

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: September 2, 2008
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Eau Claire, Wisconsin—

Special Committee to Resolve Jail Space and Site Needs

Eau Claire County Board Chair Gregg Moore announced today his appointments to the 15-member Special Committee to Resolve Jail Space and Site Needs. “I am confident that the committee will be able to find common ground, and I am hopeful that the 15 civic leaders on this committee will, after thoroughly reviewing both needs and options, reach a consensus on a recommended solution,” Moore said.

The seven county board supervisors include Colleen Bates (Chair), Will Fantle (Vice-Chair), Kathy Clark, Ken Fulgione, Howard Ludwigson, Maureen Slauson and Jerry Wilkie. Four of these seven supervisors – Fantle, Fulgione, Ludwigson and Slauson – had opposed the building plan that was recently put on hold.

The two Eau Claire City Council appointees are Kerry Kincaid, a former plan commission member, and Dave Duax, a current plan commission member and former county board chair. Duax and Fantle were co-chairs of the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Committee for the City of Eau Claire in 2003 to 2005.

The six citizen members of the Special Committee include Tom Barland, a retired judge who oversaw the National Institute of Corrections’ justice system assessment conducted earlier this year; Hal Davis, former city council and plan commission member; Jerry Foote, an active member of Citizens for Accountability in Jail Expansion; Web Hart, chair of the West Grand Avenue Business Improvement District; Jeff Halloin, a business leader who advises the Economic Development Corporation board and serves on the city redevelopment authority; and Rick Kayser, a plan commission member who also served on the Comprehensive Plan Citizens

Advisory Committee. Twenty-eight individuals expressed interest in serving as one of the six citizen appointees.

“I am optimistic,” said committee chair Colleen Bates, “that the Special Committee will be able to find a solution that the vast majority of citizens will find reasonable and acceptable. This is a community issue.” Committee vice-chair Will Fantle indicated his satisfaction with the committee appointments, noting, “The members on the committee have diverse and valuable perspectives, and they are all thoughtful, open-minded individuals who share a strong commitment to public service.”

The committee’s first meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25, at 6:30 PM, in Room 2550 of the county courthouse. Meeting materials and opportunities for public input will soon be found on the county website at www.co.eau-claire.wi.us. The committee is expected to make its final recommendations by mid-January or soon thereafter.

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