

Citizen Forums

May 8, 2014 Ruth Culver Community Library 5:30 p.m.

- 5 County Board Members – Tom Kriegl, Donna Stehling, Peter Vedro, Scott Von Asten, Bill Wenzel
- 4 Staff – Kerry Beghin, Todd Liebman, Sheriff Meister, Kathy Schauf
- 13 Public – John Eric Allen, Linda Atkins, Patty Brooks, Rick Chamberlain, Dan Holzman, Marian Kane, Sylvia Kriegl, Robert Novak, Ed Singer, Bill Stehling, Bill Waser, Carol Waser, Mary Zenker

Public's Comments Expressed:

1. All supervisors should have access to the computer system that contains the entire budget. Citizens should have some similar access.
2. Growth of the Sheriff's Department budget has been large over recent years. The jail could be used more efficiently and save dollars.
3. Appreciative of the County Board's efforts to grow a Justice Continuum and explore alternatives to incarceration. Need better success in identifying needs before people become part of the justice system. Use social programs to keep people out of prison. Not just the prisoners, but also their families, need assistance.
4. Concern about global climate change and its impact on our area. Appreciate businesses in the community utilizing clean energy. Heavy rainfall events, such as those that created the 2008 floods, are increasing in intensity and frequency. Wish for Sauk Area Climate Awareness Action Group to partner with the County to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement green technologies.
5. Value the beauty of our area, as well as the concern of the residents. Wish the Highway Department would not mow or spray to help the environment, butterflies and birds. Need to protect our clean water.
6. Would like more County committee meetings recorded and available for public viewing.
7. Should have more diversity on big budget committees. Hope no departments receive special treatment.
8. County employees deserve a living wage which is competitive compared to the region, which also feeds the local economy. Value the employees who work for the County.
9. Our beautiful bluffs and area should be protected from frac sand mining.
10. Need to focus on protecting our nature to keep Sauk County a place where people want to live. Policies need to be strong enough to protect our area. Laws are out of date to accomplish this task.
11. Appreciate small town feel, but good big picture planning of this area.
12. Homelessness issue needs attention, with a focus on rehabilitation. Appreciate the Baraboo church that helped the homeless this past winter. Explore programs like Madison's "tiny homes" which offer privacy and dignity.
13. Continue support of libraries and their available technology. Libraries and their use by the homeless are frequent. Small libraries like Rock Springs and LaValle put on great programs, but the funding formula "rewards" checking out a book. Many children use the libraries as a haven from difficult homes.
14. Concern about factory farms and their impact on the environment.
15. Don't want law enforcement to focus on income-producing activities, such as electronic monitoring or charging for phone use.
16. There is a drug problem in our area, which impacts theft.
17. Badger Army Ammunition Plant may host a rifle range and ATV tracks. This will destroy its natural beauty. Nature lovers are an economic boon to the County.