

**Legislative Committee**  
**Monday, February 23, 2009**  
**JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER**

Present: Stan Kline, Nancy Barker, Don Griesbach, Tom Ellis, Bill Wingren, Pat Brennand, Ken Robl, Jim Nelson, Jim Koziczowski, Harvey Rengstorf, Jo Sievert, Patrick O'Brien, Jerry Finch, Tom Widener and David Albrecht

Also Present: John Casper – Oshkosh Chamber, County Executive Mark Harris, Representative Spanbauer, Representative Kaufert, Representative Roth, Representative Hintz, Melissa Kok – Representative Petri's Office, Karen Carlson – FoxComm, Sheriff Mike Brooks, Mike Elder – Facilities Director and Patty Francour – Information Systems Director

Excused: Kathy Lennon

Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Kline asked everyone to introduce themselves since there were several new persons in attendance..

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of January 24, 2009. This was carried by voice vote.

**UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE SESSION** - Winnebago County Representatives

Representative Hintz told the committee that the most important thing, in his estimation, is for the Democrats and Republicans to work together. The Governor's 2009 – 2011 Budget is 1200 pages. Some of the stimulus money may pass to municipalities. There is more demand for local government and not enough money. Counties are faced with cutting services or raising taxes. Mr. Hintz told the committee that there maybe a 1% decrease in local aids.

Supervisor Widener told the committee that Family Care in Winnebago County is on hold.

Representative Kaufert told the committee there is tough sledding ahead. There are 31% cuts inside some state departments. He feels the budget needs bold steps. Schools may get rid of the Q.E.O. Shared revenue is frozen. We will need to do with less. He feels some corporations may move their operations out of state because of Wisconsin's corporate tax. Mr. Kaufert disagrees with the Governor on corporate taxes.

Representative Spanbauer told the committee that his name is on the John Doe bill. He is also hoping that Democrats and Republicans try to get along. Democrats will not pass amendments that Republicans are bringing forward.

Mr. Spanbauer does not like Domestic Partnerships having the same benefits the same as married couples. He feels small businesses will lose jobs because of it.

Representative Spanbauer told the committee that state revenue will be cut. He feels that two years of not cooperating may backfire on the Democrats. He feels the budget may be passed in record time.

Chairman Kline told the committee that state workers' salaries may be frozen and they may pay more for health insurance.

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE BILL TO AMEND DRUNKEN DRIVING PENALTIES**

Sheriff Brooks told the committee that warehousing of people in jail is not the answer. Much more study is needed. After discussion with the committee, the vote was taken and this was passed unanimously by the committee to send on to the County Board

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST FEDERAL STIMULUS DOLLARS TO IMPROVE COURTHOUSE SECURITY**

Sheriff Brooks told the committee that this would not be an inexpensive undertaking. Everyone will need to be checked. Supervisor Rengstorf told the committee that many problems were found in the courthouse after 911. Many of the judges had problems with the duress buttons not working. Courthouse staff is not in favor of all doors being locked and having only one entry.

Executive Harris told the committee that to staff the courthouse for one year would be \$250,000, and he feels more study is needed.

After further discussion, this item was voted on and passed unanimously to send to the County Board.

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL TO USE THE WIRELESS 911 FUND TO REDUCE THE STATE DEFICIT.**

This fund has been collected from all of the users in the state and was stopped when it reached its goal. The original intent was to return any funds left over to the customers. The Governor now wants to use the funds to help balance the state budget. The committee voted to support this resolution and forward it to the County Board. This was passed with no opposition.

**RESOLUTION ON GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL FOR SOLID WASTE TAX INCREASE –**

This was discussed by the committee and decided to oppose this proposal. There was a voice vote taken and it was passed without descent. This will be forwarded on to the County Board for further action.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to discuss

The next meeting was set for April 27, 2009

It was moved and seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By:  
Nancy Barker  
Secretary

Recorded By:  
Jean Mahy  
County Clerk's Office