

**KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY BOARD CHAMBERS COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

November 7, 2012

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

Roll call was taken.

Present: Supervisors Grady, Rose, Gentz, Montemurro, Dodge, Kubicki, Hallmon, R. Johnson, O'Day, Arrington, R. Frederick, Nudo, Kohlmeier, B., Frederick, Molinaro, Esposito, Noble, A. Johnson, Skalitzky, Underhill, Breunig, Decker, Elverman.

Present: 23. Excused: 0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - 7:02 pm*

Anthony Kennedy, 4223 29th Ave., stated he is an alderman for the City of Kenosha. The city employees will be receiving a 2% raise. The city employees have not received a raise in 5 years and the Mayor believes the investment in their employees is very important. It's the employees that continue to deliver a high rate of service to the taxpayers in Kenosha. He would like the board to keep in mind that their employees are what make Kenosha a great place to live, and to continue the high quality of life that has been the envy of other places. He asks the board to treat their employees in a fair and equitable manner. Without good employees, we lose something in the city and county. He understands money is not unlimited, but if you have to invest in equipment or people, the payout is higher when you choose people.

Jack Rose, 4315 68th St., stated the National Alliance on Mental Illness is here to improve the quality of life of people affected with mental illness through advocacy, education and support. He asks the board to support the Human Services budget.. When people don't get the help they need they end up in jail, shelters, hospitals or possibly dead. Treatment works, but only if they can get it. 90% of cases if treated live normal lives.

Walter Kozel, 4120 87th St., stated he realizes this is a hectic time, but feels there is an outstanding issue that needs to be addressed before the 2013 budget is approved. Employees of the Correctional Division of the Sheriff's Department have been contributing to their pension since January 2012 and have not received any wage increases. The new work schedule which was implemented removed 2-3 vacation days for most employees and 1 personal day. They also receive 8 short weeks and get no paid holidays. With all this some employees lost 10% of their income. He hopes the board can resolve the holiday issue before the budget is passed.

Mary Burpee, 609 W Walworth St., stated she is speaking on behalf of the AFSCME employees. According to the county executive's website, Kenosha County is served by more than 1,000 hard working and dedicated employees willing to serve the public and is one of the top 10 fastest growing counties in the United States. The public continues to receive the best services from the hardworking and dedicated employees at no extra cost to them. She feels the county is singling out a distinct group of employees and sending the message that they question their value and the work they do and demonstrate it by taking more away from them than any other group, even more than Act 10 did. For the Correction Officers who have very challenging and dangerous jobs, the negativity these proposed cuts have on them is exceedingly troublesome. Council 40 has requested to enter into negotiations due to the recent ruling of reversing certain portions of Act 10. She understands the county's feeling of uncertainties, but thinks we should all be working together. That is what responsible employers are doing all over the state.

Scott Dahl, 8407 26th Ave., questioned why the jail staff isn't treated with the same respect as all other county employees. When hired, they knew they would be required to work weekends, holidays, and mandatory overtime. They were told they would be compensated for working holidays by being able to take one day off with pay per month from January thru October. The new 5/2 4/2 schedule eliminates this compensation. They're not asking for more than any other county employee receives, they're just asking for the same.

Mark Kober, 5723 2nd St., stated he works at the Kenosha County Detention Center. He's older and established, but if these cuts were made when he was younger he wouldn't have been able to be financially where he is now. They do a good job and are proud of it. They will be at work on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year, but they would like to be compensated for it like the rest of the county employees.

Randy Julius, 6915 67th St., stated he works at the Kenosha County Detention Center and began his Job with a great sense of pride, honor and motivation to do his best as part of a team. He was looking forward to a great career with Kenosha County which provided decent pay and great benefits and a chance to retire. After losing their union rights, each passing day brought changes. He sees the pride, honor and motivation leaving his fellow officers.

Denise Bell, 4223 29th Ave., spoke regarding the correctional officers lack of holiday pay. She hopes to have it start beginning this year.

Kathy Million, 11820 26th Ave., stated she is a long term employee at Brookside Care Center. She feels the correctional officers are being treated unfairly. She was told that after the election they would be able to begin negotiations for a new contract which expires at the end of the year. There has been a union at Brookside since 1959 and the employees would like to continue it. Brookside is very well known for the care they give and hope the board will remember that and treat them fairly.

Donna Zarovy, 6207 203rd Ave., asked the board to reconsider the health insurance benefit especially charging over \$100 per month for family dental for a benefit of \$1200 per year. It's not worth taking it. With all the benefit cuts the employees are losing 10% per month of their pay.

David Christensen, 4122 25th St., stated this year the correctional officers have had 22 days of reduced benefit time, not the 8 days of vacation the Kenosha News keeps reporting. They present their case to the county board because he feels the board knows what is real, just and fair and what isn't. All they are asking for is to be treated fair.

Neil Munger, 2400 Dwight St., stated he feels the loss of post retirement health benefits for employees with less than 10 years is unfair. He left another job for his job at the Detention Center because of the benefits with Kenosha County. He could understand it if they changed it for future hires, because they would know what they were getting into before accepting the job. He will have to work until 65 when Medicare kicks in. He can't see anyone working to be that age in his line of work. He also spoke against the elimination of dental insurance.

Georgette Carey, 3213 Roosevelt Rd., stated she doesn't know of any other department in the county that has had to make more sacrifices than the jailers. They take pride in the work they do and come back faithfully every day and do their best. They're not trying to get rich; they just want to survive and be treated fairly.

7:39pm* At this time, Supervisor Rose presented the 2013 Kenosha County Budget.

It was moved by Supervisor Molinaro to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Esposito.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Prepared by: Edie LaMothe
Deputy Clerk
Submitted by: Mary T. Schuch-Krebs
County Clerk