

Trempealeau County Board of Supervisors discussed the overbudget Justice Center building project at the April 19th board meeting following the swearing in of 10 new board members.



New board members being sworn in from front to back Kevin Adams-Dunn, Dick Miller, John Aasen Chair, and Riley Foltz Vice Chair

The Trempealeau County Board, made of almost entirely new members, had a lengthy discussion around the ongoing Justice Center project at today's county board meeting. The estimated 40-million-dollar project is currently 4 million dollars over budget and is expected to go over even more in the coming months and years. Vice President of Marketing at The Samuels Group Kurt Berner gave a detailed update on the project, which is still on schedule to be finished in 2023. He explained the only reason for the budget issues was because of post pandemic supply price increases which have led to a 15% increase in the overall project price. He expects this percentage to go up. He received numerous questions about specific price issues and attempted solutions, "I know it sounds like, it doesn't sound like a factual statement for me to say that you guys are in a good spot because you are over budget, you're in a good spot compared to where other projects are right now with bidding, and I have a county right now that we're going through and dealing with something that's 20% to 30% over." Berner said.

Following this discussion former supervisor George Brandt introduced proposals for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) federal funding which included expanding broadband internet, county childcare

investments, an update or upgrade to police radio towers, and to help pay the increasing price of the Justice Center. Some supervisors felt that President Joe Biden's infrastructure bill would help fund some of these proposals in the future and so they shouldn't put ARPA funding towards them. The only one of these proposals that had a vote today was the Allocation of ARPA funds to the Justice Center project Resolution which received a unanimous vote to indefinitely table the resolution. New supervisors felt they did not have enough information and the extra price changes that are expected to come could make this resolution ineffective.

The six other resolution at today's meeting passed unanimously, which included the creation of a Solar Farm study committee which would look into the effects of large solar farms on the local community, an increase in department budgets to help with overruns, Creation of an Asphalt Plant/Equipment Operator Position, and the supporting of Eliminating the Badger Care Eligibility Cliff.

Trempealeau County Board discuss elections and appointments



Sheriff Brett Semingson also gave his Quarterly Update to the county board. He reported over 3,000 calls for assistance which included 37 new drug cases and 77 crashes zero of which were fatal. Lastly Sheriff Semingson “We did respond to 20 calls for service where somebody was in mental health crisis, those did not all result in a chapter 51, but they are all mental health crisis’s none the less and I would dare bet if I could go back 10 years and look at those numbers that we are alarmedly high for that type of an incident”.

The county was also visited by Kaleb Johnson the 2nd place winner for the State of Wisconsin elementary speaking contents. He gave his speech to the board in which he talked about the importance of walleye to the state and county. He thanked the county for being one of the few to protect walleye by having legislation in place with rules restricting fishing of walleye.

(Tweet) New Trempealeau County board members have officially been sworn In making local history with Kevin Adams-Dunn being elected as first African American Board Supervisor in the county.

(Tweet) Discussion gets slightly heated over talks about Justice Center building project going over budget by 4 million dollars and the expected continuing increase in cost.