

Legislative Committee
February 23, 2015
JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER

Present: Bill Wingren, Jerry Finch, Tom Ellis, Ken Robl, Paul Eisen, Larry Smith, Chuck Farrey, Tom Egan and Bill Roh

Also

Present: State Representative Gordon Hintz – 54th District, Representative Mike Rohrkaste – 55TH District, Representative Dave Murphy – 56th District, State Representative Amanda Stuck – 57th District, Mark Harris – County Executive, Ernie Winters – Highway Commissioner, Morgan Hinkley – Park View Health Center Director, Jennifer Semerau – Recycling Specialist, Rob Way – Parks Director, Tom Snider, Harold Singstock and Mike Norton

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Bill Wingren. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Introductions were made of all members present.

Election of Secretary

Secretary - Motion by Jerry Finch and seconded by Tom Egan to nominate Tom Ellis for Secretary. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded by Tom Ellis to approve the minutes from December 29, 2014. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

State Representative Schraa's office called to say that he would not be able to attend the meeting.

State Representative Amanda Stuck represents District 57. Right to work is the main focus right now in the State along with the State budget. Representative Stuck's feelings are this budget does not prioritize what really needs to be looked at. She feels that we need to make sure our schools are funded well and that our local municipalities need to be a bigger part of it. Representative Stuck is on the following committees: Energy and Utilities; Jobs in the Economy; Housing and Real Estate and Environment and Forestry. She feels that she represents everyone, not just those that voted for her. Representative Stuck then took questions from the floor.

State Representative Gordon Hintz representing District 54 reported that he is on the Joint Finance Committee along with Representative Schraa. He stated that the Governor has brought forth his budget. In a week or two they will get the analysis from the Financial Bureau. Representative Hintz feels that this budget will be more controversial than the previous two years, he pointed out different aspects as to why he felt it would be this way. He gave his opinion on the proposed budget cuts to schools and universities; borrowing a record amount of money to cover transportation; expansion of tax payer funded voucher schools statewide; proposing a number of things on Medicaid that are unconstitutional.

State Representative Mike Rohrkaste representing District 55 introduced himself and gave a brief history on himself. As State Representative, he is on the following committees: Vice Chairman of the Health Committee; Jobs and Economy Committee; Mental Health and Interstate Affairs and Colleges and Universities. Representative Rohrkaste commented on his feelings regarding the state budget. He then took questions from the floor.

State Representative Dave Murphy representing District 56 chairs the Committee on College and Universities. He is also on the K-12 Education Committee. Representative Murphy stated that there was a 2% decrease in students over the biennium, but they increased their employee count by 1,500. He feels that when high school seniors graduate, they should be able to pass a citizenship test and that the schools should teach and prepare the students for financial responsibilities. Representative Murphy feels that the revenue to be reported in April will be better than expected. He feels capital gains will be a major factor in this increase. Representative Murphy stated that he would be in favor of an increase in the gas tax. He then took questions from the floor.

Chairman Wingren and Supervisor Roh thanked the state representatives for their attendance at the Winnebago County Legislative meetings.

Jennifer Semerau, Recycling Coordinator for Winnebago County, presented to the board a summary of the Governor's proposed budget for Solid Waste. The budget as proposed is maintaining in full the \$7.00 per ton fee, but reducing the funding that the fee is to support. Ms. Semerau informed the board how and where the fees are used to support recycling and solid waste management. The Solid Waste Board presented a resolution to be forwarded to the County Board. It summarizes the impacts that are being proposed by the Governor's budget, and that the Solid Waste Committee is in opposition to his proposals for cuts to recycling and solid waste.

Motion was made by Supervisor Egan and seconded by Supervisor Ellis to forward this resolution to the County Board. The motion was carried by Voice Vote. Supervisor Farrey made a motion to split the question into two parts. There was no second to the motion, the motion failed for lack of a second. Supervisor Eisen requested that the resolution be approved by Corporation Council before being presented to the County Board.

County Executive Mark Harris expressed concern as to how the budget will impact counties as well as other areas. We will be losing acuties for nursing homes and possibly shifting responsibility for property assessments from the local municipalities to the county. The City of Oshkosh is large enough to opt out of this change. He is concerned about the impact of the rate of recycling fees. Another concern is the Aging and Disability Research Center; the state could take this from the county without much notice. He is concerned if there would be a layoff by Kimberly Clark or Oshkosh Corp, how that would impact the economy. A personal concern for Executive Harris is the manufacturing and agricultural tax cuts. It was estimated that the cost would be \$120 million dollars per year, that amount has been adjusted to \$240 million per year. His thoughts would be to delay the fourth installment for two years to be able to balance the budget.

Supervisor Roh expressed his sincere thanks to the State Representatives that attend our Legislative meetings and the disappointment of no shows from Washington.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Motion by Supervisor Finch and seconded by Supervisor Farrey to adjourn until March 30, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Tom Ellis
Secretary

Recorded By:
Julie Barthels
County Clerk's Office