

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, October 25, 2021
James P. Coughlin Center
625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh

Present: Supervisors Thomas Egan, David Albrecht, Tom Ellis, Chuck Farrey, Robert Keller, Tom Konetzke, Larry Lautenschlager, Michael Norton and Tom Snider.

Also Present: Representative Michael Schraa; Jon Doemel – County Executive; Ethan Hollenberger; John Casper – Oshkosh Area Chamber of Commerce; Doug Gieryn – Director of Public Health; Bill Topel – Director of Human Services; Jennifer Ruetten – Winnebago County Information Systems; Adam Breest – Winnebago County Parks Director; Supervisors Don Nussbaum and Steve Binder.

Excused: Supervisors Vicki Schorse, Steve Lenz, Joel Rasmussen, Pat O'Brien and Maribeth Gabert.

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 Ellis and seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 meeting. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Public Comments:

Bill Roh, 1555 Lyon Drive, Neenah – spoke in opposition of item number 8 - "Discussion/Action: Draft a Resolution from the Winnebago County Board to the Wisconsin Legislature Requesting a Full Forensic Audit of the 2020 Election".

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Chairman Egan reported that a member of the committee, Supervisor Wingren, has requested to be able to phone in his concerns on item number 8 on the agenda. After checking with Corporation Counsel, this is allowable. Supervisor Mike Norton noted that he does not support the ruling regarding allowing a member of the committee the ability to call in and not allowing the public to call in. Winnebago County Board Rule 9.15 states that the member of the committee is able to call in for discussion, but cannot make a motion or vote on the resolution, if the meeting is in-person.

Discussion/Action: Support State Financial Support to the Multiple Counties who Provide Navigational Buoys

Adam Breest, Winnebago County Parks Director, was asked by his committee to present this to the Legislative Committee. Winnebago County spends between \$50,000.00 and \$60,000 to install and remove buoys from Lake Winnebago. Senator Roger Roth is proposing to provide funding for the buoys on the Lake Winnebago system. The monies would come from the recreational boating grant fund, an arm of the Stewardship Fund. This fund does support other capital projects. Grundman boat launch could qualify for this funding. The Park & Recreation Committee voted 5 – 0 in support of this resolution. A resolution would be drafted and presented to the full County Board.

Motion by Supervisor Lautenschlager, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to support this resolution. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. NAYES: 1 – Albrecht.

Discussion: ARPA in Winnebago County – Overview and Opportunities for Planning and Collaboration

Doug Gieryn, Public Health Director, along with Niki Euhardy, Policy & Equity Coordinator and Alana Erickson, Healthy Lifespan Supervisor provided an overview of ARPA funds.

Niki Euhardy explained what ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) is and what it can and can't be used for. This was signed in to law in March of 2021. It was allocated to aid municipalities throughout the nation. She provided key dates for deadlines to utilize this money. The Public Health Department can provide information regarding ARPA. Ms. Euhardy touched on the many items that this ARPA money can be used for.

Doug Gieryn commented on the importance of making sure this money is allocated wisely and that basic needs are met for the people who need it.

Alana Erickson commented on reports from 2019 where focus work is needed to benefit children and learning processes and to be able to screen children before they enter school to see their learning levels. Ms. Erickson touched on programs that are already in place and how they are improving them. The State is considering using the Fox Valley program for the whole state.

Mr. Gieryn, Ms. Euhardy and Ms. Erickson then took questions from the committee.

Discussion/Action: Draft a Resolution from the Winnebago County Board to the Wisconsin Legislature Requesting a Full Forensic Audit of the 2020 Election (At this point in the meeting, Supervisor Bill Wingren attended via telephone to participate in the discussion of this agenda item.)

Supervisor Don Nussbaum asked to have this item brought to the Legislative Committee. Supervisor Nussbaum hoped to address this to Representative Cabral-Guevara to find out the status of the full forensic audit. Motion by Supervisor Norton, seconded by Supervisor Keller to dismiss this item from the agenda. Supervisor Farrey noted that retired Judge Gableman is studying the election process. Supervisor Farrey asked to amend Supervisor Norton's motion to table this item until further information is available, motion seconded by Supervisor Konetzke. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. NAYES: 2 – Norton and Lautenschlager. Motion to table: CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action: Eau Claire County and Wood County; Resolution Requesting the State of Wisconsin Strengthen its Hate Crime Statute

Supervisor Norton inquired about having resolutions from other Counties referred to the committee of jurisdiction before being brought to the Legislative Committee.

Motion by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager, to refer this agenda item to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action: Washington County, Waupaca County and Waushara County; Advisory Resolution Supporting Legislation to Provide an Increase in Criminal and Ordinance Violation Surcharge

Supervisor Farrey voiced his opinion regarding this matter. He feels that the current system is severe enough, that it should not be increased.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Norton, to table this agenda item indefinitely. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action: Washington County, Waupaca County and Waushara County; Advisory Resolution Supporting Legislation to Remove Requirement for Duplicate Copies of a Transcript for Application of a Search Warrant

This agenda item is already a law. It was pulled from the agenda.

Discussion/Action: Barron County and Door County; Resolution Requesting Elimination of Badger Care Eligibility Cliff

Motion by Supervisor Norton, seconded by Supervisor Lautenschlager, to bring this item forward. Dr. Bill Topel, Human Services Director commented on this item. Chairman Egan pulled this item from the agenda.

Discussion/Action: Polk County

- **Resolution Authorizing the Lobbying of the Wisconsin State Legislature to Increase Funding to the Attorney General for Drug Crime Prosecution**
- **Resolution Authorizing the Lobbying of the Wisconsin State Legislature to Create Community-based Inpatient and Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities**
- **Resolution Authorizing the Lobbying of the Wisconsin State Legislature to Create a State Substance Abuse Database**

Motion by Supervisor Lautenschlager, seconded by Supervisor Snider, to bring forward. After discussion, motion by Supervisor Norton, seconded by Supervisor Konetzke, to refer all resolutions from Polk County to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion/Action: Brown County Resolution in Support of Legislative Changes to Wis. Stat. Ch. 980 – Supervised Release

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

Discussion/Action: Chippewa County Resolution to Request the Wisconsin Counties Association to Address Clean Water Issues as a Matter of Statewide Concern at the 2021 Annual Conference

Motion by Supervisor Farrey to withdraw this item from the agenda. Chairman Egan withdrew this item from the agenda.

Discuss proposed State and Federal Legislation from the Legislative Committee members

Supervisor Snider updated the committee on the CVSO (County Veteran Service Officers) Act. This Act has been presented in both houses and had its first hearing. The National Association of County Veteran Service Officers is moving forward with this act and supports it.

Discuss proposed/potential State Legislation as presented by Local Legislators and Committee members

Nothing was discussed.

Update from County Executive Jon Doemel

County Executive Jon Doemel reported that he is planning to have Wisconsin Counties Association attend and speak at the November County Board meeting in regarding to ARPA and Strategic Planning.

Update from State Legislator:

Representative Michael Schraa – District 53:

- On the floor for the fall session – 25 bills will be brought forward. With the divided government, there are not many of the bills that will become law.
- Right to Life Bill will be brought forward. Representative Schraa feels this will be vetoed.
- State of Affairs – Redistricting bill will be discussed. With the changes to the Assembly district, Representative Schraa will lose the Town of Eldorado and the Town of Lamartine. He picks up the Town of Winneconne and the Town of Poygan. He noted that the Legislative lines were drawn differently this time and that there is already talk of “gerrymandering”.
- Presidential Election Process – Representative Schraa feels the 2020 Presidential Election was stolen. He voiced concerns regarding the way voters were able to claim to be indefinitely confined, the way absentee voting was handled in Milwaukee, Dane and Brown Counties, the discrepancy between the WisVote system and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation pertaining to addresses, and the “Zuckerberg” donations.
- Bills that will be brought forward:
 - Age 17 bill – feels that 17-year olds should not be tried as adults
 - Lincoln Hill Funding Bill
 - Correction Facilities – feels that wages need to be increased if a facility is operating at less than 40% employee level.

Representative Schraa then took questions from the Committee.

Update from Federal Representatives:

No representatives were present.

Topics to be discussed at next Legislative Committee Meeting – Supervisor Norton would like to discuss having resolutions from other counties go first to the committee of jurisdiction before coming to the Legislative Committee.

Next Meeting Date – No meeting until January, 2022.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to adjourn. CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Julie Barthels, Recording Secretary