

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, January 22, 2018
James P. Coughlin Center

Present: Tom Egan, Robert Keller, Harold Singstock, Bill Roh, Ken Robl, Larry Smith, Robert Warnke, Larry Lautenschlager, Paul Eisen, Chuck Farrey, Tom Ellis and David Albrecht

Also Present: Senator Dan Feyen, Representative Mike Rohrkaste, Representative Amanda Stuck, and Alan Ott, Representative from Congressman Glenn Grothman's office, Mark Harris – County Executive, John Casper, President/CEO Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce

Excused: Supervisors Wingren, Finch and Snider and Jennifer Garner, representative from Senator Baldwin's office.

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

Motion by Supervisor Ellis and seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2017 meeting. Carried by Voice Vote. Abstain: Supervisor Farrey

Public Comments: None

Correspondence: An e-mail regarding represented committees on the Legislative Committee.

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution No. 76-2017-18 – “Proposed legislation which ratifies and enters Wisconsin into the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact”

This resolution has already been approved. No action taken.

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution No. 77-2017-18 – “Opposition to any mining project that doesn't have sufficient safeguards to mitigate potential negative impacts on natural resources, public health, cultural heritage and the economy of Wisconsin”

This resolution has already been approved at the Senate level. No action taken.

Discussion/Action regarding Door County Resolution No. 2017-68 – “In Opposition to the Proposed SB 395 and AB 499 relating to the Regulation of Nonferrous Metallic Mining”

This resolution has already been approved at the Senate level. No action taken.

Discussion/Action regarding Portage County Resolution No. 177-2016-2018 – “Sense of the Board; Opposing the Passage of 2017 SB 54 and 2017 AB 94

This resolution has already been passed by the County Board. No action taken.

Discussion/Action regarding Trempealeau County Resolution No. 2017-10-08 – “Opposition to Section 7 of SB387/AB479

This resolution has already been approved at the Senate level. No action taken.

Update from State Legislators:

Senator Dan Feyen stated that things are busy at the Capital.

- He reported that the unemployment rate in Wisconsin is at 3.0%, Fond du Lac is at 2.3% and Winnebago at 2.5%. Senator Feyen and Representative Rohrkaste have a bill pending to spend money on advertising outside of the state to attract people to Wisconsin. There are roughly 85,000 jobs available in Wisconsin. There has been money put into the budget for retraining people to better themselves at their current positions or finding a new career.
- The economic outlook growth is at 3.6% for 2018.
- There will be no raises in sales tax or income tax.
- They eliminated the state forestry tax and the alternative minimum tax. They are working on phasing out the personal property taxes for businesses.

- This year was the largest increase to education at \$649 million dollars. There is a bill pending to help with low funding school district plans.
- Senator Feyen touched on transportation. Hoping for more money for roads and bridges. They are working with the Department of Transportation. The gas tax is not keeping up with the needs of the roads.

Representative Mike Rohrkaste touched on the following items:

- The bill that he is working on to attract more people to the State of Wisconsin and to keep students here to fill the many job opportunities that are out there.
- There was a change to the historic tax credit.
- Governor Walker has come out with an agenda for welfare reform to encourage people to work and have more programs to fill job openings.

Representative Amanda Stuck reported on the following items:

- The Housing Committee passed ominous bills. There is concern of language in the housing bill.
- Solidifying zoning.
- A request has been submitted to the Audit Committee in regard to Veterans Funds.

Senator Feyen and Representatives Rohrkaste and Stuck then took questions from the committee members.

Update from Federal Legislators:

Alan Ott, Representative from Congressman Glenn Grothman's office, reported on issues that Congressman Grothman has been working on:

- In the middle of Government shutdown, a handful of votes away. Disagreement on spending levels.
- House passed bill for funding of Children's Health Insurance and Flood Insurance
- Passed Tax Reform
- Pushing to get Welfare Reform on docket
- Townhalls – Omro and Utica

Mr. Ott then took questions from the Committee members.

Update from County Executive Mark Harris

County Executive, Mark Harris, voiced his concerns regarding TIF districts and how they affect the tax levy. He is concerned about the levy limits that have been in place. Net new construction has been slow in Winnebago County, limiting the levy limits, which in turn limits the ability to increase wages to keep current employees and encourage new employees to apply.

The Committee wishes to thank all the representatives that attend the Legislative meetings.

Topics for Next Meeting – Contact Chairman Egan or the County Clerk's office with any items to be discussed.

Next Meeting Date – The next meeting is to be determined as needed.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Smith to adjourn. Carried by Voice Vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie Barthels, Recording Secretary