

County board approves transfer, SEWRPC notice

By Susan Steele
CORRESPONDENT

The Walworth County Board of Supervisors addressed county finances, regional planning matters and routine administrative business during its Jan. 13 meeting.

The board unanimously approved the use of \$799,064 from the County Health Insurance Fund to cover higher-than-anticipated medical and prescription drug claims incurred during the 2025 plan year.

County staff reported self-insurance medical claims exceeded budgeted amounts by approximately \$2.65 million, with prescription drug claims exceeding projections by an additional \$380,000. Those

costs were partially offset by anticipated stop-loss recoveries of approximately \$2.15 million.

Staff reported the Health Insurance Fund currently holds a net position of \$8.02 million, with funds available above the county's recommended six-month reserve threshold. The approved transfer will cover the remaining shortfall for 2025 claims while maintaining required reserve levels.

The board also received notice of Washington County's resolution authorizing its withdrawal from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. SEWRPC is a regional planning agency serving Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee,

Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties.

SEWRPC provides long-range regional planning and technical assistance to local governments, including work related to land use, transportation, housing, environmental resources, water quality and economic development. Washington County's resolution invokes a provision in the intergovernmental agreement allowing a county to withdraw with six months' notice. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee.

Supervisors also received a resolution from Winnebago County supporting the renewal of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund,

a state conservation program that provides funding for land acquisition, park development and natural resource protection.

Similar resolutions from Outagamie County, Green Lake County and the City of Wausau were also included in the communication. In Walworth County, Knowles-Nelson funding has historically supported parkland preservation, public lake access projects and conservation easements that protect open space and water quality. The matter was referred to the Parks Committee, with no immediate action taken by the board.

See SEWRPC, Page 6

• **SEWRPC** (Continued from front page)

The board additionally reviewed a resolution from Winnebago County supporting Wisconsin's participation in the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), which provides cybersecurity services to state and local governments. The resolution was referred to committee for further consideration.

Routine business included approval of two reappointments to the Transportation Coordinating Committee. Shawn Davenport of the Village of Walworth and Andrew Kerwin of Lake Geneva were confirmed to three-year terms.

The board approved revisions to the 2026 pay range for the newly created IT Specialist III position and authorized the disposal of a surplus Public Works trailer. Proposed changes to the county's Rural Functional Classification System were referred back to the Public Works Committee.

No zoning ordinance amendments or rezoning actions were approved at the meeting. However, supervisors referred a pending rezoning request in the Town of Lafayette to the County

Zoning Agency. The request involves approximately 1.6 acres proposed for rezoning from P-2 Institutional Park District and C-2 Upland Resource Conservation District to R-1 Single-Family Residence District (unsewered).

According to county planning materials, the rezoning request is intended to align the property with the county's 2050 Comprehensive Land Use Plan and allow for the future sale of the parcel for construction of a single-family residence. The County Zoning Agency will review the request and return a recommendation to the County Board.

During public comment, Pat Blackmer of White-water, speaking on behalf of the Walworth County Historical Society, thanked the board for its continued support of the Webster House Museum and other county historical properties. Blackmer noted the Society's headquarters and research center are now located in the former Elkhorn municipal building and include a genealogy library, veterans museum and exhibit gallery.