

**From:** Griswold, Caley  
**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2019 3:08 PM  
**To:** Craig, Sondra  
**Subject:** FW: Onalaska Park & Recreation Board  
**Attachments:** LCC Board.docx

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**From:** Steve O'Malley <[somalley@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:somalley@lacrossecounty.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2019 2:41 PM  
**To:** Kabat, Tim <[kabatt@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:kabatt@cityoflacrosse.org)>  
**Cc:** Rindfleisch, Eric <[erindfleisch@onalaskawi.gov](mailto:erindfleisch@onalaskawi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Onalaska Park & Recreation Board

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Tim,

Supervisors Geary & Richmond initiated the contribution to the La Crosse Center (\$150,000) from the unexpected revenue due to closing of TID #9.

This was a one-time contribution with no commitment to future annual funding.

While the contribution to the Omni Center project was initiated by Supervisor Ferries from general fund reserves and for the purpose Eric described.

In prior years, individual board members have initiated other contributions to local projects:

- A \$40,000 contribution to the Funk Boat landing in Town of Onalaska (Supervisor Burke).
- And \$150,000 to the Holmen Community Center project (Supervisor Barlow).
- And the County also used some of the utility money to provide \$150,000 to the City of La Crosse Trane All Abilities park, in response to a request by Mayor Kabat.

All three of these were funded with money from the CapX 2020 utility payment to the County.

Each of these decisions provided one time funding. And the County does not have representation on boards in each of these situations, simply County Board members advocating for projects in their districts.

The discussion among some County Board members is that if there were a County seat on the La Crosse Board, there would be a likely advocate of funding to the La Crosse Center each year.

Since the County is not a part of the debt issuance for the La Crosse Center, the annual budget advocacy for a contribution seems the most likely format going forward.

It's possible someone could advocate for funding each year, but it is more likely to be considered if the County were represented on the Center Board.

It would also show additional collaboration for the Center, just as the County lobbied Wisconsin Counties Association, legislators and others to support the State funding request.

The most similar situation is the County representative on the Airport Board, while the County makes a modest annual unrestricted contribution that began prior to my tenure.

The board seat is not contingent upon an annual contribution or a specific amount. However this participation has helped to involve the County in promoting LSE for the benefit of the region.

(This contribution provided match funding for the grant received to help attract an additional air route during Clinton Torp's time as Airport Manager).

I hope this information helps in consideration of Supervisor Richmond's proposal.

Steve O'Malley  
La Crosse County Administrator  
212 6<sup>th</sup> St. North Suite 2400  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
608-785-9700

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**From:** Rindfleisch, Eric <[erindfleisch@onalaskawi.gov](mailto:erindfleisch@onalaskawi.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2019 11:14 AM

**To:** Kabat, Tim <[kabatt@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:kabatt@cityoflacrosse.org)>

**Cc:** Griswold, Caley <[griswoldc@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:griswoldc@cityoflacrosse.org)>; Steve O'Malley <[somalley@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:somalley@lacrossecounty.org)>; Wick, Dan <[dwick@onalaskawi.gov](mailto:dwick@onalaskawi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Onalaska Park & Recreation Board

Tim,

Good morning. The request to the County for the Omni Center was for \$50,000 towards an estimated \$485,000 project to replace the chiller in Arena #2. Oversight of the expenditure of these funds by the County is provided by Onalaska only receiving the funds after a review of project bids and City approval of funding the rest of the project. The funds are not to be used for any other purpose at the Omni Center. I've copied County Administrator O'Malley so that he may correct, if necessary, Onalaska's understanding of the grant.

The Omni Center is operated as an enterprise fund and is a department of the City of Onalaska. As such, there is no comparable oversight committee such as the La Crosse Center Board. Budget issues do go through the City's Park and Recreation Board, which makes budget and capital requests for all parks and city facilities including the Library and City Hall. The Omni Center operating budget is then approved by the Common Council. Capital requests go first to the Board of Public Works and then on to the Common Council for approval. Current ordinance dictates that the Parks and Recreation Board is to be comprised by "six (6) citizens from the City of Onalaska and one (1) Council Member". Membership to this Board could be adjusted by ordinance, subject to Council approval, but we have not received a request by the County to do so.

I hope this provides the information you are seeking.

Sincerely,

Eric

Eric C. Rindfleisch  
City Administrator  
Onalaska, Wisconsin  
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[erindfleisch@onalaskawi.gov](mailto:erindfleisch@onalaskawi.gov)

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**From:** Kabat, Tim [<mailto:kabatt@cityoflacrosse.org>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 19, 2019 5:32 PM  
**To:** Rindfleisch, Eric  
**Cc:** Griswold, Caley  
**Subject:** Onalaska Park & Recreation Board

Hi Eric,

I understand as part of their 2020 operating budget, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors authorized \$50,000 to the City of Onalaska for the Omni Center for an ice renovation project.

La Crosse received assistance from the County for the La Crosse Center. La Crosse Common Council Member Richmond, who is also on the County Board, is introducing legislation to add County representation to the La Crosse Center Board.

Are you aware of any pending or introduced legislation within the City of Onalaska to add County Board representation to Onalaska's Parks & Recreation Board?

We're trying to pull together information about shared governance for the La Crosse Center and are curious about any County request for a seat on local boards and commissions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim

*Tim Kabat*  
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