

**KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY BOARD CHAMBERS COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
November 9, 2010**

The **Public Hearing** was called to order by Chairman Molinaro at 7:00 p.m., in the County Board Room located in the Administration Building.

Roll call was taken.

Present: Supervisors Grady, Zerban, Rose, Goebel, Celebre, Kubicki, Hallmon, Grulich, J. Gentz, Arrington, R. Frederick, Johnson, Michel, O'Day, Singer, B. Frederick, Kohlmeier, G. Gentz, Molinaro, Esposito, Clark, Noble, Underhill, Decker, Breunig, Haas, Elverman, Ekornaas.

Present: 28.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jim Huff, 3212 22nd Ave, stated he is a retired law enforcement officer and can tell from first hand experience there is nothing more stressful or traumatic than a death investigation. During this difficult time it is nice to have trained, professional personnel from the medical examiner's office to work at their sides. He reminded the board that they are the ones who will appoint the medical examiner and he urges the board to do their due diligence when making this decision.

Mark Witeck, 6826 91st Ave., stated he is the current Medical Examiner for Kenosha County. He stated we can turn back the clock 50 years to when the coroner knew very little and could do very little. That is exactly what is in the current budget. The board can decide to not throw away over 20 years of progress and retain the current 3 fulltime deputies. They are all educated and board certified in medical legal death investigation which is the highest level of certification for their jobs. All three have a proven record of success in their office. Good forensic investigations help families, law enforcement, the judicial system and the community as a whole. He strongly urges the board change the budget as presented and retain the three professionals currently working in the medical examiner's office.

Brian Peterson, 933 W Highland Ave., Milwaukee, stated he is the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner. Medical Examiners determine cause and manner of death. As it looks now, his office will be doing a lot of Kenosha County's autopsies. His preference would be that the current staff be retained; they're excellent. He has worked with them off and on over the years.

Doug Wargo, 1719 29th St., stated he has been employed as a police officer for Kenosha for 25 years. He has worked with the current staff in the medical examiner's office for many years and feels they are very knowledgeable and know their jobs very well and hopes the board carefully thinks about the decision regarding this office.

Tim Popanda, 350 Burden Ave., stated he is representing the Village of Paddock Lake. He spoke regarding the Emergency Government being switched to the Sheriff's Department. Although he has nothing against the Sheriff's Department running Emergency Government he feels it works well as it is and doesn't understand why it has to change.

Carol Bain, Pleasant Prairie, stated she and her husband are the Kenosha Bicycle Ambassadors and spoke in favor of paving the bicycle trails. If the paths are paved they would be used more.

Mark Montague, 7835 36th Ave, Kenosha, stated he is here to address the situation at the Highway Department and the Department of Public Works. Through the budget process he has heard of two Golf Course Supervisors getting in range pay adjustments. The golf course has been a loss for a couple of years with the projection of next year at \$300,000, no raise should be given to them. The State's projections of the DPW revenue for this year are better than last year. Hopefully that would equate into the 14 laid off highway workers who sat home for close to 5 months will be back and have some job security. He feels the DPW doesn't need two superintendents. Historically they did have two shops and they probably needed two superintendents then. He doesn't think some people should be given raises when everyone else is taking zeros right now. He's heard numbers of \$600,000 in local road improvements; hopefully the Highway Department can do the work and not give it all to Payne and Dolan. There is talk about the cart paths, bike trails and road work at Pets, the Highway

Department can do this work, they just have to be allowed. He also stated that if any employee deserves a pay adjustment it is Vickie Galich; she is a tireless worker and deserves it.

Ron Degolier, 3524 7th Ave., stated he is in favor of the county taking advantage of public funds to pave the north side bike trails.

Louis Rugani, 4526 29th Ave., stated he understands several western municipalities had a referendum at the last election regarding new tax for public transit. This affects the whole county, not just them. He wonders if the city can make decisions for them. He feels the question was a loaded question.

James Kranz, 3032 47th Ave., spoke in favor of paving the bike paths. A lot of people use these paths including walkers, joggers and strollers. The bike path as it is right now is in really bad shape.

Ray Forgianni, 8731 45th Ave., stated he supports the paving of the bicycle paths. He complimented the county for reserving the North Shore right of way back when it was available and had the vision to create the bike path.

Stan Rosenstiel, 7843 32nd Ave., spoke in favor of paving the bike trail.

Larry Obuchowski, 3813 14th Ave., stated he thought it was great some people got to vote on the KRM. He only wishes the whole county was able to vote.

Steve Casey, 7306 22nd Ave., spoke regarding the medical examiner's office. He feels this current business model is not working for Kenosha County. He has worked as a funeral home owner for 10 years and licensed funeral director for 25 years. He has worked with many counties over the years. Many of them have a lay person as the medical examiner or a coroner. He encourages the board to support the model for the medical examiner that is proposed in the budget.

Supervisor Clark presented the 2011 Budget.

It was moved by Supervisor Singer to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Michel. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Prepared by: Edie LaMothe
Deputy Clerk

Submitted by: Mary T. Schuch-Krebs
County Clerk