

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, June 26, 2017

James P. Coughlin Center

Present: Tom Egan, Jerry Finch, Paul Eisen, Tom Ellis, Chuck Farrey, Larry Lautenschlager, Ken Robl, Bill Wingren, Tom Snider and Larry Smith

Also Present: Representative Gordon Hintz, Representative Mike Rohrkaste, Representative David Murphy, and Representative from Senator Tammy Baldwin's office Jennifer Garner, President/CEO Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce John Casper, Mark Harris County Executive

Excused: Supervisors Albrecht, Roh and 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 Finch and seconded by Supervisor Ellis to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2017 meeting with one correction. Under Discussion/Action regarding Resolution for DATCP Certified Winnebago County Farmland Preservation Plan regarding Administrative Rule ATC 49.12, it should read "This sentence has no basis of law to support it". Carried by Voice Vote.

Public Comments: None

Discussion/Action regarding Burnett County Resolution #2017-07 and Walworth County Resolution #14-05/17 – Resolution recommending Change in Unemployment Compensation Rules

Currently under State Law, a seasonal employee that seeks unemployment compensation is required to complete and submit applications for employment even if the intent is to return to the current employer the following season. Discussion both in support of and against this resolution ensued.

Motion by Supervisor Wingren and seconded by Supervisor Farrey to postpone indefinitely. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Burnett County Resolution #2017-08 – Resolution Recommending Amendment to Wisconsin Statute 59.22

Wisconsin Statute 59.22 pertains to the salary of elected officials. Currently salaries for elected officials are set prior to their election. With this amendment, it would allow for the changing of their salaries at any time during their term.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Wingren to deny this resolution. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Jackson County Resolution #18-5-2017 and St. Croix County Resolution #20 (2017) – Resolution Supporting Creation of a Nonpartisan Procedure for the Preparation of Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plans

This resolution was presented and lost at the County Board level due to the rule requirements of ¾ of the membership vote to pass for Legislative Issues. There is currently a case with the Supreme Court relative to redistricting plans and partisanship.

Resolution was pulled from this committee.

Discussion/Action regarding Lincoln County Resolution #2017-05-74 – Resolution requesting for Staff Legislature to Increase Nursing Home Medicaid Funding

Supervisor Lautenschlager feels that Park View's numbers of lost revenue would be similar to Lincoln County. Supervisor Finch supports this resolution, he feels something needs to be done to keep staff at these facilities. Supervisor Wingren asked Supervisor Ellis to place this item on the agenda for the Park View Committee's next meeting. Representative Hintz expressed his feelings in regard to nursing home reimbursements as well as the funding challenges and staffing issues. Executive Harris stated that the federal government reimburses nursing homes for their losses. The money is sent to the State and then dispersed to the nursing homes. The State keeps a portion of this money.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Finch to approve and forward this resolution to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution #3-2017-18 – Resolution requesting full funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Supervisor Farrey stated that Outagamie County has received several grants in regard to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. He urges support of this resolution.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Snider to approve and forward this resolution to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution #9-2017-18 – Resolution urging Governor Walker and the state legislature, “to return to the \$9.3 Million appropriation for state aid to counties, recognizing the invaluable service that county conservation employees provide in helping Wisconsin farmers grow our state’s agriculture while preserving the state’s land and water resources for future generations

Supervisor Farrey spoke in support of this resolution. He would like to see the funding stay at \$9.3 Million. Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Finch to approve this resolution. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution #5-2017-18 and St. Croix County Resolution #21(2017) – Resolution urging Governor Walker and the state legislature, “to protect homeowners and main street businesses from having even more of the property tax burden shifted to them . . .” and Resolution to Close Loopholes that Shift a Greater Property Tax Burden from Commercial to Residential Homeowners”

Representative Murphy and Representative Hintz commented regarding this. Currently there are two bills going before the State Legislature. One bill would be to assess just as a building, not the building with the business in it. Second bill how to assess the value of the contents. The bills do have bipartisan support. A large factor in this issue is businesses that lease the buildings to other businesses.

Motion by Supervisor Finch and seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager to approve. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion regarding Dementia Care Specialist Funding

Supervisor Norton asked to bring this to the Legislative Committee. Supervisor Lautenschlager reported that Governor Walker agreed to allocate money for sixteen positions to cover dementia care for 2017. Currently there is no funding to keep these positions in place. The nearest dementia care specialist to Winnebago County is in Brown County and that specialist cannot leave their county. This position would allow dementia patients to remain in their homes with friends and family support versus going into nursing homes.

Representative Rohrkaste stated that there are currently 19 positions and with the intention to increase it to 24 positions next year.

Update from County Executive Mark Harris

County Executive, Mark Harris, commented on Veteran’s benefits. He stated that all state benefits have disappeared. Executive Harris is concerned about the Veteran’s Trust Fund. This fund has been depleted and used for other matters. Currently benefits from the King’s Veteran Home are going to the Trust Fund.

Executive Harris touched on the repeal to Personal Property Taxes. If they are repealed, how will this money be reimbursed? Reimbursements would come from the General Purpose Revenue fund for a while, but eventually it would be from the homeowners, schools and municipalities. Mr. Harris discussed the effect this would have on TIF districts.

Update from State Legislators:

Representative Mike Rohrkaste reported on an update to the budget. There are three main areas of concern: Education of K-12, Transportation, and Taxes – Personal Property Taxes versus Income Taxes.

Representative Dave Murphy feels strongly of getting rid of Personal Property Taxes. This would eliminate one form of taxes completely instead of just adjusting it. In regard to the budget, Representative Murphy is excited about what is coming forth in regard to education. He reported that the Republicans passed a bill that would cover pre-existing conditions for health care. They also passed a bill that would protect free speech rights on college campuses.

Update from Federal Legislators:

Jennifer Garner, Representative from Senator Tammy Baldwin's office, reported on bills that Senator Baldwin has been working on:

- Fresh water in Waterways – Invasive Species (Asian Carp)
- VA Accountability and Reform Act – President Trump recently signed.
- Military Consumer Enforcement Act – Protection from financial shams
- Family Based Care Services Act – Improve home based health and mental care for vulnerable kids.
- Fair Drug Pricing Act – to rein in increase in prescription drugs

Ms. Garner voiced concerns regarding the health care bill that is being proposed along with budget cuts regarding health care; concerns with cuts to the Department of Justice and how that will affect Sheriffs; and concerns regarding Medicaid visits for Dental Care. It is alarming how many kids have missed school because of dental issues.

Chairman Egan thanked the Representatives for taking time to attend our meeting and for their input.

Chairman Egan reported that Supervisors Albrecht, Roh and Rasmussen asked to be excused from this meeting.

Correspondence – None.

Discussion: Topics to be discussed at the next Legislative Committee Meeting – Cost of sending juveniles to Lincoln Hills.

Next Meeting Date – To be determined.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Finch to adjourn. Carried by Voice Vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Julie Barthels, Recording Secretary