

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, March 22, 2021

Virtual – Winnebago County Administration Building  
112 Otter Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901

Present: Thomas Egan, David Albrecht, Steven Binder, Tom Ellis, Chuck Farrey, Maribeth Gabert, Robert Keller, Tom Konetzke, Larry Lautenschlager, Steve Lenz, Michael Norton, Patrick O'Brien, Vicki Schorse, Tom Snider, Robert Warnke, and Bill Wingren.

Also Present: Chad Herbert – Senior Constituent Services Representative for Representative Glenn Grothman; Senator Dan Feyen; Representative Michael Schraa; Representative Gordon Hintz; Mark Harris – County Executive; Jeffrey Mann – Assistant Corporation Counsel; Julie Mabry – Child Support Director; Mike Elder - Director of Facilities and Property Management; Supervisor Don Nussbaum; Kate Hancock-Cooke; Shannon Davis-Foust; L. Palmer; Linda Ganzel; and Zen Kitisook

Excused: Joel Rasmussen

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

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Norton to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

**Public Comments:**

Kate Hancock-Cooke and Linda Ganzel spoke in support of the resolution urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

**Correspondence:**

None.

**Discussion: 980 Release Housing Options & Programs**

Assistant Corporation Counsel, Jeff Mann, reported that currently the County has two locations to house 980 sex offenders. One offender is located on County Road Y, another offender was released this past week to be located in the northwest part of the County. Approval has been given to allow two offenders to be housed at the facility on County Road Y. Concerns are that there will not be enough locations to place offenders that are due to be released. If an offender is released, the County has 120 days to provide housing for that individual within the County. An extension of 30 days is sometimes possible before being fined \$1,100.00 per day until housing is found.

Mr. Mann then took questions from the Committee.

**Discussion/Action: Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager to bring forward for discussion. Supervisor Farrey stated that he was asked to bring this to the Legislative Committee by Supervisor Gordon. This item was introduced to United States Congress last session, it did not go farther than the committee. The feeling is that it will be re-introduced at the next session. Supervisor Snider reported that this parallels what they are working on in the Land Conservation Committee with the rivers and lakes system and sewer plants, and transfers of taxes and dividends. Supervisor Wingren voiced concern that this was not brought to a committee, that the number of the bill is being changed, and that it doesn't follow County Board and Committee rules.

Motion by Supervisor Wingren and seconded by Supervisor Schorse to table this item. Vote to Table: AYES: 7; NAYES: 4 – Lautenschlager, Lenz, Norton and Snider; ABSTAIN: Farrey; ABSENT: 1. CARRIED.

**Discussion/Action: Resolution in Support of Increased County Child Support Funding**

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager to bring this item forward. Supervisor Lautenschlager stated that Supervisor Norton and he serve on the WCA Human Services Steering Committee. This item was brought up at their meeting. With this funding, the state would increase revenue by \$4 million in GPR monies for each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget, which would generate approximately \$7.7 million in additional federal funding for Child Support each year. Julie Mabry, Child Support Director, went before the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee with this item, now to the Legislative Committee and then to the full County Board. Winnebago County would receive approximately \$300,000.00 from this funding. Vote on Resolution: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

NAYES: 1 – Farrey.

## **Discussion/Action: Price County Resolution "Request Elimination of the 0% Levy Cap Imposed on Wisconsin Counties"**

Motion by Supervisor Snider and seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager to bring this item forward for discussion. Levy caps were imposed in 2010 and have been in effect for 10 years. If the County or Municipality wants to exceed the average net cost of new construction, they can put it to a referendum question to exceed those levy limits. This resolution does not want to allow this to happen because it creates an unacceptable risk. Vote on Resolution: FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

## **Update from County Executive Mark Harris**

County Executive Mark Harris reported on the following issues:

- Stimulus Monies – It appears that the County will receive approximately \$60 million dollars in May. Rules that the money will be handled under will be determined by treasury recommendations that have not been issued yet. Can be used for capital expenditures which consist of broadband and sewer and water. This bill will be aimed more at the public. Committees, both county and municipal, will need to be formed to find projects that are being considered.

## **Update from State Legislators:**

Senator Dan Feyen – District 18:

- Legislators are going over upcoming budget items. Senator Feyen is concerned that there are 308 new state jobs available and the private sectors have concerns that there are not enough employees to fill the positions they have open. The state will be conducting meetings regarding the budget. Senator Feyen would appreciate contact from Supervisors on any feedback on budget items.
- Stimulus Dollars – The state should receive \$5.5 billion. He would like to see this money put in the budget toward broadband and mental health.
- Federal Infrastructure Bill – Coming forward later this month with a very large price tag.
- Many issues are being discussed at the State, he encourages anyone with concerns to contact him.

Representative Michael Schraa – District 53:

- Discussed Health Care – Passed PBM (Pharmacy Benefits Manager) bill; Governor should be signing this as a law which would allow for lower prescription prices.
- Pre-existing Conditions – Bill passed unanimously.
- Bill AB149 – This bill will be presented Tuesday, it will allow the people of Wisconsin to have a voice in the American Rescue Plan and how the money will be spent.
- Meeting dates for 2022 Budget Joint Finance Committee: Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in Whitewater; Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> in Rhinelander; Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Menomonee; and Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> will be a virtual Joint Finance listening session.
- Concerns regarding budget: Projecting a \$1 billion increase in taxes; spending would increase to \$92 billion.

Representative Gordon Hintz – District 54:

- Budget: Concern of the amount of federal money coming in to the State and where the money can best be utilized. Glad to see direct funding go to local governments.
- Increased Medicaid funding. Challenges in long term care.
- Fewer claims for unemployment as the economy recovers.
- Covered concerns that are on-going due to the COVID19 virus.
- There are still 12 states that did not accept the federal Medicaid monies. Wisconsin is one of the 12.
- Concerns of overall level of spending by Government entities; feels that Winnebago County is in good condition.
- Appreciates having the public, the County Board and the Wisconsin Counties Association provide input to concerns for the state budget.

## **Update from Federal Representatives:**

Chad Herbert, Senior Constituent Services Representative—Congressman Glenn Grothman

- Congressman Grothman visited the United States and Mexican border the last week in January. He spoke with members there regarding border control. They expressed support for the border wall.

- Introduced bill H.R.7576 restricting federal assistance benefits. With this bill, individuals will be required to be a United States citizen to receive welfare benefits. This bill will encourage hard-working immigrants to come to America, while discouraging those who only seek to come here to take advantage of our welfare state.
- Reintroduced a bi-partisan Air America Act. This bill will ensure that former employees of Air America receive the federal retirement benefits and recognition that they have earned.

**Topics to be discussed at next Legislative Committee Meeting** – Lincoln Hills Corrections Facility

**Next Meeting Date** – Possibly May or June

Motion by Supervisor Lautenschlager and seconded by Supervisor Schorse to adjourn. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.  
The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Julie Barthels, Recording Secretary