

**Legislative Committee**  
**April 22, 2013**  
**JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER**

Present: Pat Brennand, Bill Wingren, Nancy Barker, Jerry Finch, Pat O'Brien, Ken Robl, Bill Roh, James Kozokowski, Tom Ellis, Tim Hamblin, Larry Smith, and Robert Warnke

Also

Present: State Representatives Gordon Hintz, Michael Schraa, and Dean Kaufert, State Senator Rick Gudex, Supervisor Paul Eisen, John Casper – Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Julie Pagel – Register of Deeds, Mark Harris – Winnebago County Executive, Manny Vasquez – Senator Johnson's Office.

Excused: David Albrecht and Chuck Farrey

Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Brennand had those present at the meeting introduce themselves.

K. Robl motioned to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2013 meeting. This motion was seconded. Carried by voice vote.

**UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:**

Senator Gudex told the committee that the budget is in full swing. The Joint Finance Committee will start deliberating this week on the budget. There will be many changes from the Governor's proposed budget. This will be Senator Gudex's first budget hearing, so he not exactly sure how everything will work.

He told the committee that he has been going to all the correctional facilities and all the nursing home facilities in his district. He was at Park View Health Center last week and was quite impressed. He is also going to the School Boards in his area. He and his office are very busy answering letters and phone calls. Discussion with committee followed.

Representative Kaufert discussed with the committee the budget process. He told the committee that the Finance Committee will do most of the work for the state budget. He is hoping the budget will be done by the middle of June. Mr. Kaufert stated that the State is in better shape than previously thought.

Mr. Kaufert talked about the Milwaukee County Board legislation that is coming before the State Legislature. The Milwaukee County Board is broken. They have been treated differently – which has caused problem for other boards.

Representative Kaufert about the UW Systems "found" money. Discussion occurred about no one having a handle on their budget. Much of the extra money is in grants, gifts and federal money, which the Legislature cannot touch.

The Lac du Flambeau Tribe has invited Representative Kaufert up to meet with them over the sparring issues and their culture.

Representative Gordon Hintz told the committee that one of the big items in the budget is school funding and the school voucher issue. Mr. Hintz feels many people do not understand the voucher issue. The debt service is another big issue.

Representative Hintz told the committee that UW needs to be more accountable with their finances.

Regarding the Milwaukee County Board – the final vote has been delayed until May. They have many problems and challenges. There are many ways these can be solved, but the problems are theirs to fix.

Representative Schraa told the committee that there is tremendous waste, fraud and abuse in the Unemployment Insurance. During the last five meetings 33 reforms were presented to the board. At this point, maybe half of the reforms have been accepted. In 2012, there was \$25 million worth of fraud. This was found with 4 part time people. The board has until May to respond to the reforms presented to them. The Legislature ultimately has control over the Advisory Council.

Mr. Schraa discussed with the committee the DNR Stewardship Program. The DNR is given money to purchase private property for the State of Wisconsin. 18% of the land in the State of Wisconsin is owned by the county, state or federal government. Right now, there is \$987 million bonded for this program, with future bonding authority of \$1.3 billion. It is costing the State of Wisconsin \$1.7 million dollars a week in holding costs.

The Department of Corrections wants \$7 million for a GPS Tracking System. Rep. Schraa has concerns about this program. He is putting together a blue ribbon study panel to try and create a pilot program for treatment of non-violent offenders. Hopefully this will reduce some of the incarcerated numbers. There are 12,900 people incarcerated in Wisconsin.

Mr. Schraa told the committee that the Department of Transportation has asked for \$196 million to build a new building. He would be surprised if this request goes through.

Manny Vasquez from Senator Ron Johnson's Office told the committee that the hot issue at the federal level is gun control. 2 of 9 amendments offered on gun control have passed. One is to prohibit the sharing of private gun ownership information. The other amendment is awareness and prevention, and detection of mental health awareness. Calls to Senator Johnson's office is heavily negative on gun control.

There is an effort to ask the FAA to find the cuts for controllers somewhere else in the budget. 60% of the cut the FAA has to make is coming from air traffic controller program and only 5% from the rest of the agency.

Discussion was held with all the legislators and the committee.

Executive Harris discussed with the committee that Child Support enforcement cut of \$1.2 million. Since there is a 2 for 1 match from the federal government for child support enforcement, we will lose money coming into the county for enforcement.

100% of nursing home losses are reimbursed from the federal government. The money is passed along through the state, which skims off 70% for other Medicaid eligible programs. This leaves only 30% for the nursing homes. The counties would like to see the skim reduced.

#### SUPPORT THE AMENDING CHAPTER 706.05 OF WISCONSIN STATE STATUTES – Julie Pagel-Register of Deeds

This is a request for a resolution to be brought to the County Board for mandatory recording of mortgage assignments. Mortgages can be sold multiple times and these are not recorded in the Register of Deeds Office. Ms Pagel would like to see the law changed to make it mandatory to record the mortgage assignments. Smaller banks and title companies in the area support this request. This would help ensure clear property titles. After discussion, B. Wingren moved and J. Finch seconded the motion to take this resolution to the County Board. This was CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

At this time – an election of the officers for the Legislative Committee took place.

Pat O'Brien nominated Pat Brennand for Chairman. This was seconded by J. Finch.

Nominations for Chairman were closed. P. Brennand was voted in as Chairman.

Nominations for Vice Chair. B. Wingren nominated Tom Ellis. This was seconded by J. Finch.

Nominations for Vice Chair were closed. T. Ellis was voted as Vice Chair.

The next meeting will be on June 24, 2013. There will be no meeting in May due to the Memorial Day holiday.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 am

Respectfully Submitted By:  
Bill Wingren  
Secretary

Recorded By:  
Jean Mahy  
County Clerk's Office