

Legislative Committee
Monday, March 22, 2010
JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER

Present: Stan Kline, Nancy Barker, Don Griesbach, Bill Wingren, Pat Brennand, Ken Robl, Jim Koziczowski, Tom Widener, David Albrecht, Kathy Lennon, Harvey Rengstorf, Tom Ellis, Patrick O'Brien, Jerry Finch, Jef Hall, and Jo Sievert

Also

Present: Mr. & Mrs. Larry Last, Rob Way – Winnebago County Parks Director, Jerry Bougie – Director of Planning & Zoning, John Maatz, - Captain of Patrol - Sheriff's Department, Michael Brooks – Sheriff, Mark Habeck – Jail Administrator - Sheriff's Department, John Casper – Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Kim Dorsey – MSN Program – UW-Green Bay, State Representative Gordon Hintz

Excused: None

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. P. O'Brien moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting. This was carried by voice vote. Chairman Kline had those present introduce themselves.

#7 DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION AB644 - This resolution is regarding establishing a presumption of infectious diseases in proceedings regarding benefits for certain public safety officers.

Sheriff Brooks talked about the broadness of this legislation – and how far reaching the impact will be if this legislation is passed. Many of the items covered under this resolution can be related back to lifestyle, and not necessarily the job. The other thing with this legislation is that there is no length of service requirement. Discussion followed. H. Rengstorf moved and it was seconded by J. Finch to oppose this legislation. This was carried 14 – 2.

#5 UPDATE ON LEGISLATION SESSION – The final legislation session will be in mid-April – just a few weeks away. There is a scramble to get things done that haven't been dealt with thus far in the session.

Representative Hintz talked with the committee regarding the operating levy limit. With declining property values – there is a possibility of counties being put in a negative situation. There has been a bill introduced to repeal the levy limits that were put in place in the nineties. There will be a hearing held in Madison this week on this matter. Hopefully this can be amended to help out counties who are in a tough place with declining property values.

Mr. Hintz told the committee that Wisconsin gets much of their energy from outside of the state. The GreenJobs initiative is being debated in the Utilities Committee and many changes are being made.

The Badger Care Plus Basic program has a wait list of 25,000 eligible people due to the downturn of the economy. The governor proposed a more limited coverage plan – self funded with a \$130.00 premium. The senate has passed this and the assembly has more questions before they will take a vote on this.

The State of Wisconsin is off around \$215 million dollars. There will be no budget repair bill. Cigarette tax receipts are down – which is good as it may signal that people are smoking less. It is a double edged sword.

Payday loans issue has been passed by the assembly, who is hoping the senate will follow suit. It is unclear at this juncture whether they will or not.

The Raw Milk issue is still up in the air.

#8 DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION OPPOSING AB448 – This resolution relates to the costs of prescription drugs and services for incarcerated persons. The state sets the price of drugs used to prisoners. The Department of Corrections sets the rates, and we have no say or recourse. Winnebago County uses competitive bids to try and control costs. The same formulas or Dr.'s are not being used by Winnebago County and the state. In 2009, the actual prescription medication costs for inmates was just over \$31,000. In 2008, it was just over \$34,000. We have a contracted price for medications and this is a fixed cost. This changes with the changing costs of medications and the contract provider that is chosen.

When you have 72 counties – there are many options. This is really an unfunded mandate from the state. It is felt by the Sheriff that this should be left up to the individual counties. The state sets the costs, however we are unable to buy from the state. Discussion occurred among the committee members. It was moved by J.Finch and seconded to oppose AB448. This was carried 16 – 0 carried by voice vote.

#11 DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION REZONING CONVERSION FEE -

Jerry Bougie told the committee that he is against this resolution. The fee to move out of A1 zoning is sizable. It is 3 times the assessed value of an acre of land – approximately \$750.00 an acre for Winnebago County. This should not be in place until a community has implemented its new zoning ordinances. There are different times set for counties to finish their plans. For Winnebago County it is by the end of 2011. The related zoning ordinances need to be finished by 2012. The county is also allowed to tack on a penalty as well, which Winnebago County has chosen not to do at this point. Discussion followed with the committee.

It was moved by P. Brennand and seconded to oppose this resolution. 16 – 0 Carried by voice vote.

#13 DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SB406/AB598 RELATED TO SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION AND TRAIL USE FEE ADJUSTMENTS –

Parks Director Rob Way told the committee that this bill revolves around a 2 tier system – members of a club pay less than the public not involved in a local club to use state trails. This does create revenue for the local clubs who take care of the trails. Clubs are reimbursed, but many times the clubs are not getting back 100% of what they spend. It stretches the resources of many clubs. Many clubs have experienced a drop in membership. This is an enticement to join a local club. Discussion occurred with the committee. D.Albrecht moved and it was seconded to support this resolution. 15 – 0 carried by voice vote with P. O'Brien absent for the vote.

#9 DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE SB466 – RELATING TO REGULATION OF SELF-INSURED HEALTH PLANS BY THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE –

This bill would regulate self insurance health plans just like the regular health plans. Since most self funded health insurance plans are offered by public entities – it would add on additional costs. They would be policing themselves as well. It is felt that this is unnecessary. J.Finch moved and it was seconded to oppose SB466. Carried 15 – 0 with P. O'Brien being absent for the vote.

#10 DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SB399/AB605 A JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY TO INCREASE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT -

There is money being diverted to counties and many times individual counties have trouble promoting themselves. A joint powers authority would be able to cross county lines and be able to steer money and expertise for economic development. This would be a big help for many smaller counties. This was moved by J. Finch and seconded to support. 15 – 0 with P.O'Brien being absent for the vote. Carried by voice vote.

#12 DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A REPEAL OF THE 1992 RATE LIMITS ON COUNTIES -

This resolution would repeal the rates on counties that were set in 1992. Frugal counties are being penalized if this is not passed. This means that county sales tax could be implemented or services will be cut. Rate limits should be tied to rate of inflation or % of new construction. We are bumping up against the 1992 rate, not the 3% rate more recently implemented. Discussion was held with the committee members. It was moved by J.Hall and seconded. 14 – 2 Carried by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE – There was no correspondence to share with the committee.

NEXT MEETING – Monday, April 26, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 AM.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Nancy Barker
Secretary

Recorded By:
Jean Mahy
County Clerk's Office

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