

Legislative Committee
Monday, January 25, 2010
JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER

Present: Stan Kline, Don Griesbach, Bill Wingren, Pat Brennand, Ken Robl, Jim Koziczowski, Tom Widener, Harvey Rengstorf, Tom Ellis, Jerry Finch, Jef Hall, and Jo Sievert

Also

Present: Representative Richard Spanbauer, County Executive Mark Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Last and Representative Dean Kaufert

Excused: David Albrecht

Absent: Nancy Barker, Patrick O'Brien and Kathy Lennon

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 A.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Ken Robl moved and it was seconded by Jerry Finch to approve the minutes of the December 28, 2009 meeting. This was carried by voice vote.

UPDATE ON THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Representative Spanbauer shared with the committee that tax collection is down and is the reason the State of Wisconsin is in so much trouble. Federal tax collection is down about 17.7% and state collection is down about 6%. This is one reason the governor feels he can take from one fund to balance another.

Mr. Spanbauer told the committee that in the last week the state legislature passed a bill banning texting while driving. The big question on this is how it is going to be enforced. The other bill that was passed was regarding intentional torts. The change there was the time limit was raised from 2 years to 3 years.

Mr. Spanbauer talked to the committee about Bill 372 which is coming up in a few days. This bill has to do with disposal of solid waste on the property where it was generated. At this time, the DNR regulates the disposal of solid waste at facilities and how it is disposed of. One of the exemptions under current law prohibits the DNR from regulating solid waste disposal from a single family or household disposed of on the property where it is generated. The bill eliminates this prohibition on regulating solid waste from a single family or household. Mr. Spanbauer told the committee that more details will be coming forward as this bill is discussed in caucus.

Bill 395 is regarding raising the limits for obtaining a public defender state wide. This is especially relevant in these economic times.

Representative Spanbauer discussed with the committee farmland preservation. Wisconsin is losing farms at an alarming rate. This means that there will be more super farms coming into rural areas.

Mr. Spanbauer took questions from the committee.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION MAKING PROTECTIVE RETIREMENT A MANDATORY SUBJECT OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

This item was tabled at the last meeting. After discussion, the committee decided to take no action on this item.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALLOWING GOVERNMENTAL UNITS TO RELEASE AN AUDIO RECORDING OF A 911 CALL AT THE DISCRETION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT

After discussion with the committee it was decided that this resolution is more appropriate for the Judiciary and Public Safety committee. It was moved by Jef Hall and seconded by Pat Brennand to refer this to the JPS committee. They can refer it back to the Legislative committee, after they have seen it. This is passed 12 – 0. Carried by voice vote.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION SUPPRTING AN EXEMPTION TO STATE LAW TO ALLOW COUNTIES TO BORROW FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING DELINQUENT TAXES

This resolution was sent from Outagamie County. After discussion among the committee – Jef Hall moved and it was seconded by Pat Brennand to approve this resolution. This was passed 12 – 0 by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE - There was no correspondence

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Adding a County Executive report on agenda
Having citizens attending the meeting introduce themselves to the committee
Predatory lending (payday loans)

Representative Kaufert arrived at the meeting and discussed with the committee about the core jobs plan passed by the democrats in the senate 32 – 1.

The state is continually requiring the counties to spend more money – however there is declining state support for local governments.

NEXT MEETING February 22, 2010.

Jerry Finch moved and Pat Brennand seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 am.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Nancy Barker
Secretary

Recorded By:
Jean Mahy
County Clerk's Office