

Winnebago County Legislative Committee.
June 27, 2011

In attendance: Stan Kline, Pat Brennand, Tim Hamblin, Bill Wingren, Harvey Rengstorf, Jo Sievert, Jerry Finch, Tom Widener, Pat O'Brien, Ken Robl, David Albrecht, James Koziczkowski, Chuck Farrey, Tom Ellis, Kathy Lennon.

Also present: Senator Randy Hopper, Representative Dick Spanbauer, Representative Gordon Hintz, Representative Michelle Litjens, County Executive Mark Harris, Julie Leschke, Alex Brower, Adam Rodawald, John Casper, Sheriff John Matz, Captain Todd Christopherson, Viet Shelton.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stan Kline at 8:30 AM.

Senator Randy Hopper:

50% of the proposed budget was changed. Things were added, deleted, and modified. \$700,000 was added to the Department of Transportation above what the Governor has proposed.

This was a "tough budget" One time funding was no longer used. Education is the single largest funded program in the state budget so education was bound to take the biggest hit.

Representative Dick Spanbauer:

Road aid remains the same. Walker cut Shared Revenue by \$96 million. Joint Finance put \$19 million back. The levy limit was held to 0%. This is a big cut and it will hurt. The concealed weapon bill will require background checks, licensing, and training.

Representative Gordon Hintz:

There has been a major shift in priorities. Increased funds will be available for charter schools and virtual schools.

This budget is good for road builders. Counties have two bad options. Privatize road maintenance or shift -funding.

Family Care, by law, requires counties to provide services to the developmentally disabled and the frail elderly. The demand for services remains.

Representative Michelle Litjens:

This new budget will provide the same services but property taxes will not go up. When asked to clarify, she repeated this statement.

The State should eliminate bonding for projects.

David Albrecht asked what this budget will do to help the frail elderly. She stated property taxes won't go up.

County Executive Mark Harris:

The State gets 71% of money targeted to go to nursing homes. We are fully reimbursed by the feds but the state keeps a significant per-cent.

We lost 1/3 of the child support budget. As a whole we are in a reasonably good position. The people we serve do NOT come out fine. The frail elderly and the developmentally disabled get hit by the cuts at the state level.

There is a belief that a cut in taxes improves job growth. Unemployment is higher in low tax states such as Nevada.

The Budget shifted budget requirements to other levels of government without solving the budget problem.

Julie Leschke (representing Senator Ron Johnson)

She is the Deputy State Director. There office is located at 219 Washington Avenue (old post office).

She explained she has not come to the Legislative Committee because of all the work involved in setting up a new office.

Mr. Johnson's single purpose is to deal with the government spending more money than we have. We have reached a "crisis point".

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 A.M.

Submitted by:
Bill Wingren
Recording Secretary