

Welcome to the 1st Issue

By Ed Hass

Pierce County Resource Agent, UW-Extension

Welcome to the first issue of the Local Elected Officials (L.E.O.) Newsletter for Pierce County. This newsletter is a joint effort among the UW-Extension Resource Agents in Dunn, LaCrosse, Monroe, Pierce, Polk, Trempealeau and St. Croix Counties. This is an example of intergovernmental cooperation where Counties and UW-Extension offices in western Wisconsin are cooperating to produce a communication tool to provide information to elected officials at the town, village, city and county level. One Extension Agent will take the lead role in writing information that would be of interest to officials in all counties, which will be supplemented by county specific information in the insert page by the local agent.

The newsletter will be sent out 2-3 times each year and will be designed to cover timely and upcoming topics. It will also provide access to additional informational resources that should be of interest to local officials as they perform their duties. If there is some information that your municipality needs you may contact the University Extension Office at 273-6781 and we can help to research or locate it.

We have asked Pierce County Administrative Coordinator Curt Kephart to offer information for the newsletter to update local officials about current issues in the county. One of Curt's goals is effective communication so this will provide a good opportunity for him to provide information regarding issues the County Board is facing that would be of interest to local officials and citizens. Curt's column entitled "Now In This Corner" follows.....

Now In This Corner...

By Curt Kephart

Pierce County Administrative Coordinator

Hi, my name is Curt Kephart and from time to time you may be hearing from me. I am the new Pierce County Administrative Coordinator and one of my goals is to communicate effectively. Part of that communication is hearing from you. If you have suggested topics for this column please drop me a note.

The topic for this column is growth. Pierce County is finding itself growing in population by almost 10% per year. With this growth come more demands for services. Though your property taxes may have gone up, Pierce has held the line for some time. This fiscal restraint has some good and bad sides.

In June the Board adopted a no net tax growth policy for the 2006 budget. Using my words, county taxes should not rise faster than growth. County growth has pushed us toward some hard decisions. Departments are scanning their budgets for opportunities to limit spending. Every dollar matters.

It has been reported that Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois once said, "A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking real money". As painfully true as this statement seems, there is no record that he ever actually said that! Therefore, one should not necessarily believe everything one hears or reads about Pierce County.

There are good people here making good decisions. The goal of this column is to invite you into the conversation. That's all for now...CBK

Curt can be reached at

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PCEDC Gets New Interim Director

Trudy Popenhagen, President of the Pierce County Economic Development Corporation (PCEDC) announced that Executive Director Russ Korpela has decided to seek new opportunities and is leaving for a position as the New Richmond Chamber of Commerce Director. Russ feels that the position in the chamber is more of a fit for him personally and that he really loves doing that type of job.

While Russ was with PCEDC he spearheaded an effort with the Board of Directors to prepare a strategic plan for the organization to direct future efforts. In the process the Mission Statement was revised to state "The mission of the Pierce County Economic Development Corporation is to champion economic development by serving as a business information resource, and to help create an environment for business and job growth, which will sustain and improve the quality of life in Pierce County."

During the process of recruiting a permanent replacement for the organization Mike Malcheski has been hired as the Interim Director. Mike has held a variety of economic development positions over the years with USDA, North Central Regional Planning, Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce, and the Red Cliff Reservation. Amy Weber will continue as the Administrative Assistant and can be reached at 425-3881

Question and Answer

This newsletter is designed to be a communication tool and the important thing about communication is that it needs to go both ways. I have found over the years that when someone asks a question many other people are wondering the same thing and seeking an answer. Therefore, one of the features of this newsletter will be a question and answer section. If you would like to pose a question we will seek out an answer and publish it in one of the

following newsletters. You may call Ed Hass at 273-6781, or send a question to the Extension office at 412 W. Kinne St., Ellsworth, WI 54011 or E-mail me at ed.hass@ces.uwex.edu

Basics of Open Government and Parliamentary Procedure 2006 WisLine Series



Just a reminder that recently you were sent a brochure on the upcoming WisLine Series on the Basics of Open Government and Parliamentary Procedure 2006 - a collection of three WisLine program series:

- **Understanding Open Government Laws**
Feb. 16, March 23, April 5, 2006- \$15.00 per session – and May 3 and May 10 - \$30.00 for both dates
- **Minutes of Local Government Meetings**
March 1, 8 and 15, 2006 - \$45.00 for all three sessions
- **Parliamentary Procedure for Local Governments**
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2006 - \$60.00 for four sessions

Don't miss an excellent opportunity to learn from the best. This series allows you to get up to speed on the essentials of conducting governmental business.

WisLine Teleconference links speakers and participants across the state. Participants register for a convenient location listed in the brochure. From each location, participants can ask questions and share ideas with speakers and participants throughout the state.

Mail Registration Information can be found in the brochure that was sent to you. If you need another brochure call Pierce County UW-Extension at 273-6781 or contact Madison at the following numbers:

Information Only:	608-262-9960
Phone Registration:	608-262-0810
FAX Registration:	608-741-7416