MEMORANDUM

Date:

From: Dawn Schmidt, Vilas County Zoning
Beth Soltow, Vilas County Clerk of Courts
Carolyn Scholl, Vilas County Land and Water
Laurel Dreger, Vilas County Public Health
Kate Gardner, Vilas County Social Services
Cindy Burzinski, Vilas County Tourism
Susan Richmond, Vilas County ADRC

To: Members of the Vilas County Executive and Legislative Committee

We, the undersigned Department Heads by our signature below, state as follows:

1. We bring to your attention a matter of grave alarm to us, as well as it would be to all the female employees of Vilas County. We recently made our opinions known to the Members of the Human Resources Committee regarding our unconstructive, if not antagonistic experiences with the Manager that office. Chairman Ron De Bruyne was present and received a copy of the letter that was handed out to the Committee Members. At the beginning of the meeting Chairman De Bruyne stated that he was sitting in on the meeting under his power to vote in the matter of reclassifying the Department Manager, thereby raising his salary by 15%. We believe that because of our letter, the Request for Reclassification was tabled until after the Department Manager's Performance Evaluation on September 13th.
2. Shortly after this meeting, several of us were contacted by another County employee who we believe to be very credible, who stated that Chairman De Bruyne approached them stating "what are we going to do about these f[redacted]g c[redacted]s!"
3. We are appalled by this unabashed expression of misogynistic sentiment and believe that if it is representative of all Vilas County leadership, that leadership needs to be re-examined to see how deeply entrenched and pervasive it is. If it is not representative of all County leadership, then those who are as distressed by this as we are, need to step forward to sanction this archaic and destructive mentality.

We want the issue above resolved for our sake as well as for the sake of all the female employees of Vilas County. We shall pursue a resolution to this to whatever length is necessary to bring sanctions for the shameful and degrading light the County Board Chairman has attempted to cast us in.

We request a special, closed session meeting pursuant to State Statute 19.85(1)(c) with the members of the Executive and Legislative Committee as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.