

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, May 24, 2021

Virtual – Winnebago County Administration Building
112 Otter Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901

Present: Thomas Egan, David Albrecht, Steven Binder, Tom Ellis, Chuck Farrey, Maribeth Gabert, Robert Keller, Tom Konetzke, Larry Lautenschlager, Michael Norton, Patrick O'Brien, Vicki Schorse, Tom Snider, Robert Warnke, and Bill Wingren.

Also Present: Jennifer Garner – District Director for Representative Tammy Baldwin; Alan Ott – District Director for Representative Glenn Grothman; Representative Michael Schraa; Jon Doemel – County Executive; John Casper – Oshkosh Area Chamber of Commerce; Melissa Pingel – Winnebago County Clerk of Courts; Doug Gieryn – Director of Public Health; Chad Casper - Director of Land and Water Conservation; Jim Schell – Winnebago County Airport Director; Niki Euhardy – Policy and Equity Coordinator, Winnebago County Public Health; Kate Hancock-Cooke; Pat Hallquist; Linda Gardner; and 3 County Residents

Excused: Steve Lenz and Joel Rasmussen

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

Motion by Supervisor Wingren and seconded by Supervisor Norton to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2021 meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Public Comments:

Pat Hallquist - Oshkosh and Kate Hancock-Cooke – Neenah, spoke in support of the resolution urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

Correspondence:

None.

Discussion: Status of the Lincoln Hills Correction Facilities

Chairman Egan asked for updates on the status of Lincoln Hills. Representative Schraa reported that during Governor Walker's last term, he wanted to close Lincoln Hills. The Joint Finance Committee, during their last session, appropriated \$80 million to close Lincoln Hills and to build a Type 1 Facility and several Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCs). The committee would like to see the SRCCs built all around the state so the youth could be closer to their homes. The plan was to close Lincoln Hills by July 1, 2021, and then rejuvenate that facility into an Adult and Other Drug Abuse treatment facility. Everything is currently at a standstill due to Department of Correction administrative rules regarding Lincoln Hills and other issues. Representative Schraa then took questions from the committee.

Discussion/Action: Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Norton to bring this resolution forward from the last Legislative Committee meeting. Representative Schraa voiced concern regarding this resolution, that it will have a huge impact on taxes for small businesses. Supervisor Norton would like to see this resolution forwarded to the full county board for a vote. After more discussion, this resolution will be forwarded to the full county board. Vote on Resolution: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. ABSTAIN: 1 – Farrey.

Discussion/Action: Resolution opposing the Proposed Changes by the Wisconsin Legislature to the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program – Winnebago County Land Conservation Committee

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

Discussion/Action: Resolution - Support for Achieving Base Funding Goal for County Conservation Staffing

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

Discussion/Action: Resolution – In Recognition of Mark Harris for his Outstanding Contributions to the Long-Term Vitality and Security of Winnebago County

Motion by Supervisor Snider and seconded by Supervisor Farrey to forward this resolution to the full County Board. After discussion, motion by Supervisor Schorse and seconded by Supervisor Gabert to table this resolution with the intent to refer this resolution to the County Board Chairman and the Personnel and Finance Committee. Vote to Refer: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. NAYES: Snider and Ellis.

Discuss proposed State and Federal Legislation from the Legislative Committee members

Supervisor Farrey requested support for funding of \$13 million for the base funding goal for county conservation staffing. Representative Schraa asked to have this resolution e-mailed to him.

Supervisor Schorse inquired about projections for State revenues. If there was a decrease in State Income Tax, how would it affect State Income Tax revenues. Representative Schraa stated that the State's revenue looks promising at this point.

Update from County Executive Jon Doemel

County Executive Jon Doemel reported on the following issues:

- 980 Sex Offenders – Executive Doemel has been working hard on this issue. Another offender will be released soon. This will be the fourth one released to Winnebago County. The Supervised Release Committee is discussing the possible construction of a three-unit miniplex instead of more mobile homes. The committee would like to see the two offenders that are located in the Town of Wolf River re-located closer to the Sheriff's Department.
- Watch and Learn Mode – Executive Doemel is currently in a watch and learn mode to find out what is happening in and with Winnebago County. He is meeting with the Department Heads of Winnebago County.

Update from State Legislators:

Representative Michael Schraa – District 53:

- Joint Finance and Executive Sessions have started. Executive Sessions are held every week.
- Current budget motions that have been submitted:
 - Providing an increase in wages to Waupun Correctional Institute employees. They are at 45% employee vacancy rate.
 - Provide an increase of \$5.00 add-on bonus to those employees willing to work overtime at Waupun Correctional Institute.
 - Provide an award for the length of service that an employee works at Correctional Facilities.
 - Award UW-Oshkosh \$27 million for the Clow Addition to benefit the nursing program
 - Provide additional funds for day by day warming shelters across the state, the state would match funds that the municipality incurs.
 - Update the WisComm Program that provides police, fire and rescue communication abilities for the whole state.
- Items that Representative Schraa is currently working on:
 - Bill regarding Chapter 51 – Developmental disabilities and mental health act. Currently someone that has been arrested or hospitalized can only be held for 48 hours, Representative Schraa would like to change the holding time.
 - SB 100 – Relating to battery or threat to a probation, extended supervision, and parole agent; a community supervision agent; or an aftercare agent or a family member of the agent and providing a penalty. This bill would be amended to include a Class H felony if a family member of the agent is harmed or threatened in any way.
 - SB 236 – Relating to directing the federal COVID recovery rebates received by prisoners. This bill would require that any federal COVID recovery rebates received by a person who is incarcerated in this state must be used to pay any restitution the person has been ordered to pay.
 - AB 211 - Flying Drones over Correction Facilities – Verbiage in this bill currently does not include the following: "without the express authorization of the secretary of corrections or his or her designee".
 - Hearing regarding Manage Care Organizations – this includes the Lakeland Care District in Winnebago County. Providers have reached out to representatives voicing concerns that they are being treated unfairly. The state will be auditing these organizations in the near future.

- Election Integrity Process – Working on the process that Special Voting Deputies use to assist the elderly voters with voting. Working on a bill regarding Indefinitely Confined Voters. Voiced concerns of ballot harvesting and limiting monies being accepted from outside companies for elections in Dane, Milwaukee and Brown Counties.
- Governor Evers has called for a special session for the Legislature to vote on the expansion Medicaid for Wisconsin.
- Representative Schraa encouraged Supervisors to write letters or e-mail their representatives to have them attend and represent their districts at Legislative Committee meetings.

Update from Federal Representatives:

Jennifer Garner, District Director—Senator Tammy Baldwin

- Committees that Senator Baldwin is involved with:
 - Appropriations Committee
 - Agriculture Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies
 - Commerce, Science and Transportation
 - Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change and Manufacturing
 - Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
 - Career and Technical Educational Caucus
- Senator Baldwin is supportive of the American Rescue Plan:
 - Small Business Recovery
 - American Job Plans
 - American Family Plans
 - Transportation and Housing – Workforce needs
- Bills that Senator Baldwin is supporting:
 - "Made in America and by America" – spending tax dollars in the United States, not over seas
 - Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act
 - Child Welfare Workforce Support Act – High turnover rate
 - Stop Fentanyl Act
 - LifeBoat Act – Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Transportation Planning – to transport workers to and from work
 - Partner's Act – resources to fund apprenticeships, support to small and medium size businesses
 - Raise Standard for Infrastructure

Alan Ott, District Director—Congressman Glenn Grothman

- Congressman Grothman took his 7th trip to the United States and Mexican border.
- End Sanctuary Cities Act – this affects immigration issues
- Jobs Report – disappointed regarding the level of unemployment; employers struggling to find employees; this is affecting bars, restaurants and tourism as well as other things
- Appropriations Season: goal is to pass 12 appropriation bills each year to provide the framework for the budget
- Bi-Partisan Amendment to tackle Invasive Species Problem

Topics to be discussed at next Legislative Committee Meeting – Chairman Egan stated that any topics for the Legislative Committee should be forwarded to him or the County Clerk's office.

Next Meeting Date – No meetings in June or July.

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Konezke to adjourn. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Julie Barthels, Recording Secretary