

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Public Safety & Justice  
INITIATED BY

Public Safety & Justice Committee  
SUBMITTED BY



Randy Terronez  
DRAFTED BY

September 25, 2016  
DATE DRAFTED

**APPROVING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH DANE COUNTY FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER SERVICES**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution #14-9A-110 on September  
2 11, 2014 that approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with Dane County to provide Medical  
3 Examiners services as a result of the transition from an elected Coroner system to an appointed Medical  
4 Examiner system; and  
5  
6 **WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Agreement expires on December 31, 2016; and,  
7  
8 **WHEREAS**, staff have conducted meetings with stakeholders (Law Enforcement, Fire  
9 Department/EMS, Funeral Homes, etc.) and have received complimentary feedback on the quality of  
10 services provided by the Intergovernmental Agreement with Dane County; and,  
11  
12 **WHEREAS**, Dane County is agreeable to another two-year agreement to provide professional and  
13 administrative services which have been incorporated into the preliminary 2017 budget.  
14  
15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly  
16 assembled this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016 approves the Dane County Intergovernmental  
17 Agreement that delineates the roles and responsibilities of each county for the period January 1, 2017  
18 through December 31, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Mary Beaver  
Mary Beaver, Chair

Henry Brill  
Henry Brill, Vice Chair

Terry Fell  
Terry Fell

Brian Knudson  
Brian Knudson

Phil Owens  
Phil Owens

16-10A-131

APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH DANE COUNTY FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER SERVICES

Page 2

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

*J. Russell Podzilni*  
J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

*Sandra Kraft*  
Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

*Eva Arnold*  
Eva Arnold

*Henry Brill*  
Henry Brill

*Betty Jo Bussie*  
Betty Jo Bussie

*Mary Mawhinney*  
Mary Mawhinney

*Louis Peer*  
Louis Peer

*Absent*  
Alan Sweeney

*Terry Thomas*  
Terry Thomas

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

*Josh Smith*  
Josh Smith  
County Administrator

FISCAL NOTE:

Funding for the contract with Dane County is recommended in the 2017 budget.

*Sherry Oja*

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to secs. 59.01, 59.51 and 66.0301, Wis. Stats.

*Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch*  
Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

## Executive Summary

### Approving the Intergovernmental Agreement with Dane County for Medical Examiner Services

The Rock County Board of Supervisors approved the conversion of the Coroner's Office to a Medical Examiner in January 2011 (refer to Resolution #11-1B-270). One of the major reasons for this decision was to operate in a more efficient, professional manner that would ensure the highest quality of services to the residents of Rock County. The effective date of the change was January 5, 2015.

During the planning for the transition, the County investigated various options on establishing a Medical Examiner system and partnered with Dane County to provide professional and administrative services through an Intergovernmental Agreement. The initial two-year agreement expires on December 31, 2016.

A renewal of the Dane County IGA is being recommended and includes:

1. The Chief Medical Examiner, the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, and the Deputy Medical Examiner of Dane County shall act as the Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner and the Deputy Medical Examiner for Rock County. The Dane County Director of Operations, under the direction of the Dane County Medical Examiner, shall act as the Director of Operations for Rock County and shall provide oversight and administrative services. The Dane County Director of Operations, Chief Medical Examiner or designee shall be available at all times (24 hours per day, 7 days per week) to provide direction to Rock County investigative staff. The Dane County Director of Operations, Deputy Director of Operations or Chief of Investigations shall be on site an average of 12 hours per week.
2. Case Review and Autopsy Services:
  - a. Dane County's Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, and Deputy Medical Examiner shall perform the statutory functions of Medical Examiner in Rock County;
  - b. During death scene response or other death investigations, the Director of Operations for Dane County will work with Rock County staff to establish case review protocols, and to facilitate communication with the Dane County Medical Examiner to allow for case triage. The Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, or Deputy Medical Examiner from Dane County will work with medicolegal death investigators to determine whether an autopsy or additional forensic examination should take place. Consideration will be given to the needs of other criminal justice partners, and the statutory authority of the District Attorney to independently order an autopsy will be recognized and followed.
  - c. Dane County shall provide a forensic pathologist response to homicide cases or other cases where a complicated scene examination is appropriate. The need for this response shall be determined by the Medical Examiner in consultation with those at the scene;
  - d. Dane County shall provide autopsy-related services pursuant to this Agreement.
3. A schedule of charges is included in the Intergovernmental Agreement and includes:

	Caseload		Budget	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
A. Office Admin./Ovrsght	12 hrs/wk.	12 hrs/wk.	\$43,798	\$44,377
B. Forensic Case Review	750	750	\$30,931	\$31,128
C. Management - Pathologists 2 hrs./wk.	2 hrs./wk	2 hrs./wk	\$15,183	\$15,298
D. Autopsy Medicine	145	145	\$162,433	\$164,487
E. Transportation	159	159	\$38,401	\$38,449
F. External Exams	14	14	\$4,900	\$5,221
Total - IGA Payment			\$295,646	\$298,959
G. Mass Fatality Autopsy Fee If > 5 deaths/incident	0	0	\$1,250	\$1,250

Of the above services, Item F - External Exams is a new cost.

Major stakeholders (law enforcement/EMS-fire representatives and the funeral home industry) have been very positive of the change to the new Medical Examiner system and the services provided by Dane County via the IGA.

IGA contract costs have increased over the current IGA contract primarily due to more realistic caseload projections. Costs are projected to increased \$121,648 or 23.8% more and are included in the 2017 budget.