

**KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COUNTY BOARD CHAMBERS**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**September 2, 2003**

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

Roll call was taken.

Present: Supervisors Kessler, Grady, Boyer, Rose, Molinaro, Marrelli, Bergo, Carbone, Faraone, Johnson, Pitts, O'Day, Ruffolo, Montemurro, Wisnefski, Clark, Noble, West, Kerkman, Gorlinski, Smitz, Elverman, Huff, Modory, Carey-Mielke and Ekornaas.

Excused: Supervisors Larsen and Singer.

Present. 26. Excused. 2.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Wayne Koessl, 5208-83rd Street, spoke in opposition to Supervisor Rose's Anti Power of the Future Resolution. WE Energies had made a presentation to the Council of Governments in January showing why WE Energies wants a mix of fuels. Coal, gas and wind power. They have an agreement with the EPA and DNR to reduce the emissions at Oak Creek Power Plant by 50%. Power of the future is coal. It can be stored. Modern coal plants are cleaner and dramatically less expensive. Electricity prices in Wisconsin jumped 18% since 1997 due to high natural gas costs. Give Supervisor Rose's resolution a proper burial.

Tom Terwall, Village of Pleasant Prairie, stated he is in opposition to Resolution 61. This body would be setting a bad precedent by involving itself in matters of another county situated two counties north of Kenosha County. Given a nation-wide shortage of natural gas, coal is the only way to go. It is the most cost effective and readily available.

Jerry Franke, 10411 Corporate Drive, Pleasant Prairie, stated that Lake-View Corporate Park was the result of Wisconsin Electric Power Company's commitment to the community when the Pleasant Prairie Power Plant was approved. WIS Park is the number one real-estate tax payer. Power generation and economic and community development can co-exist. Vote Resolution 61 down.

Steve Mills, 4011-80th Street, stated that he is in opposition to Resolution 61. He has been involved in the business community in Kenosha for 32 years. This community is a far better place today than it was in the 1970's. Our business partners are Lake View Park and WE Energies. He has seen Kenosha when it was a ghost town. As a business community we have grown.

Vicky Talbert, 9205 Lakeshore Drive, Pleasant Prairie stated that not everyone who is supporting Resolution 61 is a NIMBY. There are other reasons, like health and well being of children in our community. She encourages the County board to vote in support of Resolution 61.

Don Cardinali, 6029-60th Avenue, Kenosha, stated that he was there on behalf of the Southeastern Wisconsin Building & Construction Trades Council that represents about every construction worker. They have worked with Wispark and are in opposition to Resolution 61.

Jon Strecker, Jr. 7808-21st Avenue, Kenosha. He strongly feels that it would be a grave mistake to not support a future power plant. You support economic growth by providing safe and reliable energy.

Mike Pollocoff, 5300-86th Place. Village Administrator for Pleasant Prairie. He is against Supervisor Rose's Resolution. Our community has received so much help from WE Energies. There are almost 70 companies in the Corporate Park. This has created a great spin-off. Kenosha County is dealing with 6.5% unemployment. We depend on Wisconsin Energy to live. Consider rejecting Resolution 61.

Bob Danbeck, 7626-27th Avenue, stated that he is bothered about the county even thinking about privatizing the golf courses. The golf course is losing money because the parks department is covered by golf courses. How could the County Board legally allow the Parks Department to be put on the backs of the golfers? He wanted to thank the two supervisors who answered his questions after the last meeting. Also, regarding Resolution 61. Our most abundance resource in this country is coal. It is the cheapest so why not use it?

Patrick Lawlor, 7840 43rd Avenue, stated that WE Energies is not just a corporation. It's 5,000 people working there and he is one of them. When these new power plants are built they will have the best available control technology. That means that they will be the cleanest and the most advanced in the country. Coal is cheap and abundant. The power plant in Kenosha has brought nothing but great things to our community. We need affordable energy. He lived in California for 6 1/2 years and in 1992 for a two bedroom apartment he had to pay \$150 a month electric bill.

Robert Cooper, 10809-79th Street, stated that not to long ago the County Board adopted a resolution in favor of power of the future. As elected people you should listen to the citizens who have spoke strongly in favor and vote against Resolution 61.

Brian Augustine, 5715-69th Street, stated that Wisconsin is an importer of energy. We do not make enough here for what we use. The fact of life is we are growing and we need more and more energy. Let the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin do their job.

Tim Kemen, 5409-58th Street, stated that he currently works at the Power Plant in Pleasant Prairie. He reminded the board that they have already voted on having a power plant and only one person keeps bringing a resolution opposing it. The facts show that Supervisor Rose is wrong. Gas is for heating our homes not for making base load generation.

Chip Brewer, Director of Government Relations for S.C. Johnson Company located in Racine stated that WE Energies wants to build the 7th largest coal generated plant in the Country in Southeastern Wisconsin where we already generate fuel from coal and he feels that there are better choices available like wind and gas. Coal is the dirtiest of fuel sources. Our air quality here is out of compliance with EPA health based standards. Do we want to add another huge source of pollution? Since the year 2000, 54,000 manufacturing jobs have left the state of Wisconsin.

Gary Rosecrans, 10411 Corporate Drive, stated that this is an area where manufacturing companies can grow and prosper at Lake View Corporate Park and Business Park of Kenosha. In the last 15 years there have been well over 30 companies that have located in this community. That is because of a coal fueled plant in Pleasant Prairie.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Kessler stated that the meetings in November will be on November 12th for the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting. November 13th will be the adoption of the Budget. Also, the next County Board Meeting will be on September 23rd because of the WCA Conference being held from September 14th thru the 17th. Confirmation for those supervisors who will be attending the conference is on their desk.

Chairman Kessler stated that Supervisor Johnson was re-appointed to the Environment Energy and Land Use Committee for NACo.

#### SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Supervisor Pitts stated that he has been re-appointed to the NACo Transportation Committee. As a member of the Highway & Parks Committee he suggests that we start having public hearings on the process of privatizing the golf courses. We have an obligation to the golfers and the taxpayers. We need to inform everyone why this is happening and why we are losing money. We need to find a solution. He is requesting through the Chairman of the Highway & Parks Committee and the County Board Chairman to organize the meetings and let the public know just what is happening.

Supervisor Modory reported on the Harvest Celebration. Eighty volunteers showed up and harvested 4,080 pounds of food. Planting was in April of 2003 and 12 food pantries received the vegetables. Total number of volunteers is 164 and they have harvested 40,627 pounds of food and there are not done yet. The economic impact so far is \$27, 300.00.

Supervisor Johnson stated that in July the board referred Supervisor Rose's Resolution to the Legislative Committee. The committee met on July 29th and tabled the resolution. They decided not to take it off the table.

Supervisor Kerkman congratulated Heather Daniels, from the Town of Brighton. She was crowned 2003 County Fair Queen. He stated that all the local governments had sent to them a resolution in support of the WE Energies Coal Fired Plant. He spoke at his local town government and requested that the issue not be brought off the table and not be brought before the county board. This issue was also discussed at the Kenosha County Council of Governments. We should have a resolution that is pro-active to bring electricity into our community. This should die for lack of a second.

Supervisor Noble stated that it is the management of the Golf Courses to get the operation within the budget. He has seen where the revenue is up but he has not seen the expense side. If we are not within budget then it's time to cut the expenses. He too is in favor of having a public hearing and get some kind of proposal together for privatization so that we know what our options are. Regarding Resolution 61. He believes we should vote on it and we should send a resolution to our President of the United States and implore him to lead us on a mission for alternatives to fossil fuel. We need an energy program coming out of Washington and he is asking the Legislative Committee to bring forward a resolution.

Supervisor Gorklinski stated that relative to Golf Courses, whatever is done in the future it is imperative that we all have the total story relative to costs. Funds allocated for our state transportation system has been reversed by a gubernatorial veto to fill a gaping hole in the states general fund budget. We have a golf course not making money. Are some of the funds being used to pay certain other areas that are not associated with the golf course. This information has to come forward for discussion. It's imperative to do so. Being on the Southeastern Wisconsin Planning Commission they receive a report every six months from the Federal Planning Commission relative to air quality. The most glaring problem with this report is that it ends at the

state line. They never get a report pertaining to what is happening to the south of us. So how much of our air is being affected all the way up to Washington County?

Supervisor Elverman reported on the Golf Operations. It is no secret that we have struggled in the last two years. It's not the fault of our employees that we are in this position. Things just happen over time. We are dealing with weather and competition. It is time to start looking and informing people. The Golf Course Budget and the Parks Budget are totally separate. There is no mixing of those operations. Regarding Resolution 61. He applauds any supervisor who brings a resolution to the board whether he agrees with the resolution or not. Vote it either up or down.

Supervisor Johnson stated that the news is saying that the new Director of the EPA is planning on relaxing the rules on pollution instead of making them stricter.

Supervisor Clark thanked Chairman Kessler for having the Committee of the Whole Meeting to go over the Roberts Rules of Order. He also commends Supervisor Rose for bringing a resolution forward whether you agree or disagree with the resolution it needs to be voted on. As a citizen of Pleasant Prairie he is glad that the power plant is there. The economic development and all the people that have moved in to Pleasant Prairie. If Oak Creek does not want the power plant they can build it in his back yard. He believes that the energy companies are regulated.

Supervisor Ruffolo stated that Senator Joe Andrea had said one thing that sticks out in his mind. Listen to your people. It's not the corporations that elect you. It's the people in your district.

Chairman Kessler stated that he would like to move Resolution 61 up so that it takes place immediately.

**RESOLUTION 61**

61. From Supervisor Terry Rose regarding Opposition to WE Energies Addition of Coal-Burning Power Plants in Oak Creek.

It was moved by Supervisor Rose to adopt Resolution 61. Seconded by Supervisor Ruffolo.

Debate took place.

It was moved by Supervisor Kerkman to close debate. Seconded by Supervisor Wisnefski.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Supervisors Kessler, Boyer, Bergo, Johnson, Pitts, O'Day, Wisnefski, West, Kerkman, Gorlinski, Ekornaas.

Nays: Supervisors Grady, Rose, Huff, Marrelli, Carbone, Modory, Faraone, Ruffolo, Montemurro, Carey-Mielke, Clark, Noble, Smitz, Elverman.

Abstain: Supervisor Molinaro.

Ayes. 11. Nays. 14. Abstain. 1

Motion lost.

Debate continued.

It was moved by Supervisor Kerkman to close debate. Seconded by Supervisor Gorlinski.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Supervisors Kessler, Grady, Boyer, Bergo, Carbone, Modory, Faraone, Johnson, Pitts, O'Day, Wisnefski, Carey-Mielke, Noble, West, Kerkman, Gorlinski, Smitz, Elverman, Ekornaas.

Nays: Supervisors Rose, Huff, Marrelli, Ruffolo, Montemurro, Clark.

Abstain: Supervisor Molinaro.

Ayes. 19. Nays. 6. Abstain. 1

Motion carried.

Roll call vote on Resolution 61.

Ayes: Supervisors Grady, Rose, Ruffolo, Kerkman.

Nays: Supervisors Kessler, Boyer, Molinaro, Marrelli, Bergo, Carbone, Faraone, Johnson, Pitts, O'Day, Montemurro, Wisnefski, Clark, Noble, West, Kerkman, Gorlinski, Smitz, Elverman, Huff, Modory, Carey-Mielke and Ekornaas.

Abstain: Supervisor Molinaro.

Ayes. 4. Nays. 21. Abstain. 1.

Motion lost.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution - tabled August 19, 2003.

**RESOLUTION 54**

54. From Finance Committee regarding Authorizing the Sale and Transfer of County tax Deeded Property to the Village of Twin Lakes.

It was moved by Supervisor Gorlinski to remove Resolution 54 from the table. Seconded by Supervisor Faraone.

Roll call vote request by Chairman Kessler.

Ayes: Supervisors Grady, Rose, Kessler, Boyer, Molinaro, Marrelli, Bergo, Carbone, Faraone, Johnson, Pitts, O'Day, Montemurro, Wisnefski, Clark, Noble, West, Gorlinski, Smitz, Elverman, Huff, Modory, Carey-Mielke, and Ekornaas.

Nays: Supervisors Ruffolo and Kerkman.

Ayes. 24. Nays. 2.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Supervisor Carbone to adopt Resolution 54. Seconded by Supervisor West.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance - first reading, two required.

**ORDINANCE 27**

27. From Legislative Committee regarding Amending 2.04(4)(d) of the Municipal Code of Kenosha County Pertaining to Meeting Minutes.

Resolutions - one reading.

**RESOLUTION 58**

58. From Finance Committee regarding Bills over \$5,000.00.

It was moved by Supervisor Carbone to adopt Resolution 58. Seconded by Supervisor Rose.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 59**

59. From Finance Committee regarding Support of Committing and Utilizing \$320,850.00 from the General Fund as matching funds for a \$4.4 Million Grant to Construct a Parking garage in the Vicinity of the Kenosha County Civic Center.

It was moved by Supervisor Pitts to adopt Resolution 59. Seconded by Supervisor Rose.

It was moved by Supervisor Kerkman to refer Resolution 59 to Building & Grounds. Seconded by Supervisor Wisnefski.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Supervisors Kessler Boyer, Molinaro, Marrelli, Bergo, Carbone, Modory, Faraone, Johnson, Pitts, O'Day, Ruffolo, Wisnefski, Carey-Mielke, Clark, Noble, West, Kerkman, Gorlinski, Smitz, Elverman, Ekornaas.

Nays: Supervisors Grady, Rose, Huff, Montemurro.

Ayes. 22. Nays. 4.

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 60**

60. From Finance Committee regarding Transfer of Funds to the Information Services-Office Services Budget.

It was moved by Supervisor Carbone to adopt Resolution 60. Seconded by Supervisor Rose.

Roll Call vote required.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**CLAIMS**

40. James Helton - fell from top bunk-bed while inmate at Kenosha County Detention Center.

41. David Petech - windshield damage.

42. Natasha Stiles - hit pothole.

It was moved by Supervisor Clark to approve the August 19, 2003 minutes. Seconded by Supervisor Grady.

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

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

