

COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Gabe Nudo Chairman **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Erin Decker Vice Chair

December 15, 2022

News release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nudo, Yuhas announce tentative agreement on 2023 county bonding measures

An agreement is in place subject to full board approval to resolve Kenosha County's bonding stalemate, County Board Chairman Gabe Nudo and Supervisor Monica Yuhas announced jointly tonight.

Nudo unveiled the compromise agreement during this evening's meeting of the board's Executive Committee. A special meeting of the full board to review and adopt the county's bonding resolutions for 2023 will likely be held next week, Nudo said.

Under the tentative agreement, negotiated among several supervisors, funding will be restored for a now-vacant Community Development Educator position in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension's Kenosha County office.

Also, a newly created, hybrid Project Manager position in the county's Department of Public Works will move up one notch on the county's pay scale. These changes will not affect the tax levy that was adopted with the budget last month, Nudo said.

"I'd like to get this done as soon as possible, so that we can go into the new year with the issue resolved," Nudo said. "It was good to have these discussions. All along, the goal was to get to a point where we reached an agreement that was best for the citizens of Kenosha County, and I am confident that we are now at that point. I credit Supervisor Yuhas, in particular, for coming to the table and working to resolve the concerns that she and others shared when the bonding resolutions failed to pass last month."

Upon adopting the 2023 county budget on Nov. 2, the County Board fell one vote shy of the three-quarters majority needed to approve the bonding resolutions, which allow for the funding of major county projects and other capital improvement items.

Under the compromise reached this week, Nudo said the bonding resolution that was defeated in November will return to the board with one minor change — the addition of roughly \$100,000 to replace a generator that failed recently at the Kenosha County

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Center in Bristol. The other two resolutions that never went to a vote after the Nov. 2 meeting was adjourned will go back to the board as originally presented.

"I would like to thank Chairman Nudo for his willingness to sit down and have an open and honest dialog," Yuhas said. "We both came together and made concessions on both sides for the betterment of Kenosha County, its employees, and our residents. This is what we should be doing statewide and nationally — putting aside our political differences and ideologies and coming together to get things done for the benefit of the citizens."

County Executive Samantha Kerkman praised the board for working to negotiate a compromise.

"This agreement will allow us to implement all of the provisions of the responsible budget that the County Board adopted last month," Kerkman said. "It will ensure that we can embark upon essential projects while providing the vital services that our residents depend upon. I thank Chairman Nudo, Supervisor Yuhas and the entire board for its work to resolve this issue."

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