

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

November 5, 2014

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

Roll call was taken.

Present: Supervisors Grady, Rose, Gentz, Goebel, Dodge, Kubicki, Hallmon, R. Johnson, O'Day, Arrington, R. Frederick, Blough, B. Frederick, Retzlaff, Esposito, Noble, A. Johnson, Skalitzky, Poole, Breunig, Decker, Elverman.

Excused: Supervisors Kohlmeier.

Present: 22. Excused: 1.

7:01 pm* CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ken Muehlbauer, 9128 Prairie Village Dr., stated he had some issues with the 2015 Budget and asked the board to give some additional consideration to the following. Recently the board passed a revised Debt Management Policy. On pg 6 of the policy it states; the term of any debt obligation issued by the county should not exceed the economic life of the improvements they finance. He feels there are assets being financed in the 2015 budget on 10 year bonds that are in violation of this policy. He also spoke of the miscellaneous projects.

Donna Zarovy, 6207 203rd Ave., stated she is an employee of Kenosha County and a proud member of Local 990. She stated that the new pay schedule starting in January will negatively affect many employees financially. She feels a change like this requires more notice so employees can better plan for it. She spoke of how since Act 10 her wages decreased by \$310 per pay period, or \$8,000 per year which is a 17% decrease. Kenosha County classified employees have only received a 25 cent raise since 2010. It seems the Kenosha County Board no longer wants good hard working employees, but rather contracted employees who would not be as dedicated or as cost effective as they are.

Kathy Million, 11820 26th Ave., stated she is President of Local 1392 at Brookside Care Center. She spoke of wages and health benefits. Brookside employees are the lowest paid county employees with the average CNA making \$25,000 per year or \$11 - \$12 per hour. Since 2012 they were mandated by law to pay 7% of their wages into their pension, private sector is not. That combined with insurance premiums is 30% right off their paycheck or \$4 per hour in take home pay. They have only gotten a 25 cent raise since 2010; they can't take any more hits. She also spoke in favor of the Brookside renovation and expansion project.

Diana Christofferson, 5121 294th Ave., state she is the Admissions and Marketing Coordinator at Brookside Care Center. She spoke tonight, not as an employee but rather as the daughter of a short term rehab resident and daughter-in-law of a long term care resident of Brookside. She has first had knowledge of the outstanding staff at Brookside. She spoke in favor of the Brookside project and encouraged the board to vote in favor of it as well.

Dana Osinga, 6734 27th Ave., stated she is a Kenosha County Brookside employee and a Kenosha County tax payer. She spoke of Brookside being the Best of Kenosha three years in a row and how Brookside is nationally recognized as being one of the best nursing homes. It's because of commitment, investment and passion. Not investment in dollars, but investment of the heart. Also the commitment of the staff members giving more of themselves and providing the greatest care possible. Kenosha doesn't need another privately owned nursing home or rehabilitation center; Kenosha needs Brookside. She asked for the boards support for Brookside.

Nanette Shumway, 5901 1st Pl., stated she is a county employee and has worked for the county for about 6 months. She feels there are some misconceptions related to how the Kenosha County employees are compensated compared to those in the private sector. She admitted that until she started working for the county she had the same misconceptions and can honestly say this is not so. Currently she is making just over \$40,000 which is 27% less than she made in the private sector. Her county position has greater

responsibilities and challenges than her private sector position. She also paid less for her health coverage in the private sector and had better coverage. If the county would like to attract good employees and retain them, the county will have to become more competitive with the private sector otherwise the good employees will get the experience they need and move on. This will cost the county more in training and will lose quality work. She reminded the board that the choices they make now will affect the county in the long run.

Pamela Maloney 3104 14th Ln., stated she is a tax payer and an employee of Kenosha County for 16 ½ years. She asked that the time be extended for the payroll change as this will cause a major hardship on her and many other employees if this is done at the beginning of the year. According to the American Institute of Research, the cost of living between 2004 and 2014 has increased 23%-26%. Things such as gas have increase 59% since 2005. In the past 10 years, her hourly wage has increased by 13.8%. Paying premiums for health, dental and vision and paying into the Wisconsin State Retirement her income decreased by 9% leaving the net increase in pay over the past decade of 4.8% . She hopes the board takes this into consideration when voting on the 2015 budget.

Chairman Kubicki called on Vice-Chair Breunig. She thanked the employees who contacted her with their concerns regarding the payroll schedule change. She announced that it has been worked out and if approved the following night the new pay schedule will begin in April.

7:33 PM* At this time, Supervisor Rose presented the 2015 Kenosha County Budget.

It was moved by Supervisor Rose to adjourn. Seconded by Arrington.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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

***time stamps reflect the County Board video recording at www.kenoshacounty.org**