

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, April 24, 2017

James P. Coughlin Center

Present: Tom Egan, David Albrecht, Paul Eisen, Tom Ellis, Chuck Farrey, Jerry Finch, Larry Lautenschlager, Joel Rasmussen, Ken Robl, Bill Roh and Larry Smith

Also Present: Representative Amanda Stuck, Representative Michael Schraa, Representative Gordon Hintz, Representative from Senator Tammy Baldwin's office Jennifer Garner, Representative from Glen Grothman's office Alan Ott, President/CEO Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce John Casper, County Executive Assistant John Fink, Winnebago County Zoning Administrator Cary Rowe, Winnebago County Planning Department Brian O'Rourke, and Park View Health Center Administrator Marleah Keuler.

Excused: Executive Mark Harris, Supervisor Keller, Supervisor Warnke and Supervisor Snider.

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 Rasmussen to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2017 meeting. Carried by Voice Vote.

Public Comments: None

Discussion/Action regarding Resolution for DATCP Certified Winnebago County Farmland Preservation Plan

Supervisor Chuck Farrey presented the development of a new plan for Certification for Farmland Preservation. The plan would be for ten years; the previous plan was conditionally approved for five years. The plan that DATCP is proposing would place farmer's land into Farmland Preservation without their permission. Supervisor Farrey would like to see farmers be able to sign up for this voluntarily. Mr. Farrey has reached out to many Representatives in regard to this issue. He feels that there is one sentence that needs to be changed in the ATCP 49.12 Administrative Rule under 5(c): "the rationale to develop county plan may not be used primarily on landowner preferences". This sentence has no law based to support it, so Supervisor Farrey feels it should not be used as a criteria to possibly deny our county plan.

Brian O'Rourke, Associate Planner for Winnebago County, spoke in agreement with Supervisor Farrey in regard to the farmer's being allowed to sign up voluntarily. He stated that other Counties are placing farmers into Farmland Preservation without permission.

Supervisor Farrey explained what Farmland Preservation is and what it entails. The new plan for Certification for Farmland Preservation Plan needs to be submitted by October of this year.

Motion by Supervisor Finch and seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager to have Supervisor Farrey draft a resolution to be presented to the entire County Board for approval regarding Farmland Preservation. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Racine County Resolution 2016-125 – Resolution by Individual Supervisor Requesting Adequate Funding from the State and Federal Government for Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursement to Skilled Nursing Facilities

Supervisor Ellis and Marleah Keuler, Director of Parkview Health Center reported that the Wisconsin Association of County Homes will be drafting a resolution together with Winnebago County to request adequate funding from the State and Federal Government for Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursement to Skilled Nursing Facilities.

Representative Hintz and Representative Schraa feel that monies will be available for nursing homes within the budget, but nothing is guaranteed until the final budget hearing.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Finch to support this broad resolution of Racine County. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution 153-2016-17 – Authorizing County Clerks and Clerk of Courts to Copy Certified Birth Certificates for Certain Purposes

Julie Barthels, Winnebago County Deputy Clerk, explained that with this resolution, the Clerk of Courts and the County Clerk would be allowed to accept photocopied birth certificates to be sent with applications for passports. The birth certificates would be stamped with "For Administrative Use Only".

Motion by Supervisor Albrecht and seconded by Supervisor Farrey to support this resolution. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Resolution from WCA about Dark Stores – Supporting Efforts to Close Commercial Property Assessment Loopholes

Representative Schraa reported that Representative Brooks will be working on a resolution that will please counties and cities with the wording.

Representative Hintz feels that the County should stay on top of this issue. He doesn't want residential taxpayers to pay the price of this shift.

Motion by Supervisor Eisen and seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to approve this resolution. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion / Action regarding Publications vs. Newspapers

Supervisor Smith would like to see the lengthy, costly publications that are required to be printed in the newspapers, be allowed to be posted only on websites.

Discussion ensued both in favor and against publishing in a newspaper versus a website.

Motion by Supervisor Smith and seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager to support AB70 and SB42 and pass this on to the Legislators. Vote: AYES – 1 Smith; NAYES – 10. MOTION FAILED.

Discussion / Action regarding Proposed Resolution on the Importance of the ACA and Medicaid Expansion

Supervisor Lautenschlager reported for Supervisor Norton that the proposal for this resolution would be to incorporate the Medicaid Expansion by using block grants. Supervisor Farrey felt there was disagreement at the state level regarding this expansion. Representative Schraa voiced concerns of block granting. Representative Hintz and Representative Stuck would support accepting Federal Medicaid funding.

No Action was taken.

Discussion: Interest in update from Joint Finance Committee Public Hearings Findings

Representative Hintz reported that public hearings were held in six locations throughout the state regarding Joint Finance for the budget. Items of interest: Support funding for schools especially grades K-12; Transportation Aid; Restoring funding for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection – grants dealing with nutrient management and manure run-offs; Communicable Disease funding; and Nursing Home Reimbursement. Representative Hintz touched on the Forest Industry and the Personal Property Tax Repeal, which he supports. The hope is to complete the budget by the end of June. Their plan is to weigh in on as many issues as possible.

Discussion: Explain Budget Considerations using Governor's Request vs. Base Budget Starting Point

Representative Hintz reported that the majority chose to take up a separate transportation budget.

Discussion: Transportation Issue Status

Representative Schraa reported that Representative Kooyenga will be coming out with a package regarding transportation. He believes that sales tax could be affected before the gas tax. Indexing could be implemented again.

Representative Stuck reported that money was found to be able to complete the 41/441 road project.

Update from County Executive Mark Harris

County Executive, Mark Harris, asked to be excused from today's meeting.

Chairman Egan reported that Supervisors Keller, Warnke and Snider asked to be excused from this meeting.

Update from State Legislators:

Representative Amanda Stuck reported on the lead pipe bill. This bill would include loans or grants to replace lead pipes.

Representative Schraa reported that he proudly runs his committee on a bi-partisan basis. He feels that he works well with all of his committees and represents his constituents to the best of his ability. He reported that the Economic Indicators will be available in May. He touched on the self-insurance issue.

Bills that he has introduced:

- Wheel tax bill

- School tax to increase levy – needs to be done by referendum at a general election
- Coroner Resolution – Coroner vs. Medical Examiner

Other Issues:

- Water Issue in the Town of Oshkosh/ City of Oshkosh with Winnebago Mental Health Institute
- Would like to start a pilot program called “WisGreat” at Kempster Hall. This would include alcohol treatment therapy, hopes to have participants maintain jobs, and participants would report back to the facility at night.
- WisComm – to connect and repair a radio system for the entire state for the 911 system.

Representative Hintz reported that every year there are non-fiscal policy items included in the budget. The decision of the finance chairs is to remove all non-fiscal policy from the budget and to be included again, they have to be introduced as standalone items.

Chairman Egan thanked the Legislators for attending the Legislative meeting and for their support.

Update from Federal Legislators:

Jennifer Garner, Representative from Senator Tammy Baldwin’s office, reported on the committees that Senator Baldwin will be involved with:

- Appropriation Committee
- Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
- Health Education and Labor and Pensions Committee

She is involved in many subcommittees. The funding for the border wall is going to be difficult to get. Budget items will be discussed and she feels defense and the border wall will be hot topics.

Alan Ott, Representative from Congressman Glenn Grothman’s office, reported of an open house to be held today at their new office located at 24 W. Pioneer Road in Fond du Lac from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be a Town hall meeting held in Neenah at the City Hall. Dates can be found on Congressman Grothman’s website.

Mr. Ott touched on items of interest:

- Coal Miner’s Health Care
- ACA Obamacare - Band Aid funding issues
- Military Funding

Congressman Grothman is on the Budget Committee. Budget items of concern are welfare and military. They are looking into the health care issue. In January, Congressman Grothman was appointed to the Government Oversight and Reform Committee.

Chairman Egan thanked the representatives for the Federal Legislators for taking time to attend our meeting and for their input.

Correspondence – Report from Supervisor Eisen addressing issues of transportation, insurance self-funding and 911 modernization.

Discussion: Topics to be discussed at the next Legislative Committee Meeting - None

Next Meeting Date – No date was set.

Motion by Supervisor Rasmussen and seconded by Supervisor Farrey to adjourn. Carried by Voice Vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Julie Barthels, Recording Secretary