

**Legislative Committee
Legislative Committee
JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER**

Present: Nancy Barker, Bill Wingren, Pat Brennand, Ken Robl, James Kozokowski, Tom Ellis, Patrick O'Brien, Tim Hamblin, Chuck Farrey, Jerry Finch, Larry Smith, Bill Roh, Robert Warnke, and Michael Norton

Also

Present: Mark Harris – Winnebago County Executive, State Representatives Gordon Hintz, Mike Schraa, Penny Bernard Schaber and Dean Kaufert, State Senator Rick Gudex, John Casper – Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce and Representatives from ESTHER

Excused: David Albrecht

Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Brennand had those present at the meeting introduce themselves.

N. Barker reminded those present of the upcoming county fair. She told the committee that she had signs and handouts for those who had places for them.

B. Wingren moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2013 meeting with the correction that Chuck Farrey was excused and not absent. Carried by voice vote.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

Senator Rick Gudex told the committee that the state budget had passed and is currently on the Governor's desk for consideration. The Governor has stated he will take about a week to possibly use line item vetoes. This is Senator Gudex's first budget and he feels it is a fair budget. There will be close to a billion dollars in tax cuts. \$651 million of that is income tax cuts. The legislature added money for K – 12 education that will be approximately \$150.00 per student per year. Many changes made to the Unemployment Compensation System. County transportation aides are up 2.4%. Townships are pleased with the budget at this point.

Representative Schraa also spoke to the committee regarding the recently passed budget. He stated that \$368 million in bonding was cut. State positions, which the Governor was hoping to add more, were cut. Mr. Schraa feels the tax cut is significant. Income rates will be lowered. The budget freezes the UW tuition and fees. There is increased funding for child support collection. More money has been added to the Department of Corrections budget for treatment alternative programs. Overall, Mr. Schraa is happy with the budget.

Representative Schaber stated that she voted against the budget. She is concerned about the tax cut. She stated it favors higher earners, rather than the middle class and low earners. She did not support the expansion of the school voucher program. She feels not accepting the federal dollars for helping support medical assistance should have been taken so less state money is spent.

Representative Kaufert told the committee that the in the state budget – the Racine Kringle has been named the state pastry. He told the committee that the minority party offered no amendments. Mr. Kaufert felt there was more bi-partisan cooperation working on this budget. Mr. Kaufert told the committee that he believes there should be no policy changes in the budget. There were 94 non fiscal policy items in the budget, some good and some bad. Mr. Kaufert feels it is a mistake to go back to a structural deficit in the amount of \$550 million. 3% tax growth is predicted – which 1.2% will go toward the structural deficit. Funding for tourism, domestic abuse and mental health programs were all increased.

Representative Hintz told the committee the big 3 in the state budget are school voucher expansion, rejection of federal Medicaid money and income tax proposal. There has been some economic recovery because of Act 10. 2010 – Wisconsin was 11th in job creation – we are now 44th. We are 45th in the country in wage growth. We are 49th in future job growth through 2016. In the last 12 months, we are 1 of 3 states that have lost jobs and the only state in the upper Midwest to have lost jobs. There are definite challenges ahead for Wisconsin. Mr. Hintz thanked the county for all the help on local issues. Mr. Hintz feels that new jobs will be created by new businesses.

The legislators then took questions from the committee.

UPDATE FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

County Executive Mark Harris told the committee that there is a large undifferentiated cut to the court system. This could come back to bite the county. All of our court costs are supposed to be paid, however this is down to less than 20% of the county's costs. The bail bondsman legislation has an unintended consequence for the county if it used extensively – the default of appearance bonds funds our victim protection programs. That source of revenue could be affected by the use of bail bondsmen. Mr. Harris also discussed the manufacturers and farmers credit income.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ON A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION – ESTHER

This item was brought before this committee in January. Lou Blasczyk gave an overview of ESTHER. They are looking to change the way alcohol, drug and mental health issues are dealt with in Wisconsin. ESTHER is looking for support for a resolution to show that Winnebago County supports treatment alternatives and diversion programs. After discussion – J. Finch moved and C. Farrey seconded to bring this resolution forward to the County Board. Carried by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairman Brennand went through the correspondence with the committee and asked if any of the items were of interest to the committee, to let him know and it will be put on a future agenda.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: The next meeting will be July 22, 2013. C. Farrey would like to talk about the county's certification of Winnebago County's Farmland Preservation Plan. This is regarding the Administrative Rule. Chairman Brennand talked about the Amendment to the Airport Overlay. State Statute dictates that the Parks Director is to take care of the hearing in the process. The Aviation and Planning & Zoning Committees are not involved in the process. Mr. Brennand will bring this forward to get fixed.

It was moved by J. Finch and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 am.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Bill Wingren
Secretary

Recorded By:
Jean Mahy
County Clerk's Office