meet with Elkhorn supervisors regarding the park fence and report at the next meeting. The tax proposed for the county can be seen on p. 782*. The total aggregate value of the county was listed as \$13,669,740.00. Page 783* shows the apportioned tax by township...along with a special tax of \$114.00 in the Whitewater school district #5.

State tax:	\$16,791.05
County tax:	20,650.00
School tax:	3,408.60
Delinquent tax:	216.85
Special tax:	86.36

The special tax was in all townships except Bloomfield, East Troy and Elkhorn. The tax ranged from 35 cents in Sugar Creek to \$24.23 in the Town of Delavan.

On December 16th, there were 16 supervisors present when the official bonds of Levi Allen, Clerk of Court and J. B. Wheeler, D.A. were presented and referred to a special Committee of the County Board Chairman and the Treasury Committee. The county agent reported on receipts of \$1,210.66 and expenditures of \$1,210.11, leaving a balance of 55 cents. A petition regarding a road in Richmond was referred to the Town of Richmond. Four more supervisors were present for the afternoon session. A resolution was adopted that any person jailed in the county jail and to hard labor without jail, the Sheriff at his discretion can cause that person to do labor on any streets or roads in the county or on any county building or the County Poor Farm at the direction of the person having charge of that building, grounds or road as long as the county will not be charged for the labor. The Sheriff

has the discretion to make these assignments. Work to be done under the supervision of the Sheriff or one of his assistants.

The Board met on December 17th, and dealt with accounts. The annual report of the Superintendents for the Poor showed total receipts of \$6,291.57 which included that received from inmates' estates and the sale of produce and crops plus the county appropriation of \$4,500. It showed a balance on hand of \$22.44. Over the year there were 62 paupers in the Poor House; the present number was 51, with the average as 55. Outside relief was shown by township:

Sharon:	\$ 35.39	East Troy:	\$ 18.94
Richmond:	9.25	Delavan:	233.94
Darien:	384.54	LaGrange:	13.00
Whitewater:	546.36	LaFayette:	16.61
Walworth:	170.00	Lyons:	34.00
Sugar Creek:	10.35	Elkhorn:	48.41
Geneva:	53.65	Troy:	29.95

Their total expenses were \$3,428.60 which equaled \$62.30/pauper or \$1.19/week. T. W. Hill, overseer, died on May 25th. On September 1st Chas. Dunlap became overseer. The Board adopted a resolution that the county agent purchase a new stove for the Clerk of Court and dispose of the old stove. A special committee was assigned to investigate the fence question and report at the next session. The county agent was ordered to purchase bedding for 8 beds, 1 dozen shirts and 1 dozen pairs of socks for the prisoners in jail. The Board voted a \$4,500 budget for the Superintendent for the Poor. They allowed the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association the use of the courtroom and Board of Supervisors' room for their annual meeting in January. The Sheriff to be in charge of the rooms during this meeting. A resolution regarding tobacco and alcohol for prisoners was rejected. Finally the original resolution to purchase tobacco not to exceed \$25 was accepted.

They approved paying \$35 to D. S. Cowdery for his work as county agent and that he be appointed for next year with a budget of \$1,200. The County Clerk was to deliver to the Superintendent of Schools each quarter, \$25 for printing and postage and that an itemized statement of expenditures be made to the Board at their next annual meeting. The bonds of the D.A. and the Clerk of Courts were approved.

The Board met on December 17th and approved Board fees, Sheriff and deputy fees and approved the Walworth County Independent for publishing the Board proceeding. They dealt with accounts. There was discussion of damages to a school house done by an alleged idiot, Edwin Magill. The Board decided that if the county is liable, Magill should be placed in confinement. They received the Treasurer's report. The committee report on the tract index in the Register's office was accepted. A motion on the report's subject matter was placed on the table. They adopted a resolution that the D.A. shall not use an office in the Courthouse and shall not use county fuel, but that he be allowed instead, \$25/year.

On December 18th, the Board heard the recommendation from the Committee on Sheriff's and clerk's accounts that the Clerk of Circuit Court not be reimbursed for any expenditure not allowed by law. It was approved. This year the Superintendent for the Poor financial report showed receipts of \$6,291.54 and total expenses of \$6,314.00, leaving a balance due of \$22.44. There was a long resolution on the death of T. W. Hill, praising his work. The county agent was ordered not to pay more than 6 cents/item for washing for prisoners during the coming year. The county agent was to procure 300 copies of the County Board proceeding at an expense not to exceed \$50 and to be let to the lowest bidder. The County Treasurer was to pay back to the Town of Troy the license money received from them in 1879. They dealt with accounts and approved the names of jurors for 1880 by township.

On November 11, 1880, the Board voted not to replace the fence around the Courthouse Park and to remove the fence that was there.

On December 29, 1881, the Public Property Committee reported "the new building, erected by the Superintendents during the past year is commodious and a good building for the purpose intended."

On November 12, 1884, the Board received a letter from the State Board of Charities and Reform indicating that the Insane Asylum is inadequate for the number of residents. The County Board appointed a committee to investigate the cost of needed additions. The next day the committee reported that they had examined the building and recommended the addition and that taxes of \$5,000 be raised this year and the same next year to pay for the work. On December 30, 1884, the committee reported that a building of brick would be built next to the main building of sufficient size to

accommodate 50 males. Plan and specifications to be developed so the whole sum would not exceed \$12,000.

On December 28, 1885, it was reported that the new building was furnished.

On November 16, 1887, the Superintendent of the Poor asked for \$1,000 for a new barn. The request was approved on November 17, 1887. That same day a committee was appointed to study the need for “new insane buildings”.

On November 10, 1888, the committee reported the need for a building for 50 female patients and the need to separate them from the poor residents. “It should be built west of the present Poor House and that the present Poor House be fixed up as a dining room for the female insane.”

On November 12, 1889, it was reported that the corridor between the Poor House and the Asylum wasn't originally built because it would have cost \$1,250. This was not authorized by the Board. “Now we find it is necessary to have the corridor. The Superintendent built the corridor at a cost of \$750. A resolution to pay that amount was approved. The committee reported that the building was complete and at a final cost of \$11,567.14.

On November 13, 1890, the Public Property Committee reported that there was a need for a brick building, 18 x 12 feet to keep milk and butter on the farm.

On November 15, 1894, the Public Property Committee recommended a brick building, 12 x 20 feet and 12 feet high, be built south of the privy in the park. This would be used for a privy and a place to deposit ashes. Also, a brick building, 24 x 30 feet, to be built at the jail to be used as a laundry and a coal bin. The recommendation was approved.

On November 12, 1897, the Board approved \$5,000 to erect a work house or stockade at the jail.

On March 6, 1900, the Board received word that the poor and the insane patients must be separated. A committee was appointed to look at plans to erect a building not to exceed \$15,000.

In their report to the Board on November 17, 1900, the Committee on Public Property indicated that the new Poor House was nearly completed. On December 27th, the Board approved a resolution that the idea of a County Soldiers' Monument on the Courthouse grounds be submitted to the electors on November 4, 1902. At that meeting the Board learned that the cost of the new Poor House was \$14,994.45. \$15,000 had been appropriated.

On November 14, 1902, the Board approved an addition to the barn, a new laundry building and new root cellar on the farm. \$2,100 was approved for these projects.

On November 14, 1905, the Trustees of the Asylum and the Superintendent of the Poor Farm reported that the new horse stable was completed.

On May 10, 1906, the Board approved a resolution that \$7,000 be appropriated to build a fireproof county office building for the offices of County Judge and Register of Deeds along with earlier appropriated monies of \$28,000.

The Building Committee reported on November 12, 1907 that the new county office building was finished. It cost \$41,224.43. With the appropriations including one for furnishings of \$1,000 and the sale of the old building and furnishings, there was \$26.07 balance in their budget. On November 12th, the Public Property Committee reported that a new barn was needed at the jail. At that same meeting the Trustees of the Asylum asked for \$2,500 to build a new barn, 32 x 72 feet. Another action that day was to grant old soldiers the use of the south west room on the second floor of the new building until such a time it would be needed by the county. [An extensive report about Walworth County soldiers compilation can be found in the November 10, 1910 County Board Proceedings.]

On November 10, 1908, a special committee reported that a memorial honoring County Soldiers would cost \$800. They also wanted to compile a history of each soldier; that compiled record would cost \$1,000.

On December 28, 1910, the Board voted that use of the jury room was granted to District Attorney Buckley when the same was not otherwise needed.

After several resolutions to build a new jail failed, on November 17, 1911 they passed a resolution to investigate offers for the old jail and the cost for a new jail.

On September 13, 1912, the State Board of Control of Wisconsin sent a letter to the county indicating that a recent inspection of the jail showed that it was dangerous to the health of its occupants. If a new jail was not constructed by October 1, 1913, the jail would be closed. On November 15, 1912, the Public Property Committee reported that they asked Van Ryan & DeGelleke, architects, to draw up plans for reconstruction of the present jail to meet state codes. They also recommended that the same architects draw plans for making the vaults of the Courts and the County Clerk fireproof.

On November 13, 1913, the Board voted to build a pavilion or speakers stand in the park as a gathering spot for the Walworth County Soldiers' and Sailors' Association and appropriated \$600 for it. The next day they rescinded that action, lowering the appropriation to \$300 and asking Elkhorn to contribute the other \$300. That day they also made serious plans for a new jail and asked the State Board of Control for an extension to allow for building. The next month they learned that the extension was approved until November, 1914.

On November 10, 1914, D. W. Stanford, Superintendent of the County Insane Asylum and Poor Farm reported that a cement block silo was built next to the barn.

On November 9, 1915, the Board was informed that the new jail was completed and ready for inspection. On November 12th, the Public Property Committee reported that the cattle barns were in bad condition and asked for \$6,000 to correct the situation.

On January 10, 1916, Dr. Edward Kinney, physician at the county institutions called attention to the need for a hospital to isolate ill residents. The County Hospital Committee concurred with Dr. Kinney and asked that a study be done about what other counties were doing. In his 1916 report to the Trustees, D. W. Stanford indicated that a large amount of the work of building the new barn was done by the men residents.

On May 10, 1917, the special committee appointed to investigate building a county hospital reported and recommended that one be built according to the

plans of Architect W. S. Holmes of Chicago, Illinois and that it be built at the county farm. On January 11, 1918, it was reported that the new hospital was nearing completion.

On November 12, 1919, the Superintendent reported that a new implement shed and a garage had been built on the county farm.

On May 18, 1926, the Board gave permission to the city of Elkhorn to erect a band shell in the Courthouse Park until such a time that the site would be needed by the county. On November 1, 1926, it was reported that two brooder houses were erected at the farm.

In their report on November 1, 1927, the Hemstreets indicated that a new hog barn was built on the farm. A new garage barn was erected across the road from the main buildings; the old one was torn down. On November 11th, the Board voted to appropriate \$35,000 to build an addition to the county hospital.

On May 15, 1928, the Public Property Committee reported that the low bid for the addition to the County Hospital was \$46,528.00. By eliminating plastering, finishing, heating, plumbing, terrazzo and tile work and the elevator the price would be \$38,628.00. They further recommended that the upper floor be competed with an appropriation of \$15,000 from the General Fund.

In the Superintendent's report to the Trustees of the County Insane Asylum for the Chronic Insane, County Home and Poor Farm it was indicated that a new hog barn was built on the farm along with a new chicken brooder.

On November 18, 1929, the Public Property Committee reported that the addition to the County Hospital was completed. The repairs on the old Courthouse ran more than was appropriated.

The November 1, 1930 report of the Superintendents to the Trustees included that a new screened in porch was attached to the east side of the main building of the Asylum. On November 18th, it was reported that a new heating plant was completed on the farm.

On February 27, 1931, it was recommended that the new machinery building be insured for \$10,000. During the November 1933 session, the Board

learned that the old rooms adjacent to the main kitchen of the Asylum were torn down and a much larger building was erected to replace it. The total cost of this building, the refrigeration plant and remodeling cost less than \$5,000. The next year the report indicated that a temporary building was erected to relieve overcrowding at the County Home and Men's Quarters. A new brooder house was purchased for 500 chickens. Later in that session the Public Property Committee asked for \$12,000 toward building a permanent addition to relieve the overcrowding at the County Home.

On May 11, 1935, the Board approved renting office space for 6 months at \$30.00 for the Reemployment Office. On September 10th, of that year the Board approved a resolution to erect a sewage disposal plant at the Farm.

On March 11, 1936, the Board dealt with renting office space for the Pension Department, Rural Resettlement Administration and the Federal Survey Department. Some of the work of the WPA which had some county administration was turned over to the Farm Bureau. On November 16th, the Board accepted for the people of Walworth County the Log Cabin built on the fairgrounds as a part of the Centennial Celebration. They also gave \$400 to the Centennial Committee to finish paying their bills.

On May 4, 1937, the Board approved a 40 room addition to the hospital along with accommodations to board the nurses. On September 14th, they approved a resolution to build a new 80 room hospital west of the current buildings on the home and farm. Also, that the present hospital become a home for the nurses and other employees. The cost of the new hospital to be \$150,000.00. Their November report indicated that the addition to the men's asylum was completed. On November 12th, the Board learned that the specifications for the new hospital would cost \$175, 000.00. This was approved.

On June 14, 1938, Fred Hemstreet invited the County Board to attend a ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone of the county hospital. This event took place on Wednesday, June 22nd at 2:00 p.m. In his report to the Board on November 15, 1938, he indicated that the basement in the new men's Asylum building was finished and divided into rooms for the unmarried men employees. The old building was condemned by the State and was torn down; a small building for the night watch was built.

On March 22, 1939, the Board had a resolution indicating that the current offices of the agricultural agent and the soil conservation service in the Lorraine Hotel were too small. The former Post Office was vacant and could provide office for the above two offices plus the County Surveyor. The latter had an office in the fireproof vault in the Courthouse. All three offices were to move into the former Post Office by April 1, 1939.

On March 19, 1941, the Board passed a resolution to obtain plans and specifications for a building to house the nurses and other employees at the county hospital. On May 1st, Herbert Ebling, architect, appeared before the Board with details of such a building. On May 20th, the Board appropriated \$50,000 for its construction.

On January 13, 1942, the Board voted that the public telephone booth in the Circuit Court Building and the Courthouse be disconnected. If the Courts deem a public telephone advisable that it be installed at no charge to the County by request of the County Judge. If this is denied by the State Long Distance Telephone Company of Elkhorn, the County Clerk is to contact the Public Service Commission.

On May 6, 1942, the Board authorized leasing office space in the Bauerman Block at 24 ½ S. Wisconsin for the period July 1, 1942 until January 1, 1943 for \$30/month rent with the option to lease at the same rate for the next two years. On November 10th the Hospital Committee reported that the new employee home (nurses' home) was complete.

On January 21, 1943, the Board approved leasing the Bauerman office space for another year. On July 13th, the Board adopted a resolution giving \$2,000 for the construction of a slaughter house at the county home and farm.

On November 14, 1944, the Board appointed a special committee to study the need for and possible location of a county airport. On November 17th, the committee reported and the Board voted to have the committee pursue more details about the cost of the proposed Delavan location.

On May 10, 1945, the Board approved the purchase of ten acres which included the dam and the outlet of the proposed Whitewater Lake at the price of \$10 per acre. On July 10th, the Committee on Post War Planning reported that a new garage at the county hospital, a new laundry at the county home, four new bull pens, a new water tower and a root cellar at the

county farm were needed. A combination barn and garage at the county jail needed to be remodeled.

On September 12th of that year, the Board voted to build a new Courthouse and appointed a committee to secure architects to submit plans for the new building. Over the past year several resolutions which included either a new building or remodeling the old buildings were defeated. On November 13th, in the report on the County Home and Farm it was indicated that a new silo was built on the farm. On November 19th, the Board voted to put aside \$100,000 in a special fund for building the new Courthouse. The next day they appropriated \$3,500 for developing preliminary plans for the building.

On July 9, 1946, the Board appropriated \$10,000 to be used to defray the cost of temporary housing for fifty cases of people not able to be accommodated at the County Home. On November 12th, in their report on the County Home and Farm it was indicated that a new calf barn was erected, along with a new wing for the men's quarters and the kitchen area.

On June 10, 1947, the Board appropriated \$3,000 for the building of a new water tower for the County Asylum and Home. Previously they had voted \$15,000 for this project and then learned there was additional cost. On June 23rd, the Board authorized the Public Property Committee to obtain bids on a new vegetable cellar, a new green house, a new bull pen and remodeling the cattle barn at the County Asylum and Home. On September 23rd, money was appropriated for these projects. On November 12th, the Superintendent of Schools reported that in January their offices had moved into one room in the Courthouse, to make room for the District Attorney's office. Then on June 1st their offices moved to 17 W. Walworth Avenue. On November 13th, the Board received a resolution which indicated that legislation required them to change the name of the Walworth County Asylum and Home to the Walworth County Hospital. This required a change to the present County Hospital. A committee was established to recommend an appropriate new name for the public hospital.

On April 30, 1948, the County Board approved a resolution to spend \$30,000 to build a new pump house, water lines and well at the County Home and Hospital. On September 14th of that year, more money was appropriated because they needed to do more test wells for this facility to obtain sufficient water for the hospital.

On November 9th, the Board passed a resolution that \$240,775.38 be reappropriated and placed in the New Courthouse Fund. The end of the next year saw that total as \$290,775.38. The New County Home Fund totaled \$225,000.

On June 13, 1950, the Board voted to give the Agricultural Society \$7,500 toward the construction of a new 4-H Club building. On November 14th of that year, a resolution was passed that the county surveyor's office, which was in the First National Bank building, would be moved to the room now occupied by the County Service office. That office would be moved into the second floor of the Courthouse in the room now occupied by the District Attorney. This to take place the beginning of next year. Resolutions that year also indicate the construction of a new highway department barn at their N. Wisconsin location. Those continued into the next year with the construction of a boiler room for the highway garage.

It was interesting to note that on November 14, 1951, the Committee of the Whole of the County Board convened at the Elkhorn Municipal Lounge where they approved the coming year's budget. The committee meeting dissolved and they resumed a County Board session.

On November 19, 1952, a resolution was passed to construct a fire proof building at the County Home and Hospital of two stories and a basement. It would house a chapel and recreation room in the basement and offices for visiting doctor and dentist, waiting rooms, visiting rooms and a women's dining room on the first floor. Rooms for women patients on the second floor.

On June 16, 1953, the Board voted to purchase the property of May Horton Costello, which was currently housing the County Welfare Department. The purchase price was \$16,000. In October of that year, the Board voted to proceed with Plan A of building construction at the County Home.

On May 18, 1954, the Board approved the hiring of an architect to proceed with plans for a school for exceptional children and to investigate possible sites for that building. In September of that year they approved money for the second of three buildings, part of Plan A, at the County Home. Additional money was appropriated in October for this project. That same month the Board gave approval to the Public Property Committee to seek bids for the Special School.

In May 1955, the Board voted to name the newly complete Building 1 at the County Home and Hospital, Hemstreet Hall in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hemstreet, former Superintendent and Matron of the County Home and Hospital. In November, the Board appropriated \$30,000 toward a county airport to be called the Elkhorn Airport in the Town of Geneva. Also in that month, the Board authorized and approved the purchase of the Webster property in the name of Walworth County. It also authorized the leasing of that property to the Walworth County Historical Society for a term of 15 years at a rental of \$1.00 per year.

On June 5, 1956, the Board authorized the transfer of the Lakeland Hospital Depreciation Fund to an account to be named Lakeland Hospital Building Account. It would be earmarked for future construction needed at that facility. On July 17th of that year, they authorized the construction of a carpenter and machine shop at the County Hospital Home and Farm. On October 9th, they authorized securing the services of an architect for the new County Home and for the new Courthouse. That same day they voted that \$40,000 be put in the budget for a three room addition to the Special School.

In November 1957, the Board approved the construction of a rifle range for the Sheriff's department. On November 12th, they appropriated \$7,500 toward the construction of a 4-H building on the fairgrounds.

In November 1958, they approved the hiring of an architect for the third building at the County Home and for an addition to Lakeland Hospital.

On June 9, 1959, the County Board passed a resolution to negotiate for new offices for the Extension Office. Senators Ora Rice and Wm. Trinke helped to change state legislation to allow counties to borrow based on equalized valuation rather than on assessed valuation. On August 11, 1959, a resolution was passed to issue bonds of \$1,200,000 to build and equip a new Courthouse; \$2,000,000 to build and equip a new addition to Lakeland Hospital; \$1,400,000 to build and equip a county home for the relief and support of dependent persons; and \$400,000 to construct and equip an addition to the county hospital for the mentally ill.

The next month, the County Board passed a new resolution that the above bonds be done in one issue of \$5,000,000. They would be Corporate Purpose Bonds, dated October 1, 1959 and be in \$1,000 denominations.

They would mature between 1960 and 1979. On September 15, 1959, it was determined that the County Mental Health Clinic would be housed on the 1st floor of the Nurses Dormitory at Lakeland Hospital. \$40,000 would be put in the 1960 budget for furnishing and equipping the clinic and for alterations to the 1st floor.

On October 6, 1959, a resolution was passed to purchase the Blooming Prairie School House for \$1.00, move it to an appropriate site on the fairgrounds, determined by the Agricultural Society and put it on a suitable foundation and get it in proper repair. Afterwards the Agricultural Society agreed to keep it in repair for posterity.

On December 16, 1959, it was determined that the county would have free use of the Elkhorn Municipal Building and \$5,000 toward the rental of other buildings so the county offices could operate while the new Courthouse was being erected. (The \$5,000 offer from the city of Elkhorn was reaffirmed on July 30, 1960.)

Also on December 16th, another resolution indicated that the East and West Courthouses would be taken down. A new Courthouse to be erected on the site of the above. The Walworth County jail would be a part of the new Courthouse and that no Federal agencies would be given space in the new building.

On March 15, 1960, an additional \$1,000 was voted to repair the Blooming Prairie School House. On July 12, 1960, the Board voted to contribute \$15,000 toward the construction of the Activity Center on the fairgrounds.

On August 16, 1960, the Board appropriated \$17,000 for equipment for the County Farm to properly process their dairy products. On October 13, 1960, a resolution was passed to enter into contracts with various contractors and sub-contractors for building the Courthouse and to get estimates for the County Mental Health Clinic.

On October 25, 1960, a ground breaking ceremony was held at 1:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Park. On November 1, 1960, the Board added \$2,000 to the improvements to meet recommendations in the construction of the new sewage plant. The estimated cost was \$100,000. Federal grants should cover 30% of the project. In December 20, 1960, the Board voted to give

\$200 to the VFW and \$500 to St. Patrick's Church for use of their buildings in 1960.

On February 14, 1961, an additional \$500 was voted to complete work on the Blooming Prairie School House. Later, the Board learned that their use of one of the courtrooms for their meetings would be a hardship on the courts. Therefore, plans would proceed to use the lower level for the County Board meetings. \$24,000 was appropriated to make these changes.

On August 15, 1961, the name North Lake was approved at the request of the State Geographic Board. On September 19, 1961, the Board approved a 2nd floor addition to Lakeland School. The school house was built to accommodate 90 children and the enrollment was now 105. \$125,000 was voted for the building and \$8,000 for furnishings for the addition.

On November 7, 1961, the Board moved to invite all County Boards in the state to the Open House of the new Home for the Aged. The motion was amended to include all state officials and passed.

The Southeastern Regional Planning Commission was created on August 8, 1960. The office of the Corporation Counsel was created in 1961. The pre-Release Center was started in 1962 in the old Radar Base on Hwy. 67. The band shell was moved to Sunset Park in June 1962.

On May 15, 1962, there was a special Board meeting to discuss an addition to the handicapped school.

On June 12, 1962, the County Board adopted the following resolution regarding the Courthouse Auditorium and Conference rooms:

1. Scheduling of Auditorium and Conference rooms for any meeting should be done through the County Clerk's office, and scheduled event shall be recorded on calendars posted in the room or auditorium schedule, County Clerk's office and custodian's office.

2. Extension Service to have priority for use of auditorium: Courthouse departments next; outside groups last. Department head or custodian to be in attendance at all times. No meeting to last later than 11:30 p.m.

3. Applications for use of auditorium by outside groups must be approved by Public Property Committee.

4. Fee for use of auditorium by outside group to be \$50.00. This fee and application for use of the auditorium shall be in the hands of the County Clerk at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. After using the auditorium \$25.00 will be refunded if no damage had been done to the auditorium.

5. The demonstration kitchen is to be used only under the supervision of the Home Agent.

6. Courtrooms and Jury Rooms to be under control and supervision of the Judges. These rooms are not to be used for group meetings unless the judge approves and is in attendance.

7. No smoking or beverages served at meetings in the auditorium.

On July 17, 1962, the Board determined that the hours of the Courthouse would be Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. including the lunch hour.

The County Board held their first meeting in the new Courthouse in their County Board room on Tuesday, August 28, 1962. The Public Property Committee requested that all members not lean back too far in their chairs until the desks in back of them were adequately protected to prevent scraping the finish.

On October 16, 1962, a resolution was passed to show appreciation for the use of buildings during the construction of the Courthouse. The City of Elkhorn to receive \$500, VFW Building to receive \$250, St. Patrick's Church to receive \$500 and the American Legion to receive \$100 along with the Board's sincere thanks.

*Books of Proceedings are kept in the County Clerk's office.