

Legislative Committee Minutes  
Monday, May 23, 2011

In Attendance: Stan Kline, Tim Hamblin, Harvey Rengstorf, Pat O'Brian, Jerry Finch, Ken Robl, Bill Wingren, Chuck Farrey, Tom Widener, Jef Hall, Joanne Sievert, David Albrecht, and Jim Koziczowski. Also present: Representative Dean Kaufert, Representative Dick Spanbauer, Representative Michelle Litjens, County Executive Mark Harris, and John Casper.

Chairman Stan Kline called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

Representative Spanbauer reported that fixing the recycling part of the Budget is almost a done deal. There will be a permanent 1.5% levy cap after this budget. Increase in Shared Revenue is not going to happen. He supports SB 18 (known as the Cops Bill) which puts police on an equal level with fire fighters, in terms of benefits, if they were to be killed on duty. He said that Senior Care survived. The Governor will Appoint a Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the members of that group must be veterans. Concealed carry (AB126) will be a reality.

Representative Litjens supports the prevailing wage roll back to 2008 levels. She also indicated the state will have a \$130 million surplus if we pay all of the bills. She indicated that the Governor and the Legislature did not include police and fire fighters in the Budget Repair Bill because they feared the outpouring of opposition that would result from such action.

County Executive Harris stated that the Budget was less disastrous that originally proposed. He stated that that we will lose \$300K in Child Support Enforcement funds. [The operating rate limit will be suspended for two years](#)

Representative Dean Kaufert states the Budget is in process in the Joint Finance Committee. They discovered an additional \$636 million (In increased revenue) AFTER the budget came out. The state will receive more money in income tax to pay bills. This budget also has more bonding. He wants to change revenue sharing to help the counties – such as ours – that have been proactive. He supports a Constitutional Amendment which would prevent “raids” on the transportation fund. He expects the Budget to be completed by the third week in June.

Mr. Kaufert reported a meeting with David Albrecht, Margie Rankin, and Mark Harris to discuss the Budget's \$900K impact on Park View. We will receive less money to operate a nursing home. Chairman Albrecht declared that we want the same amount as we received last year. [The levy limit for the 2012 Budget will have the same levy as the 2010 Budget.](#) Mr. Kaufert stated that the state skims money from nursing homes.

[The state takes more money out than it puts in \(if you consider federal funds as OUR money\).](#) He also said that we need “internal comparables” in contract negotiations.

[The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.](#)