

**KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COUNTY BOARD CHAMBERS COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**October 5, 2004**

The **Regular Meeting** was called to order by Chairman Elverman at 7:30 p.m., in the County Board Room located in the Administration Building. Roll call was taken.

Present: Supervisors Elverman, Grady, Rossow, Rose, Kessler, Wipper, Booth, Faraone, R. Johnson, Michel, Singer, Deschler, Wisnefski, Clark, Kerkman, Carbone, Carey-Mielke, Smitz, Ekornaas, Marrelli, Modory, Noble, O'Day, Molinaro, Huff, Gorlinski, L. Johnson.

Excused: Supervisor West.

Present. 27. Excused. 1.

County Executive Allan Kehl presented the 2005 County Budget.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Many citizens spoke in favor of having a casino in Kenosha and asked that the County Board work on the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Supervisor Kerkman feels that they cannot adequately communicate all of the ideas and items if they cannot talk openly at their regularly scheduled meetings. This is why he is speaking under Citizen Comments. Regarding the casino. There has been so much talk about a 70-30 split. The city residents benefit with the 70% and also half of the 30%. The city would end up with 85% of the revenue towards reducing their taxes and the rest of the county would be 15%. The city will be charging for sewer and water but the county will be charged for the other services. State and county roads will assume almost all of the maintenance and improvements. They are no city roads to maintain. The city does not care if they give land away. They can go to Bristol, Paris or Somers and annex more. School support for the county is not there. The City, Pleasant Prairie and Somers will all benefit to the K-12 system. The west end schools should receive an equal amount of revenue. He feels that the split between the City and County should be 50-50. No new tax dollars should ever be used because of the casino. The other option is no casino. There is no benefit except money. It may provide jobs but at whose expense? Everyone except the city. Over 50% of the land value is in the county. The value of properties in the county are going up faster than the city. Another thing, he works for a Japanese company and over 20% of the high paying jobs are Japanese brought in from out-side. That can happen here. The average value of property in the City of Kenosha is \$135,000 and the average value of property in the Town of Brighton is \$270,000. We have to have a more equitable split.

Supervisor Clark spoke about the City/County split. The County negotiating team went through an analysis and came up with a quantifiable formula with a 60-40 split. This is a fair approach. The county made a fair offer. Lets go to the mayor and say lets arbitrate this. It's a shame that the governments are fighting. Dave Geertsen and Al Swartz did a lot of work on figures for the Intergovernmental Agreement.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Elverman stated that Supervisor Carbone was appointed to the National Steering Committee for Justice and Public Safety.

Citizen comments this evening centered on one topic and so does Supervisor Reports. He going to ask that Supervisors remember that this is for reports and police yourself from debating. Just stick to reports.

## **SUPERVISORS REPORTS**

Supervisor Huff stated that the Kenosha County Safety Fair is Saturday, October 9th from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00P.M. at the Original Outlet Mall.

Supervisor Molinaro stated that the Building & Grounds Committee will be having a meeting next Tuesday at 6:30 P.M. The building on 52nd Street is gone.

Supervisor Noble reported that it looks like the golf course operation may not break even. County Highway H between Hwys 50 and S has been completed. The Highway Department did an outstanding job. The intersection at Hwys 50 & B has been having problems with traffic back-ups and the highway department has applied for and received a \$25,000 grant to build a turning lane. This will be done next construction season. The commission on railroads had their public hearing and ordered repair of the crossing on Hwy KR and Hwy S. Hwy S has been repaired and they are currently in the process of repairing Hwy KR. Also, he believes that the community and the County Board are truly fortunate to have someone like Supervisor Joe Clark, with a CPA background who has put in countless hours so that he could crunch numbers regarding the Casino. He personally thanks him for all his effort.

Supervisor R. Johnson announced that he had been re-appointed to the Environment & Land Use NACo Steering Committee.

Supervisor Rose stated that we needed to address and debate some of the issues regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement. This agreement is going to be around a long time. There is no rush to judgement. We need to obtain a Hold Harmless Agreement in order to secure the City of Kenosha and Kenosha County from possible liability. The whole issue has not been adequately studied.

Supervisor Carbone stated that everyone has received the County Executives Budget and the budget hearings will start Monday, October 18th. The over-sight committees will hold their meetings with their departments so that the reports can get back to the Finance Committee in the form of the minutes and what recommendations are being made. All the budget hearings are open to all the supervisors.

Supervisor Wisnefski thanked Supervisor Clark for all the work he has done on keeping the board informed on the casino. He is concerned about having a time limit to be able to re-negotiate the gaming rights. He also feels that a "re-opener" clause should be less than twenty years and the split between the city and county should be done before the election so the electors will know exactly what they are voting on. It's time for the Menominee to listen to our concerns because we live here.

Supervisor Gorlinski stated that he has lived in this county for 34 years and have watched all governmental agencies that never agree on anything and always are at odds with each other. Last night he attended the Jobs Committee Meeting at Hwy 45 & 50. He sat and listened to what was presented and what the people said. He plans on going to other meetings to hear what people have to say and what their concerns are. Somewhere between the left and the right is

the answer. So far all we have heard about is money. We have not heard the other side.

Supervisor Grady stated that the Attorney General's opinion has stifled the supervisors. On the Thursday before the meeting he may not have a report to give but that could change by Tuesday. There must be some way to solve this problem.

Chairman Elverman asked the Legislative Committee to look into this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances - first reading, two required.

**ORDINANCE 45**

35. From Legislative Committee regarding Amending Section 2.05 of the Municipal Code of Kenosha County Entitled "Standing Committees".

Resolutions - one reading.

**RESOLUTION 52**

52. From Human Services, Judiciary & Law and Finance Committees regarding Modifying the 2004 Budgets for the Medical Examiner's Office and Department of Human Services.

It was moved by Supervisor O'Day to adopt Resolution 52. Seconded by Supervisor Huff.

Roll call vote.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Supervisor Kerkman to approve the September 21ST & 28TH, 2004 minutes. Seconded by Supervisor O'Day.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Supervisor Wisnefski to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Kessler.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Prepared by: Pam Young  
Chief Deputy  
Submitted by: Edna R. Highland  
County Clerk





