

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, August 28, 2017

James P. Coughlin Center

Present: Tom Egan, Jerry Finch, Robert Keller, Bill Roh, Ken Robl, Larry Smith, Tom Snider, Robert Warnke and Bill Wingren

Also Present: Representative Gordon Hintz, Representative Mike Rohrkaste, Representative Amanda Stuck, and Representative from Senator Tammy Baldwin's office Jennifer Garner, President/CEO Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce John Casper

Excused: Supervisors Eisen, Ellis, Albrecht, Rasmussen and Farrey.

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 Robl to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2017 meeting. Carried by Voice Vote.

Public Comments: None

Discussion/Action regarding Burnett County Resolution #2017-07, Walworth County Resolution #14-05/17 and Shawano County Resolution #40-17 - Resolution recommending Change in Unemployment Compensation Rules

This resolution was discussed and voted on at the June 26, 2017 Legislative meeting. Shawano County sent a resolution in support of this matter. It was voted to postpone indefinitely at the June meeting and the decision of the committee was to leave as postponed.

Discussion/Action regarding Jackson County Resolution #18-5-2017, St. Croix County Resolution #20 (2017), Outagamie County Resolution #14-2017-18, Wood County Resolution #17-7-7, Chippewa County Resolution 16-17, Forest County Resolution #20-2017 and Portage County Resolution #138-2016-2018 - Resolution Supporting Creation of a Nonpartisan Procedure for the Preparation of Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Plans

This resolution was discussed and voted on at the County Board level and the June 26, 2017 Legislative meeting. Outagamie, Wood, Chippewa, Forest and Portage Counties sent resolutions supporting this issue. At the June Legislative meeting it was voted on to pull this resolution from this committee. The decision of the committee to leave as pulled; a resolution regarding this matter was presented to the full County Board and lost at that level.

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution #3-2017-18 and Door County Resolution #2017-51 - Resolution requesting full funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Door County sent this resolution supporting it. This resolution had been forwarded to the full County Board.

Discussion/Action regarding Door County Resolution No. 2017-43 – Resolution regarding Recount Reform

This resolution is regarding who is responsible for paying for a recount, the taxpayers or the candidate. It also includes the number of days to request a recount. Motion by Supervisor Snider and seconded by Supervisor Finch to leave as is for now. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Door County Resolution No. 2017-49 – Resolution in Opposition to the Aquila Resources, Inc. Proposed Back Forty Mine Project

Motion by Supervisor Snider and seconded by Supervisor Smith to support this resolution. Vote on Resolution: AYES - 2; NAYES – 5; ABSTAIN - 2. FAILED.

Discussion/Action regarding Door County Resolution No. 2017-52 – Resolution to Maintain Funding for the Coastal Management Program

Motion by Supervisor Wingren and seconded by Supervisor Robl to table indefinitely. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. NAYES: 1 – Snider

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution No. 12-2017-18 – Resolution opposing any Legislation proposing the selling of the current Green Bay Correctional Institution and building a new, privately-owned facility

Motion by Supervisor Snider and seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve. After discussion, this motion was withdrawn. Motion by Supervisor Smith and seconded by Supervisor Keller to postpone until further information is given. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution No. 13-2017-18 and Wood County Resolution #17-7-6 – Resolution urging the Legislature to support Wisconsin workers by opposing the repeal of Wisconsin’s prevailing wage law

Motion by Supervisor Wingren and seconded by Supervisor Robl to table indefinitely. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution No. 18-2017-18 – Resolution supporting proposed legislation permitting inmates confined to county jails, county houses of correction, or tribal jails under a Department of Corrections contract to leave the facility to participate in employment-related activities or other approved programs designated by the Department of Corrections in its contract with the local unit of government

Motion by Supervisor Smith and seconded by Supervisor Snider to approve. After discussion, the original motion was withdrawn and this will be postponed until the next meeting. Representative Rohrkaste, along with his staff, will check into this and report back to this committee.

Discussion/Action regarding Outagamie County Resolution No. 19-2017-19 – Resolution supporting proposed Legislation to allow a person, meeting certain requirements, to file a petition for expungement with the sentencing court

Motion by Supervisor Snider and seconded by Supervisor Smith to approve. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

NAYES: 2 – Wingren and Roh.

Discussion regarding Dementia Care Specialist Funding

Representative Rohrkaste reported that in the budget proposed by the Governor, the funding for the existing specialist would end at the end of this year. This funding has been extended and expanded. The target is to extend this to rural areas.

Update from County Executive Mark Harris

County Executive, Mark Harris, is in budget sessions and not able to attend this meeting.

Update from State Legislators:

Representative Mike Rohrkaste reported that the budget process is back in service. The Joint Finance Committee will be discussing K-12 and hope to make proposals soon. There are concerns regarding the level of borrowing versus revenue. There will be compromises in many areas. Representative Rohrkaste reported the state property tax and the forestry tax were repealed and this will be funded using GPR which will decrease property tax. He feels that there will be increased funding for K-12; there will be an increase in income requirement for school choice; and they are looking for ways to allow rural districts to increase their tax levies to aid the schools. Representative Rohrkaste reported on Fox Conn. He feels this will be beneficial for the State of Wisconsin.

Representative Gordon Hintz reported that discussions have been held regarding the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Trade and Consumer Protection departments. He discussed cuts to Land and Water. It is proposed that the week of September 11, the Legislators and Senators would meet to finalize the budget. The Governor would like to see it signed by September 22. Representative Hintz touched on the Dark Store issue, a bi-partisan bill will be proposed. He feels this will be brought back to the Counties and hopes they will support this.

Representative Amanda Stuck reported on her concerns regarding Fox Conn and hopes there will be some changes before it moves forward. She is working on a bi-partisan caucus, hoping to get millennials to work together.

Update from Federal Legislators:

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

- Concern of Increase in Prescription Drug Pricing
- Allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug cost and coverage
- Allowing people to buy into Medicare by ages 55 - 64

- To stabilize health insurance cost
- Push back and restore transportation budget items that have been eliminated
- Allowing community banks to meet less stringent requirements
- Workforce Development Issues – Boosting apprenticeships
- Stricter rules for prescribing opiate medicines
- Accountability for health care for Veterans
- Protecting Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The Committee wishes to thank all the representatives that attend the Legislative meetings.

Correspondence – None.

Next Meeting Date – To be determined.

Motion by Supervisor Finch and seconded by Supervisor Snider to adjourn. Carried by Voice Vote.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Julie Barthels, Recording Secretary