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Date: July 27, 2015

To: Members of the Committee on Parks, Energy and Environment

cc: Janelle Jensen
Jessica Janz-McKnight
All Other Supervisors
John Dargle
Other Interested Parties

From: Paul Bargren *PB*
Corporation Counsel

Re: Referral of File No. 15-421

At its meeting of July 21, 2015, your honorable body referred File No. 15-421 to me with questions about the Committee's ability to act on the file. The file was submitted by the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture. It asks the County Board to delegate blanket authority to the Director and other County departments to execute new permanent gas and electric easements for park facilities without bringing each easement to the Committee and the County Board for individual consideration and approval.

Whether to grant this blanket authority for routine easements is up to the supervisors. This proposal presumably would improve administrative efficiency and allow the Department to move forward without the limitations of the Board calendar where speed might be useful.

The authority sought by Parks applies only to utility easements to Parks facilities. Parks would still bring any other easements to the Committee and the Board for consideration and approval.

In response to a specific question from a Supervisor: the resolution as drafted does not include notification to the public or to the County Board of the expected easements. However, the resolution is limited to easements that would be customary for any Parks facility. Presumably any new or remodeled facility itself would be brought to the committee for review.

This request is unrelated to the recent passage of Act 55 by the legislature. As I said in my July 17 memo, easements over "land that is zoned as a park" remain under the jurisdiction of the County Board, including through the Parks Committee. *See* Wis. Stat. § 59.17(2)(b)3. Whether to exercise that authority through a blanket approval is up to the Board.