

A mini-battle over budgets and unions, at the county level...

The La Crosse County Board has extended some union contracts for two years, which include pay raise language. Only three votes were cast against the contracts. County personnel director Bob Taunt says this will settle union matters for three years, while other parts of Wisconsin experiment with the governor's budget repairs.

Opponents of the extension do not want the county locked into granting raises for the next two years, when nobody knows what the economy will be like over that period.