

Legislative Committee
August 22, 2011
JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER

Present: Stan Kline, Bill Wingren, Pat Brennand, Ken Robl, James Kozokowski, Joanne Sievert, Harvey Rengstorf, Tom Ellis, Kathy Lennon, Nancy Barker, Tim Hamblin, Chuck Farrey, Claud Thompson, Tom Konetzke, and Jef Hall

Also Present: Representative Spanbauer, Marlene Mielke – Senator Kohl’s Office, Representative Gordon Hintz, Diane Fremgen – Clerk of Courts, John Casper – Chamber of Commerce, Representative Michelle Litjens, and Larry Last – Citizens.

Excused:

Absent: Patrick O’Brien

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 A.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Kline had those present introduce themselves.

There was a motion made to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2011 meeting. This motion was seconded. . Carried by Voice Vote with Konetzke abstaining

5. WHAT ARE THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE RECALL ELECTIONS ON THE STATE BUDGET?

Representative Spanbauer talked to the committee regarding the outcomes of the recall elections and his take on the ramifications on the state budget. He also commented on his finance reform bill and where he feels it is heading for the future.

Representative Hintz feels that September is a chance for new beginnings in the state. He also commented on the state of the budget turmoil in Wisconsin and the impact of the recall elections.

Representative Litjens gave her assessment of the state recalls and where the state is heading with the current budget.

All the Representatives took questions from the committee.

6. Executive Mark Harris was unable to attend the meeting, so there was no update from his office

7. UPDATES FROM REPRESENTATIVES SENATOR KOHL, JOHNSON, AND REPRESENTATIVE PETRI

Marlene Mielke updated that committee on Senator Kohl’s work in Washington D.C. She told the committee that even though the Senator may not be running again, he still actively pursuing the bills that he feels would be beneficial for the State of Wisconsin.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO MAKE ALL COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS NON-PARTISAN POSITIONS

Diane Fremgen told the committee that none of the current Winnebago County elected officials had a problem with this amendment. It was noted that none of the elected officials are in a policy making position. Jef Hall felt that the county clerk would be an exception to this, as that position deals with elections, and it is his feeling that the public has a right to know the political party associated with the clerk overseeing the elections. Discussion with the committee occurred.

Wingren moved and Robl seconded to support this amendment and forward it to the full county board. Hall moved to amend the amendment by omitting the county clerk’s position and keeping it partisan. No second.

Vote on original amendment Ayes – 14 Nays – 1 Hall. PASSED

The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2011. There will be no meeting in September due to the annual WCA conference. Please get any items for that agenda to Chairman Kline.

Chuck Farrey moved and Harvey Rengstorf seconded to adjourn. This was passed by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 am.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Bill Wingren
Secretary

Recorded By:
Jean Mahy
County Clerk's Office