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Town of Lindina – Ward 1, City of Mauston Ward 3



What does a person need to be a “good” County Board Member? I’ve been on the County Board for a 2-year term and found it’s similar to many other careers I’ve had in life. You must work toward reaching a consensus by collaboration and have the technical expertise to make the smart choices. Integrity is a must, plus, it doesn’t hurt to like meetings, meetings, and more meetings.

I was in the Air National Guard (ANG) for 28 years starting out as an aircrew on an aircraft (F-4) and retiring as the Commander of an Air Control Squadron of 186 personnel. Managing and leading people along with team building was a very big part of what I did, and translates well to my role on the County Board. Working with County Employees is both fun and rewarding and it shows that they love what they do and they’re good at it.

While in the ANG I dealt with electronic communications and emergency management. During my first term, the County Board Supervisor assigned me to the Emergency Management (EM) Committee. The Department is currently being modernized including oversight/upgrade of an aging county wide communications system. It would be a privilege to remain in the role and continue this work utilizing my experience.

Another career of mine involved construction of town road building, sewer treatment facilities and timber management. A big portion of our county’s budget is spent on maintaining and purchasing the Highway’s Department’s equipment and maintaining our roads. The old saying “*an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*” is appropriate for our county but it takes planning and resources to do that. County Board members are on committees that facilitate getting the resources and oversee that the departments are moving in the right direction. I recently voted yes on a short-term borrowing note (approx. 5 million) for a County Road project.

This borrowing allowed our leveraging of an 80/20 split with State of Wisconsin funds. It's a lot of money, but realize that it costs about a million dollars per mile to redo our County Roads.

Perhaps the most sensitive and complex County Board votes we have had, deal with our budget. From being on the Finance and a Wage Study Committee, I can attest that many hours of research went into the resolutions that were voted on. Consensus was reached by (1) evaluating and prioritizing the safety for our citizens and employees, (2) effectiveness of performing county functions, and (3) the tax burden to our citizens. Our shared revenue (from the State) increased by approx. 600K for 2024, the county's share of health insurance costs for employees went up approx. 600K (a wash). Many needed investments have been put off for years due to lack of funds available. Employee safety and morale, county infrastructure, and long-range projects have all taken negative hits. There are many counties experiencing the same financial crunch as Juneau County, and we must work together with the State to find long term solutions.

Going forward I, as well as other County Board members, will continue to leverage community organizations to the benefit of all residents. Being a member of the Juneau County Economic Development Corporation, the Juneau County Agricultural Industrial Recreational Society, and the Volk Field Community Council increases the synergy between county government and community citizen organizations. Each of the above groups have contributed to quality-of-life improvements making Juneau County a better place to live and it has been my privilege to serve on all of them.