

RE: Resolution Authorizing an Advisory Referendum Election Question for the Funding and Creation of a New Portage County Courthouse

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WHEREAS, several extensive and expansive studies have highlighted the deficiencies of the present Portage County Courthouse (built over fifty years ago), the chief factors include a lack of proper security, overcrowding, poor design and layout, inefficient staff configurations, as set forth in the Venture Architects study completed in 2009, available on line at <http://www.co.portage.wi.us/> (with other documents such as the Courthouse planning process timeline, finance information, and access to minutes, agendas, and videos of meetings where the Courthouse was discussed); and

WHEREAS, the same study highlights the projected growth of court and criminal cases in the years ahead, showcasing the requirement that any new facility be prudently designed to assure future decades of efficient use; and

WHEREAS, the previous advisory referendum question setting forth a seventy-two million dollar justice center (combined Courthouse and Jail facility) was decisively rejected by the electors in November of 2008; and

WHEREAS, Portage County through its Justice Coalition, Space and Properties Committee, and the ad hoc Building Review Committee for Public Safety Needs has affirmed the need to revise existing practices and the need for an integrated new approach to courthouse operations, including services and support for civil and criminal cases, and selected the Courthouse issues as the most pressing for attention; and

WHEREAS, the "cost of doing nothing" has a significant impact and consequences including the possibility of civil liabilities, hazards, security dangers and inefficiencies of the current operation; and

WHEREAS, by law, court operations must remain in the county seat, i.e. the City of Stevens Point; and

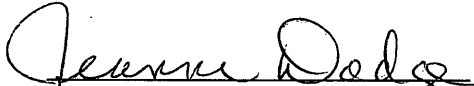
WHEREAS, based on a consensus of county and city officials, including a letter of intent approving the concept of the project by the City of Stevens Point, the referendum question should focus on the downtown Stevens Point area as the preferred site for a new courthouse; and

WHEREAS, an issue of such magnitude should be presented to the electors, studied, and reviewed to permit and encourage public input, in the form of the attached advisory referendum question.

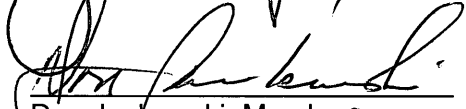
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portage County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and approves the following advisory referendum question, incorporated herein by reference, for the official county ballot of April 6, 2010, and directs the Clerk to perform all necessary administrative functions to execute this resolution.


Dated this 15th day of December, 2009.
Respectfully submitted,

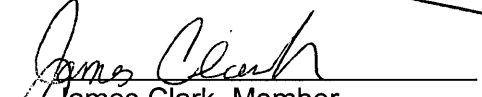
PORTAGE COUNTY
BUILDING REVIEW COMMITTEE


Jeanne Dodge, Chair



James Gifford, Member



Don Jankowski, Member


O. Philip Idsvoog, Member

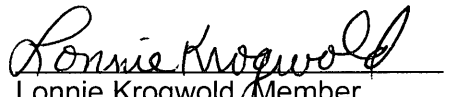

James Clark, Member

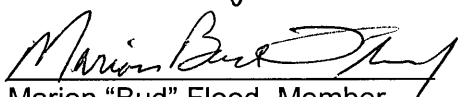
PORTAGE COUNTY
EXECUTIVE/OPERATIONS COMMITTEE


Philip Idsvoog, Chair

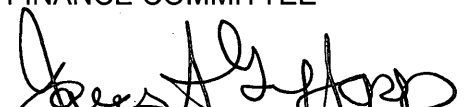

James Gifford, Member

N.D. DAVID MEDIN
David Medin, Member


Lonnie Krogwold, Member

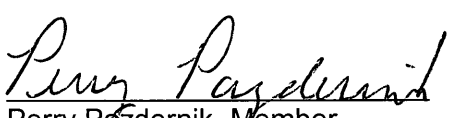

Marion "Bud" Flood, Member

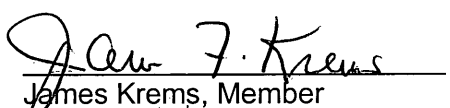
PORTAGE COUNTY
FINANCE COMMITTEE


James Gifford, Chair


Excused
Lonnie Krogwold, Member



Don Butkowski, Member


Perry Pazdernik, Member



James Krems, Member

PORTAGE COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE


James Clark, Chair

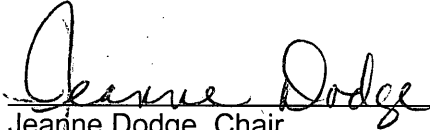

Harvey Olson, Member

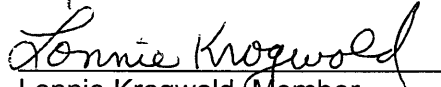

Dale O'Brien, Member

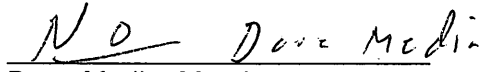

Don Jankowski, Member

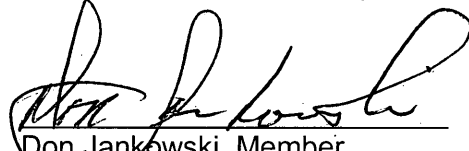
N.D. DAVID MEDIN
Dave Medin, Member

PORTAGE COUNTY
SPACE AND PROPERTIES COMMITTEE


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Lonnie Krogwold, Member


Dave Medin, Member


Don Jankowski, Member

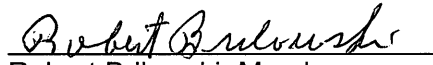

Tom Mallison, Member

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Don Jankowski, Chair

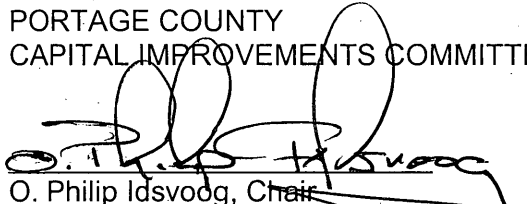

Mike Wiza, Member

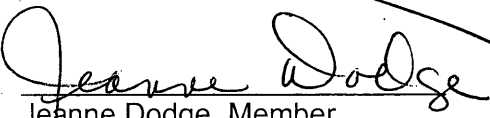

Doug Radtke, Member

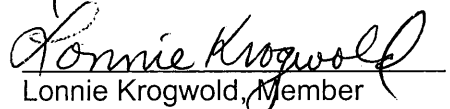

Robert Brilowski, Member


Stan Potocki, Member

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Lonnie Krogwold, Member


James Gifford, Member


Stan Potocki, Member