



Dane County Board of Supervisors

Monthly Update

April 2020

Board to provide community assistance, housing projects

The Board voted on two resolutions which provide funding for affordable housing projects. Non-profit housing developer Movin Out, partnering with Commonwealth Companies, were awarded \$650,000 from the County's Affordable Housing Development Fund for the proposed project at the former Sentry grocery store location on Cottage Grove Road. This project will result in 70 units of affordable housing. A second project allocates federal funding through the HOME program for 4 supportive housing units for families in Stoughton. The Board voted on \$250,000 contract with Dane Buy Local to manage a grant program to provide immediate assistance to small businesses. The County will be using funds in an existing business development loan for this purpose. The Board also voted on a resolution to reduce the fees associated with food and drink establishments, temporary food establishments and other businesses.

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Board bids farewell to outgoing supervisors

11 out of 37 supervisors decided not to run for re-election. At the April 2 Board meeting, those supervisors, whose years of service range from two to 24, gave farewell remarks. Tanya Buckingham (representing the Monona area), Jason Knoll (representing the Verona area) and Kelly Danner (representing the near-West side of Madison) both served two-year terms, and all three expressed their appreciation for staff during their remarks. Huong Nguyen-Hilfiger (representing the far-West side of Madison) won a vacant seat and subsequently won the 2018 election. Hayley Young (representing the campus area of Madison) served two two-year terms. Nikki Jones (representing the Western Dane County) was appointed to a vacant seat in 2015, and won the election, serving two terms following her appointment. Jamie Kuhn (representing the far East side of Madison) served during two different points in the past 25 years—a term beginning in 1998 and a vacant spot in 2017. Paul Nelson (representing the Middleton area) served for three terms. Bill Clausius (representing Sun Prairie) served for ten years. Bob Salov (representing the far East side of Dane County) served for 24 years. Salov noted some his greatest accomplishments while being on the Board including the regionalization of the EMS system, the creation of the Criminal Justice Council, funding the library service, and his work with the Dunkirk Dam district.

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National Association of Counties shares Board's remote meeting toolkit

Last month, the Board developed a remote public meeting toolkit in response to COVID-19. NACo expressed interest in the toolkit, and featured the Board's work in an [article](#) in its national publication. Since sharing the toolkit with others and NACo's article, the Board received requests from all over the country for information regarding how to duplicate Dane County's success. "We thought other local governing bodies may be struggling with the same issues, and we wanted to share what we learned. If there's a positive attribute that has come out of this pandemic, it's a sense of community. The County Board is no different – we're all in this together, and sharing our experience was a great contribution we were able to make," Chair Analiese Eicher said.

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New officers elected and sworn in historic County Board

Newly elected members of the County Board were sworn in April 21 for the next two years. Analiese Eicher (District 3) was unanimously voted as chair, beginning her third term. Eicher is one of the youngest County Board Chairs in Wisconsin's history. Also elected unanimously Supervisor Chuck Erickson (District 13) as First Vice Chair, Supervisor Kristen Audet (District 17) for Second Vice Chair, and both Sergeants at Arms – Supervisor Maureen McCarville (District 22), and new County Board Supervisor Anthony Gray (District 14). 11 new and 26 existing Dane County Board Supervisors took the oath of office to begin the 2020-2022 term. For the first time, women make up the majority of the Board – representing 20 of the 37 seats. The new Board is one of the youngest in Dane County's history, as well as the most diverse. The Board is majority Generation X & Millennial, with one Generation Z member, and there are now six supervisors who are people of color.

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County Board Supervisors named to committees

Chair Analiese Eicher named appointments to the Board's seven standing committees and four other committees. These committees will soon hold their first meetings remotely. Agendas and minutes for these meetings can be found at <https://dane.legistar.com>. Election of officers will take place during the committee's first meetings. "Much of the work of the County Board is done by the standing committees, with the full Board acting on committee recommendations," Eicher said. "This is a talented group of new and returning Board members, and I am confident the work of each committee will reflect their priorities and dedication to the residents of Dane County in these challenging times." Click the 'LEARN MORE' button to see the named appointments.

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