

Citizen Focus Groups

May 30, 2013 Reedsburg Public Library 5:30 p.m.

- 10 County Board Members – Tommy Lee Bychinski, John Dietz, Joan Fordham, Carol Held, Tom Kriegl, Marty Krueger, Jason Lane, Jerry Lehman, Andrea Lombard, John Miller
- 4 Staff – Kerry Beghin, Lynn Horkan, Todd Liebman, Kathy Schauf
- 15+ Public – Gene DeBarts, Pat DeBarts, Wessie Dietz, Mike Lew, John Lichte, Rory McCluskey, Donna Miller, Donna Neuwirth, Ron Pikar, Jim Scherneck, Tom Seamonson, Jeff Seering, Kim Lamoreaux, Carol Waser, William Waser, others

Public's Comments Expressed:

1. Support of arts and education to assure that there is a future in Sauk County.
2. Concern for budget dollars added for the jail over the last 10 years. Jail should not be used to make money. Inmates should be working, which helps pay their child support and contribute to society. Transportation to and from jobs is needed for them. Big costs are in recidivism. Concern for costs related to alcohol and prescription drug abuse, which are more imminent issues than heroin.
3. Sauk County lacks proactive programming in the jail.
4. Dollars spent on study could be better spent using local talent.
5. Aging population is of concern. Use of volunteers, particularly of the retiree age, should be encouraged and maximized. Volunteer time can be used as local match to bring in additional state and federal funds. Creation of a volunteer hub, possibly run by the ADRC, could match volunteer talents and time with needs in the community, not just in County operations. Retirees want to serve, not be served.
6. Transportation of inmates between the jail and courtrooms is expensive. Sauk County inmates could be housed in other counties. Inmates with emotional or behavioral problems should be housed in other counties. Expand use of electronic monitoring. Inmates' time should be spent on programming, not watching television.
7. Jails have more ability for treatment than prisons. Treatment should be focused on the different types of inmates, based on their abilities.
8. Transparency is vitally important, including how money is being generated and spent.
9. Vigilance in care for our natural resources is necessary.
10. Concern for accuracy and transparency in budgets. Expenses should be recorded truthfully. Balance micromanaging with staff and Committee review.
11. Reedsburg dispatch has been called a backup dispatch for the County. As such, the other communities in the County should help fund Reedsburg's dispatch.
12. The City of Reedsburg should strongly consider its need for maintaining its own dispatch center.
13. Over time, governments become more efficient at being ineffective. The County should examine the necessity of its programs.
14. The Bus is a good program for assisting people with limitations in keeping their independence. Promotion of The Bus should be done at multiple community events. Increased ridership could generate more routes of shorter duration.

15. Mental health programs have good effects on the community. There should be something more local than LaCrosse or Madison for expansive treatment and monitoring.
16. Funding for human services, social programming, education and the arts should not be replaced by funding for corrections.
17. The educational opportunities of the Madison Colleges campus at Reedsburg and UW-Baraboo/Sauk County campus at Baraboo could be used for inmates and the homeless. This would help these people become positive members of society. Help for them to receive this education could be repaid through community service.
18. Regional initiatives across county boundaries should be taken advantage of.
19. Materials distributed should be easily accessible and visible.

Parking Lot:

No issues moved to the Parking Lot