

Legislative Committee
June 22, 2015
James P. Coughlin Center

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

Also

Present: Sen. Rick Gudex; Bill Kloiber – Sen. Roger Roth's office; Rep. Michael Schraa; Rep. Gordon Hintz; Rep. Mike Rohrkaste; Rep. David Murphy; Rep. Amanda Stuck; Mark Harris, County Executive; Supervisors Nancy Barker and Mike Norton; John Casper, President/CEO, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce

Excused: David Albrecht

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Wingren and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Supervisor Finch and seconded by Supervisor Ellis to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2015 meeting. Carried by Voice Vote.

Update on Resolutions:

- Resolution No. 151-42015: Urge the Wisconsin Legislature to Seek Alternative Revenue Sources in Order to Reduce the Borrowing Required to Fund the Transportation Portion of the FY 2016/2017 State Budget.
Comments from the Senators:
 - Feel the Legislators are at a stalemate, not sure how much to borrow or where to cut corners on road projects
 - Feel borrowing should be cut; without increasing revenue
 - In favor of gas tax increase, not increase in registration; feels borrowing level is too high; would be in favor of an increase in sales tax to offset the transportation budget
 - Concern regarding local municipal road aids and how it will affect them
 - Transportation budget is frustrating, feels it would be a big challenge if brought back to the floor
 - Feelings that raising revenues at some level is the only way to cover the budget
- Resolution No. 153-42015: Oppose Governor Walker's 2015-2017 Budget Proposal to Dismantle Wisconsin's Current Long-Term Care System, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Family Care Program, IRIS Program and Resume Previous Joint Efforts of all Stakeholders to Continually Pursue New Opportunities to Improve the Long-Term Care System
 - No one likes the Governor's proposal regarding this matter. People that utilize this program are extremely happy with it. Integrated health agencies – If change isn't made to move into the 21st century, this program will totally fall apart and go away
 - Medicaid expenses are rising at an astronomical level. It is 20% of the budget.
 - Feel this is the most disappointing part of the budget. It was added to the budget without anyone knowing about it. Care will be shifted to large for-profit insurance companies. Studies will be done for ADRC to make sure it is working to the best of its ability.
 - The government has a very good example of trying to take the profit out of insurance companies and that is the VA.
- Resolution No. 168-52015: Resolution pertaining to opposition bill eliminating personal property tax and the elimination of computer aid payments to local governments.
 - Support getting rid of personal property tax, but not during this budget session.
 - Feelings that the system needs to be changed, don't get rid of it but make it better.
- Resolution No. 169-2015: Resolution related to proposed Medicaid funding for Nursing Homes
 - 1% increase each year for Medicaid funding for Nursing Homes was approved.

Resolution: Opposing expansion of federal control under the Clean Water Act

Supervisor Chuck Farrey brought this resolution to the Legislative Committee. This resolution comes from Price County. On May 27, 2015 the EPA passed the final rule. Supervisor Farrey feels this resolution was sent from Price County way too late.

Updates on Legislative Matters:

Sen. Gudex presented information on the following issues:

- Thank you to the Joint Committee on Finance for the hard work they have done. They took a budget that was out there and made lemonade with it. Will continue to fight for Winnebago County to the best of his ability.

Rep. Amanda Stuck presented information on the following issues:

- Housing and Real Estate Committee passed a bill that went thru the Assembly that requires inspection on new home construction or additions over a certain amount.

Rep. Mike Rohrkaste presented information on the following issues:

- Three items – 10/441 project; Mental Health – Expand availability for education in schools for mental health issues and on Aging Issues; Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Rep. Dave Murphy presented information on the following issues:

- 10/441 project is a huge thing for him, he will do everything possible to make it happen and keep it on track
- Investment of landfill funds has now passed the Senate and will going to the Governor for his signature. He feels this will be good for Counties.
- Huge opponent of the Buck's Arena - unless dramatic changes have been made, he will not support this

Bill Kloiber, representing Senator Roger Roth's office presented information on the following issues:

- Thanked Mike Norton and other members of Winnebago County for their support of long term care.
- 10/441 project – Please reach out to representatives with comments.

Rep. Mike Schraa presented information on the following issues:

- Once the Joint Committee on Finance is complete, still have to cover Revenue and Taxes, the Buck's Arena and Transportation. His feelings are that transportation will be pulled from the budget and dealt with later.
- Concerning the Buck's Arena, Representative Schraa touched on the pros and cons of keeping the Buck's in Wisconsin and how much it affects our economy.

Rep. Gordon Hintz presented information on the following issues:

- Touched on budget issues and the Buck's Arena

Executive Harris discussed the following state budget issues and they're impact on Winnebago County:

- Good discussion from the Legislators at this meeting
- Concerned about transportation aids and cuts to that area – when projects are done by bonding, it all falls on residents of Wisconsin. When projects would be paid thru gas tax, some of the burden could be shifted to the tourism in Wisconsin. If transportation is cut by 8 million dollars, how will it affect the infrastructure employment? Encouraged representatives to vote consistent with what they believe.

Correspondence:

Supervisor Egan noted that Chairman David Albrecht was not at this meeting due to the passing of his brother-in-law, Donald Bohn.

Chairman Wingren announced that the next meeting of this committee will be July 27, 2015.
Motion by Supervisor Smith and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Julie A. Barthels
Recording Secretary