

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, June 22, 2020

Sunnyview Expo Center

Present: Thomas Egan, David Albrecht, Paul Eisen, Tom Ellis, Chuck Farrey, Tom Konetzke, Larry Lautenschlager, Steve Lenz, Michael Norton, Tom Snider, Robert Warnke, and Bill Wingren.

Also Present: Alan Ott - District Director for Representative Glenn Grothman, Senator Dan Feyen, Representative Michael Schraa, Representative Gordon Hintz, Supervisors Brian Defferding, Steve Binder, Vicki Schorse, Don Nussbaum and Tom Borchart, Mark Harris – County Executive, Douglas Gieryn – Director of Public Health, and John Casper – President/CEO Oshkosh Area Chamber of Commerce

Excused: Maribeth Gabert, Robert Keller and Patrick O'Brien

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

Motion by Supervisor Lautenschlager and seconded by Supervisor Farrey to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2019 meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

**Public Comments:**

- Twenty-four people spoke in opposition of proposed Ordinance No. 027-062020: Amend Section 11.08 of the General Code of Winnebago County: County Health Officer.
- One person spoke in reference to a Mail-In Ballot Voting System for all Elections in Wisconsin.
- Two people spoke in support of a proposed Resolution regarding Authorizing the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of Referendum Regarding the Legalization and Decriminalization of Cannabis in the State of Wisconsin.
- One person spoke in reference to the IDB Committee.
- Supervisor Schorse spoke in opposition to a proposed Resolution regarding Authorizing the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of Referendum Regarding the Legalization and Decriminalization of Cannabis in the State of Wisconsin.
- Supervisor Defferding spoke in support of a proposed Resolution regarding Authorizing the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of Referendum Regarding the Legalization and Decriminalization of Cannabis in the State of Wisconsin.

Motion by Supervisor Eisen and seconded by Supervisor Wingren to strike Agenda Item #13 from the Agenda. Vote to Strike: AYES: 2; NAYES: 10. FAILED. Members of the committee and Corporation Counsel discussed whether or not individuals can bring forward and discuss proposed resolutions.

**Correspondence:**

None

**Discussion/Action: Eau Claire County Resolution File No. 19-20/112, Outagamie County Resolution No. 137-2019-20 and Winnebago County Resolution – “Support the Commitment to Veterans Support and Outreach (CVSO) Act**

Motion by Supervisor Snider and seconded by Supervisor Finch to support this resolution and forward it on to the County Board. This resolution will provide support for veterans in desperate need of help. Vote on Resolution: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

**Discussion/Action: Eau Claire County Resolution File No. 19-20/116 – “Resolution Requesting the Wisconsin Legislature Act to Protect Refugees Living in the State of Wisconsin”**

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Finch to support this resolution and forward it on to the County Board. Vote on Resolution: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

**Discussion/Action: Florence County Resolution #2020-11 – “Emergency Declaration for COVID-19”**

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Finch to support this resolution. After discussion, Supervisor Norton and Supervisor Finch withdrew their motion. The term of this resolution had expired. No vote was taken.

**Discussion/Action: LaCrosse County Resolution #65-3/20 – “In Support of the Wisconsin Opportunity Act (SB 467 and AB 508)”**

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager to support this resolution. Motions were withdrawn by Supervisors Farrey and Lautenschlager and no vote was taken. This resolution has been presented in Legislature sessions already.

**Discussion/Action: Outagamie County Resolution #130-2019-20 – “Support Pending Legislation that would correct a discrepancy between parallel statutes that compute the detention hearing timelines for Children in Need of Protection (CHIPS) proceedings under State Statutes Chapter 48 (the Children’s Code), and juvenile delinquency cases under Chapter 938 (the Juvenile Justice Code), by specifying that a day in which the Clerk of Circuit Courts Office is closed does not count toward the computation of the detention hearing timeline under Chapter 938 which will ensure county governments are in a better position to save limited resources and protect the safety of their employees and the public.”**

Motion by Supervisor Lautenschlager and seconded by Supervisor Norton to support this resolution and forward it to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

**Discussion/Action: Winnebago County Resolution #302-032020: “Support the Hmong and Laotian Communities within Winnebago County and Oppose Federal Deportations to Laos”.**

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Finch to support this resolution and forward it to the County Board. Mee Yang, Board President - Hmong Service Center, spoke to the committee regarding this resolution and asked for their support. Vote on Resolution: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. NAYES: 1.

**Discussion/Action: Winnebago County Resolution #034-062020: “Authorize the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of Referendum Regarding Supporting a Mail-In Ballot Voting System for all Elections in Wisconsin”.**

Motion by Supervisor Wingren and seconded by Supervisor Finch to support. Supervisor Norton commented that this procedure is being used in approximately five states in the United States. Motion by Supervisor Eisen to refer to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. Motion died for lack of a second. Vote on Resolution: AYES: 2; NAYES: 10. FAILED.

**Discussion/Action: Winnebago County Resolution – “Authorize the Winnebago County Clerk to Publish a Notice of Referendum Regarding the Legalization and Decriminalization of Cannabis in the State of Wisconsin”.**

Motion by Supervisor Lenz and seconded by Supervisor Norton to support this resolution. After discussion and debate, Vote on Resolution: AYES: 5; NAYES: 7. FAILED.

**Discussion: COVID-19 Update.**

Doug Gieryn, Director of Public Health, updated the committee on the Corona virus. Cases have been declining, with only fifteen cases being reported over the weekend. There has been an increase in the number of cases affecting 20 – 29-year-old residents. He noted that the younger residents that are affected require less hospitalization. Director Gieryn then took questions from the committee.

**Update from County Executive Mark Harris**

County Executive Mark Harris reported concerns regarding expanded protection for Winnebago County regarding the Coronavirus. He stated that the current Winnebago County General Code does not enforce the ability to put forward health orders.

**Update from State Legislators:**

Senator Dan Feyen – District 18:

- Thanked the Legislative Committee for allowing citizens to voice their opinion regarding an ordinance proposed addressing the authority of the public health director
- Unemployment issues is an item of major concern
- Assembly is currently not in session. Possibly reconvening in July. 150 bills to be addressed.

Senator Roger Roth – District 19

- Senator Roth sent a letter voicing concerns from constituents about the potential revision to Section 11.08 of the General Code of Winnebago County. He encouraged supervisors to clarify his questions and concerns before further action. A copy of this letter is available in the County Clerk’s office.

Representative Michael Schraa – District 53:

- Thanked the Legislative Committee for allowing individuals to speak at this meeting.
- Voiced concern of limited “ZOOM” meeting participants for County Board meeting. The meeting was limited to 100 participants.
- Discussed mass testing for Covid19 patients at correctional institutes.
- Discussed qualifications of the Public Health Director
- Discussed voting by Absentee Ballot vs. In-Person. Enjoyed working at the polls for the Town of Oshkosh for the April, 2020 Election.

Rep. Gordon Hintz –District 54:

- Impressed with some of the decisions regarding Covid19, confused by others and found that many challenges were brought forward. He supported re-opening when it occurred.
- Feels unemployment issues are a major problem
- Supported the Wisconsin Elections Commission decision to send a letter regarding absentee voting to all voters.
- Feels the State Budget will need to be revisited, worried about the economy collapsing.
- Concerned about the UW systems.
- Encouraged everyone to “Stay Safe”

**Update from Federal Representatives:**

Alan Ott, District Director—Rep. Glenn Grothman

- Passed several phases of relief regarding a number of loans that are still being processed. Small Business Loans and USDA loans.
- When back in session, will be discussing a Police Reform Package
- Provided Telecom town hall meetings. 4,000 people attended. Will start in-person town hall meetings in August.
- Discussed stimulus checks and tax returns.

**Topics to be discussed at next Legislative Committee Meeting** – Nothing noted.

**Next Meeting Date** – To be determined.

Chairman Egan thanked the Parks Department for setting up for the meeting and providing hand sanitizers and social distancing. He thanked the Committee and Board members for attending.

Motion by Supervisor Albrecht and seconded by Supervisor Norton to adjourn. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.  
The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie Barthels, Recording Secretary