

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, March 27, 2023
James P. Coughlin Center
625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh

Members Present: 14 – Chuck Farrey, David Albrecht, Steven Binder, Robert Keller, Larry Lautenschlager, Koby Schellenger, Morris Cox, Nate Gustafson, John Hinz, Karen Powers, Ralph Harrison, Bryan Stafford (arrived at 9:26 am), and Tom Snider and Patrick O'Brien (via ZOOM).

*Member Patrick O'Brien attended virtually and could not vote due to the new County Board rule 11.6.

Also Present: Winnebago County Chairman Thomas Egan, Winnebago County Supervisors Jacob Floam and Michael Norton, Bob Doemel (Highway Commissioner), Chad Casper (Land & Water Conservation Department Director), State Representatives Michael Schraa and Dan Feyen; SydneyRose Faestel, District Director for Senator Rachael A. Cabral-Guervara's Office and Chris Grawien representing Glenn Grothman's Office

Present Via Zoom: Mike Elder, Doug Gieryn, Fawn George and L. Palmer

1. Call to Order

Chairman Farrey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Farrey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of minutes of January 9, 2023 meeting

Motion by Supervisor Cox and seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

4. Public Comments

No one from the public addressed the committee.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence.

6. Election of Officers:

Motion by Supervisor Albrecht and seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to nominate Steven Binder for Vice-Chairman of the Legislative Committee. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

7. Discussion/Action: Resolution 38-10-2022 from Jackson County – "Prohibition of Private Funding of Election Administration"

This is an old resolution from last year.

Motion by Supervisor Binder and seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to approve the resolution and bring back to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Member Patrick O'Brien attended virtually and could not vote due to the new County Board rule.

8. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 04-2023 from Green Lake County – "Requesting State of Wisconsin to Use a Portion of the 2023 Budgetary Surplus for the Maintenance, Repair and Replacement of County Trunk Highway System"

Highway Commissioner Bob Doemel stated they could always use extra funding. Any additional funding can always be put into highways.

Motion by Supervisor Cox and seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to approve the resolution and bring back to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Member Patrick O'Brien attended virtually and could not vote due to the new County Board rule.

9. Discussion/Action: Resolution – Urge the Wisconsin Legislature to Provide \$18.7 million in Stable, Core Funding Support for County Conservation Department Staffing

Chairman Farrey mentioned that the State of Wisconsin is currently going through the budget process. The State under Chapter 92 provides funding for our Land & Water Conservation Department staff. This resolution primarily

is requesting full funding to support staffing. He stated the funding for the Land & Water Conservation Departments has been provided by state law but at an amount less than the law provides for. This resolution is to get adequate funding for the directors of the departments and other staff. That is what this resolution is all about. This resolution is urging Legislature to provide \$18.7 million which would fund staffing to full capacity level.

Chad Casper, Land & Water Conservation Department Director briefly explained what this resolution would mean to Winnebago County's Land & Water Conservation Department. The current 2023 funding is \$11.7 million for Land & Water Conservation Departments for the whole State of Wisconsin. This would equate to be \$185,000 for Winnebago County's Land & Water Conservation Departments staffing. If this was fully funded at \$18.7 million, it would be about \$400,000 for our department. That would fund the 1st position at 100%, the 2nd position at 70% and the other positions within the department at 50% each. The Land & Water Conservation Department is short-handed for staff so projects will still take 10-15 years.

Motion by Tom Snider and seconded by Supervisor Powers to approve the resolution and bring back to the County Board. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Member Patrick O'Brien attended virtually and could not vote due to the new County Board rule.

10. Discussion/Action: State of Wisconsin 2023 Bill – AN ACT to create 46.281 (1n)(bm) of the statutes; relating to: requiring allowance for health care providers to refer individuals to aging and disability resource centers for options counseling.

Motion by Larry Lautenschlager and seconded by Supervisor Powers to bring to floor.

This is not a bill and it is being circulated yet.

Motion by Supervisor Gustafson and seconded to table until next meeting which will take place on Monday, May 22, 2023. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

11. Discuss proposed State and Federal Legislation from the Legislative Committee members

None

12. Discuss Proposed / Potential State Legislation as Presented by Local Legislators and Committee Members

13. Update from County Executive Jon Doemel

County Executive Jon Doemel was not present.

14. Update from State Legislators

Senator Dan Feyen – District 18:

- There is a lot of legislation that is pending out there.
- The big thing is talk about budget. They want to take a deeper look at education. They've been meeting with a lot of people, what do they want to see in the budget?
- Shared revenue and to increase that for municipalities. Some townships are not even and would like to try to equal that out.
- Getting rid of personal property tax and fixing Milwaukee pension system are a couple of other items that were discussed.
- The Joint Finance Committee will be having 4 listening sessions next week in Waukesha, Eau Claire, WI Dells and Minocqua. If interested, anyone can submit comments on-line.

Representative Michael Schraa – District 53:

- There is not a lot to add as Senator Feyen stated.
- It has been slower for potential bills to move along.
- He is still working on increasing starting wage for correction officers. There are 7 facilities that are at a 40% vacant rate, very short-staffed. They need to get the starting wage up so they can recruit better.
- Another topic being discussed is townships and shared revenue and how they could address that.
- Representative Schraa has concerns that solar farms are purchasing many acres of farmland. Big companies are making attractive offers to lease land.
- Medical Marijuana Bill. They are working on language for that. There is some interest in Senate to move forward depending on the language used.

Representative Nate Gustafson – District 55:

- Trouble in workforce, a crisis in all levels.
- Listening session in Neenah and Fox Crossing on 04/15/2023.

15. Update from Federal Representatives

Congressman Glenn Grothman – 6th Congressional District:

- Chris Grawien, representative for Glenn Grothman, stated that the Congressman sends his regards. He is in Washington D.C. this week.
- In January 2023, the House of Representatives switched from Democrat to Republican control.
- Major focus is inflation, energy prices and immigration.
- Currently in budget session. In May or June they will see where they are. There is too much spending in Federal government. The average spending was 4 trillion in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, 8 trillion was spent each year. Our normal right now is 7-7 ½ trillion. This is creating an issue. Money is not worth what it used to be and doesn't go as far as it used to.
- Need to bring back some fiscal restraint to help cool things off a bit.
- Introduced Able Bodies without Dependence (ABOD).
- Tighten up on Immigration.

16. Topics to be discussed at next Legislative Committee Meeting

- Resolutions from other counties referred from County Board
- State of Wisconsin 2023 Bill – AN ACT *to create* 46.281 (1n)(bm) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring allowance for health care providers to refer individuals to aging and disability resource centers for options counseling.

17. Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting will take place on Monday, May 22, 2023 at 8:30 am.

18. Adjourn

Motion by Supervisor Albrecht and seconded to adjourn. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cassie J. Smith-Gregor
Winnebago County Deputy Clerk