

EPA urged to deny SS Badger extension

Legislators try to halt coal ash dumping

By DON WALKER
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Two Milwaukee legislators are asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reject a request by the owners of the SS Badger ferry to continue dumping coal ash into Lake Michigan.

Rep. Jon Richards and Sen. Chris Larson, both Milwaukee Democrats, say the coal-

fired steamship, the only one of its kind sailing on the Great Lakes, should not be given a permit extension allowing it to dump coal ash. The owner of the Badger, Lake Michigan Car ferry, has asked for an extension beyond Dec. 19, when its permit expires.

The two legislators sent a letter to Susan Hedman, an EPA regional administrator in Chicago, asking her to reject any attempt by the ferry firm to continue dump-

ing. The EPA is expected to make a decision this fall.

"Extending or writing special permits that let the SS Badger continue to pollute Lake Michigan is unacceptable. . . . The SS Badger should be required to play by the same rules all other vessels traveling on the Great Lakes must follow," the two wrote.

Gov. Scott Walker also has written Hedman, asking her to temporarily extend the permit.

"We hope the SS Badger can continue to sail, but we also hope they can do so in a manner that safeguards the waters of Lake Michigan," Walker wrote.

Walker's letter prompted the owners of Lake Express, the Milwaukee-based ferry between Milwaukee and Muskegon, to contact Walker expressing their disappointment that the governor is backing the Badger.

Sheldon B. Lubar, and his son, David, are the founders

and owners of the Lake Express ferry. Sheldon Lubar said Thursday that the governor had been misled and is "supporting further pollution of our state's most precious asset: Lake Michigan."

Terri Brown, a Lake Michigan Car ferry spokeswoman, said Thursday that the company has "always thought the Lake Express has been actively opposing our efforts to find a feasible solution to the ash discharge issue. We were very disappointed to read in

the Milwaukee Journal (Sentinel) that Mr. Lubar used his considerable wealth and power to criticize Governor Walker for trying to help save the Badger."

Brown also accused Lake Express officials of taking to the Internet to disseminate what she called "negative and often false information to attack the Badger."

It is estimated that the Badger dumps at least 500 tons of coal ash into the lake each sailing season.

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YOUNG

Braving life with bang-up whimsy

said, "I've got pictures of her on fire."

"I thought my mother was cool," she added. "She taught us how to cook, clean, sew, change the oil, change tires."

Young grew up during the Depression. Her father was a patent attorney who couldn't find work, and her mother was a legal stenographer who found work in Illinois. She came home on weekends.

"My grandfather raised my mom and my uncle to be pretty tough kids. 'You've got to work for everything. Keep your chin up no matter what happens,'" her daughter said.

Young divorced in 1950, left to raise four children — the youngest 4 months old.

While working for Crazy Jim and driving in the derbies, she also worked cleaning houses. She rode a Harley-Davidson Sprint motorcycle to get to work fast.



Roselyn Young poses with her motorcycle in 2009. Known as Hot Rod Rosie, she became one of the first women to drive in a demo derby after getting a job at Crazy Jim's Motors.

ROSELYN 'HOT ROD ROSIE' YOUNG

Services will be held Saturday at Peace of Mind Funeral and Cremation Services, 5325 W. Greenfield Ave., West Milwaukee. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the 2 p.m. service.

"She'd zip in and out of traffic," her daughter said.

Young saved up enough to buy a duplex in Milwaukee with a cottage behind it. She lived in the cottage and rented the duplex. She bought more properties

and also drove a cab, sometimes 18 to 20 hours a day. She also bred and raised Dachshunds and worked as a clown.

"There was nothing she wouldn't tackle," her daughter said.

Hot Rod Rosie was injured only once, and it wasn't in a derby.

"She was at an Illinois derby. On the way home somebody hit them and she broke her arm," her daughter said.

"She wasn't afraid of anything. We just trusted everything she did."

She is also survived by another daughter, Liane Parker, and a son, Allan, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

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BUDGET

Tax levy would rise

safety, she said.

Abele said, however, the committee's changes to his budget were for the worse and he'll try to veto them.

The finance committee vote on the budget was 8-1. Supervisor Jim "Luigi" Schmidt cast the only no vote, but he said he'd likely vote for the budget on final passage.

Abele's budget relied heavily on shifting health costs to county workers and cuts to the sheriff's budget as a way to avoid a shortfall in his 2013 budget.

Those employee health increases would be scaled back significantly under the committee action. The panel voted to restore \$3.7 million to maintain a county contribution for employee health care flexible spending accounts of up to \$1,800 a year and reduced an increase in deductible and co-payment costs.

All but \$1.75 million of the cost of those changes would be offset by scaling back part of an employee pay raise, eliminating a portion of the \$500,000 employee bonus program, killing 11 new positions Abele wanted and lowering Abele's assumptions on growth in health care costs.

"What I'm not hearing in this discussion is a voice for the taxpayers, a voice for maintaining services," Abele said. "What I'm hearing is it's like Christmas."

The finance committee move to re-establish the flexible health care spending account would create a future hole in the county budget, Abele warned.

He also took issue with moves by the committee that targeted Abele's staff, including cutting a lobbyist and another employee he wanted to add to his office and restructuring the job of economic development director so the County Board would have control over whether the county residency requirement should apply.

That was aimed at Brian Taffora, Abele's pick as economic development chief. Supervisors have disagreed with Abele's decision to waive the residency rule for Taffora, who lives in Cedarburg, in Ozaukee County.

In other key budget changes, the committee:

- Rejected Abele's plan to require part-time employees

to work at least 30 hours a week to qualify for health benefits. The goal was to cut overtime, especially at the county's Mental Health Complex, by making more hours available to part-time nurses. Supervisors said the plan was poorly conceived.

- Approved a \$950,000 employee wellness program to start in mid-2013, primarily by taking expected savings from refinancing county pension debt at a lower rate. The plan was patterned after a similar program the City of Milwaukee has for its employees, Dimitrijevic said. Abele wanted the money used to pay down county debt.

■ Boosted the county subsidy for emergency medical services to Milwaukee and suburban communities by \$500,000 to \$2 million. That's still down significantly from the \$3 million level in 2011. Abele pushed through a big cut to the paramedic subsidy for this year, as part of a more draconian set of budget fixes.

Earlier in the week, the committee rejected a plan by Abele and Mayor Tom Barrett for the county to pay the City of Milwaukee \$1.2 million to patrol the lakefront and other county parks within the city. The sheriff's office would retain 27 deputy jobs that otherwise would have been cut under that scenario.

That intergovernmental cooperation deal initially also included the 911 change. The county panel on Thursday amended earlier action to kill both the park patrol and the 911 deal at Barrett's urging.

The finance panel separately ended discussion on a voice for the taxpayers, a voice for maintaining services," Abele said. "What I'm hearing is it's like Christmas."

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Sussex man, 76, charged in shooting

At ex-wife's house, shotgun pulled on Waukesha police

By DON BEHM
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Waukesha — A 76-year-old man was charged Thursday in Waukesha County Circuit Court with attempted first-degree intentional homicide, two counts of first-degree recklessly endangering safety with a dangerous weapon and seven other crimes after Waukesha police said he shot at them while they were responding to a domestic violence complaint Tuesday afternoon.

Richard A. Petarius of Sussex had gone to the Waukesha residence of his ex-wife armed with a 12-gauge shotgun a few hours after he had been in court and was found in contempt of the terms of the couple's 2010 divorce.

According to a criminal complaint, Phyllis Petarius, 75, lives at the Windwood Condominiums in the 1800 block of E. Racine Ave. Richard Petarius was inside his ex-wife's condominium when two police officers arrived around 4:15 p.m. As one officer was interviewing her at the entrance to the residence, the suspect appeared inside holding a shotgun and pointed it at the officer. One of the officers started shooting at Petarius as his ex-wife was pulled outside to safety. Petarius fired two shots at the officer. The second officer also fired shots into the room. No one was struck by the gunfire.

Phyllis Petarius was treated at Waukesha Memorial Hospital for a broken arm and other minor injuries. She suffered the broken arm when Richard Petarius pushed her onto the concrete floor of a garage as he forcibly entered the residence.

He surrendered to police at 5:16 p.m.

On Thursday, Richard Petarius was charged with 10 crimes. One is misdemeanor violation of a 2010 domestic abuse restraining order.

In addition to attempted homicide of the police officer and two felony

counts of recklessly endangering safety with a dangerous weapon, Petarius was charged with six other felonies. They are: armed burglary; false imprisonment with use of a dangerous weapon; intimidating a victim with a dangerous weapon; possession of a firearm contrary to a domestic abuse injunction; possession of a short-barreled shotgun; and attempted aggravated battery of an elderly person.

Court Commissioner Thomas Pieper set bail at \$500,000, ordered Richard Petarius to have no contact with his ex-wife and prohibited him from possessing any knives, weapons or firearms.

A court hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday.

Waukesha County court records indicate the court imposed a four-year restraining order on Richard Petarius in 2010, at the time of the divorce, in response to domestic violence complaints. The restraining order prohibited him from contacting Phyllis Petarius and possessing firearms.

Abele backtracks on medical job

Mental Health Complex director to stick around while

By STEVE SCHULTZE
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Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele shifted course this week, retracting his announcement from five days earlier that the medical director at the Mental Health Complex was leaving his job after a patient death there.

Thomas Harding no longer will retire immediately, contrary to the county executive's announcement last Friday night of a shake-up of several staffers at the complex.

Abele and his spokesman attributed the reversal to a "misunderstanding" and "miscommunication."

"The broad point for me was that we had an incident at (the complex) and we responded," Abele said. "We held them responsible."

Abele's announcement by news release Friday said he had accepted the retirements of the medical director and a nurse practitioner and the resignation of a doctor. He also said the director of nursing at the Mental Health Complex had been demoted.

Those moves were linked to changes imposed after the Oct. 6 death of 25-year-old Brandon Johnson from complications from a broken neck. Multiple investigations are under way into Johnson's death.

Abele didn't list the staff names in his news release but acknowledged that the medical director reference was to Harding.

He said Wednesday that he acted after meeting with top administrators at the complex and based on information he had at the time.

"There may have been a misunderstanding about who" the changes would affect, Abele said.

Abele spokesman Brendan Conway said Harding had indicated that he was planning on retiring fairly soon anyway and had offered to do so sooner over the patient death. After news reports on his departure, many staffers at the complex and others called to urge that Harding be allowed to stay, Conway said.

"The message remains the same," Conway said. Abele "is not going to sit on his hands while there's reforms taking place."

Johnson's death was one of at least five this year at the complex, which came under fire in 2010 over patient sexual assault and other care lapses.

Abele's announced staff shake-up also came as the Journal Sentinel learned that state and federal regulators had investigated the July death of 57-year-old patient Paul W. Haugen, which resulted in the county being issued citations for lapses.

Public hearing scheduled for West Waukesha Bypass (County TT from Rolling Ridge Drive to Wis 59) Waukesha County

Mark your calendar
Waukesha County will hold a public hearing on the location, design and environmental aspects of proposed improvements on County TT from Rolling Ridge Drive to Wis 59 known as the West Waukesha Bypass in Waukesha County.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at the Waukesha North High School Auditorium, 2222 Michigan Avenue, Waukesha. The hearing will be conducted from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with formal testimony beginning at 5 p.m. Interested persons are urged to attend to review displays and other hearing materials, ask questions and provide testimony. Project staff will be available to explain the proposed improvements and answer questions. Information on how to present oral and written testimony will be provided at the public hearing.

The public hearing facility is wheelchair accessible. Hearing impaired persons needing assistance should contact the Wisconsin Telecommunications Relay System (dial 711). To allow for arranging assistance, please call no later than three working days prior to the public hearing.

Proposed improvements
Proposed improvements in the County TT corridor include the following:

- Widened County TT from four lanes between Rolling Ridge Drive and Sunset Drive
- Built a 4-lane roadway connection between Sunset Drive and Wis 59 on one of three potential routes
- Widened existing Sunset Drive to four lanes between County TT and County X and using County X to reach Wis 59.

In other key changes to the agreement between Sunset Drive and Wis 59, the project will:

- Refer to the Pebble Creek West and Pebble Creek Far West Alternatives as under consideration.
- Construct a new bridge over Public Creek, Wisconsin and the Southern and the Glacier Trails State Trail
- Construct a multi-use trail adjacent to the widened roadway between Summit Avenue and Sunset Drive.
- Add a new signal or roundabout at the County TT/Madison Street intersection.

Additional information
A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) that discusses the need for the proposed improvements, alternatives considered, environmental effects, has been prepared and filed according to the State and National Environmental Policy Acts. The Draft EIS will be available for viewing at the public hearing and is available for inspection and copying at the repositories listed below and on the project website:

http://waukeshabypass.org/eis

City of Waukesha Library 321 Wisconsin Avenue Waukesha, WI	City of Waukesha Public Works Department 120 Duffield Street Waukesha, WI	WisDOT Southeast Region Office 141 N.W. Barstow Street Waukesha, WI
Town of Waukesha Hall W250 S3567 Center Road Waukesha, WI	Waukesha County Dept of Public Works 4852 Sheboygan Boulevard Waukesha, WI	WisDOT Bureau of Equity and Environmental Services 4802 Sheboygan Avenue - Room 451 Madison, WI

Comments concerning the environmental effects of the proposed improvements will be addressed in the Final EIS if postmarked/received no later than December 10, 2012. Written comments on the Draft EIS should be sent via U.S. mail or e-mail to the contact person listed below.

Gary Evans, PE
Waukesha County Department of Public Works
515 Moreland Boulevard, Waukesha, WI 54303
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