

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, January 9, 2023
James P. Coughlin Center
625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh

Members Present: Chuck Farrey, David Albrecht, Steven Binder, Robert Keller, Larry Lautenschlager, Michael Norton, Koby Schellenger, Morris Cox, Nate Gustafson, John Hinz, Bryan Stafford, and Ralph Harrison.

Also Present: Winnebago County Chairman Thomas Egan, Jon Doemel (County Executive) arrived at 8:48 am, Ethan Hollenberger, Winnebago County Supervisors Brian Defferding and Jacob Floam, Mary Anne Mueller (Corporation Counsel), Eric Sparr (District Attorney), State Representatives Michael Schraa and Dan Feyen

Present Via Zoom: Winnebago County Supervisors Conley Hanson and Rachael Dowling, Doug Gieryn, Deb Martin and Beth G.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Farrey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Farrey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of minutes of October 24, 2022 meeting

Supervisor Cox requested that a correction needed to be made to item #3, the approval of minutes of May 23, 2022 meeting. Correction made to reflect the motion was made by Supervisor Cox and seconded by Supervisor Schellenger.

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Harrison to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2022 meeting as amended. MOTION CARRIES.

4. Public Comments

The following individual spoke in opposition of Resolution No. 151-122022 – "Authorize the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of Referendum Regarding the Legalization and Decriminalization of Cannabis in the State of Wisconsin":

- Supervisor Conley Hanson

The following people spoke in support of Resolution No. 151-122022 – "Authorize the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of Referendum Regarding the Legalization and Decriminalization of Cannabis in the State of Wisconsin":

- Supervisor Rachael Dowling
- Supervisor Brian Defferding
- Deb Martin

District Attorney Eric Sparr briefly discussed some concerns and problems regarding the Cannabis issue. He does not hold a strong position either way on Resolution 151-122022 or whether it is legal here in Wisconsin but wanted to make everyone aware of what Winnebago County is doing here as it is different than some other counties.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence.

6. Discussion/Action: Winnebago County Resolution 151-122022 Authorize the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of Referendum Regarding the Legalization and Decriminalization of Cannabis in the State of Wisconsin.

- **This resolution was presented to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors in December on 12/20/2022. The resolution was referred back to the Legislative Committee.**

Chairman Farrey stated this resolution was referred back to the Legislative Committee. The question before this committee is should we recommend that the residents of this county be given the option to vote on this, that is the intent of this resolution. Chairman Farrey will not accept any amendments to this resolution. This is a finalized resolution that was referred to this Committee. If it should need to be amended, than that would need to be from the County Board floor and not by this committee.

Motion made by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Binder to adopt. A brief and informal discussion of this resolution took place.

Vote on Resolution: AYES: 5 – Binder, Farrey, Lautenschlager, Norton, and Schellenger; NAYES: 7; ABSTAIN: 0; ABSENT: 4 – Buck, Gabert, O'Brien, and Snider. MOTION FAILED. This will go back to the County Board with the vote total.

7. Discussion: Shared Revenue Reform

State representative Dan Feyen stated that there are proposals being worked on but hasn't heard of too many specific details. They are looking at tying that to some sort of sales tax using a certain percentage that would be tied to the Shared Revenue in some shape, way or form.

State Representative Michael Schraa stated the Joint Finance Committee has been working on this for a while. There is an advantage and disadvantage of tying it to a sales tax. In good times, there would be extra revenue coming in because we would be taking in more sales tax. If we go into a recession, there would be less sales tax coming in therefore that would lead to less shared revenue. This is still in the infancy stage of talking about this.

County Executive Jon Doemel and Ethan Hollenberger also commented on shared revenue reform and how it effects the county and the towns.

Supervisor Norton would like to receive updates as this moves along through the legislature.

8. Discussion: Concern of Rising Costs of the Stormwater Utility for the City of Oshkosh

A brief and informal discussion of the concern of rising costs of the stormwater utility for the City of Oshkosh. Winnebago County is the largest payor of the stormwater utility. This increase is concerning as it will impact our budget and our tax levy so we need to be aware of it. As costs continue to rise, we need to find a way to pass it along to our residents or we will need to find something to cut to compensate for it. The Oshkosh Common Council will be taking a vote on this 01/10/2023. Chairman Farrey asked the County Executive to keep us updated on this matter.

9. Discuss proposed State and Federal Legislation from the Legislative Committee members

None

10. Discuss Proposed / Potential State Legislation as Presented by Local Legislators and Committee Members

None

11. Update from County Executive Jon Doemel

County Executive updated on the following:

- The warming shelter will be resuming operations tonight. It will be a 1st come 1st serve basis. There is still some work to do there. We have some concerns but we have some good solutions going forward.
- The Council will be meeting 01/10/2023, there is another vote that affects the county. They delayed the approval of our 980 Housing Project. They had some concerns why Oshkosh continues to get these projects. I will remind them sometimes in government, we do things what we have to and not things we want to. This is one of these times. I am hoping the Council will vote on this in our favor so we can get moving on this. We have a 980 being released soon and the courts are becoming impatient with us. We could be looking at potential fines.
- Looking at the discussion behind the scenes, shared revenue is going very well. I think we are a lot closer than I thought we could get. He thanked the representatives for that.
- Supervisor Stafford requested the County Executive provide an update on the 980 Housing Project at the County Board meeting next week.

12. Update from State Legislators

- Representative Nate Gustafson – District 55:
There is a Judiciary Committee Hearing on 01/10/2023 regarding Bail Reform Amendment that actually passed the State Legislature last session. If it passes this next week, it would be on this year's ballots.
- Senator Dan Feyen – District 18:
We were sworn in last Tuesday and so the session is less than a week old. There's been about 15-20 bills that have been rolled out for sponsorship. There is a Constitution Amendment on Bail Reform which will go to the floor. If it passes this session, then it will go to the voters. Other than that, not too much more going on. I am

the Chair on the Economic Workforce and Technical College's Committee focusing on workforce development and making sure there is affordable housing for workers throughout the state.

○ Representative Michael Schraa – District 53:

We have already touched based on budget, constitution amendment on bail reform, shared revenue. Regarding medical marijuana, the article did come up that the Senate is contemplating this and working on an assembly bill. I am Chair of the Corrections Committee and believe we are in a crisis level regarding the Department of Corrections (DOC) staffing. This is an issue that will be continued to be looked at as it costs the state more due to the lack of staff and current staff taking on so much overtime.

13. Update from Federal Representatives

None

14. Topics to be discussed at next Legislative Committee Meeting

None

15. Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 27, 2023 at 8:30 am.

16. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Cox to adjourn. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cassie Smith-Gregor, Recording Secretary