

Legislative Committee
March 23, 2015
JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER

Present: Bill Wingren, Jerry Finch, Tom Ellis, Ken Robl, Paul Eisen, Larry Smith, Tom Egan, Tom Widener, Robert Warnke and David Albrecht

Also

Present: Jackie Trudell – Congressman Glenn Grothman’s Office, Senator Rick Gudex, Bill Kloiber – Senator Roger Roth’s Office, Mark Harris – County Executive, Ernie Winters – Highway Commissioner, Morgan Hinkley – Park View Health Center Director, Rob Way – Parks Director, Bill Topel – Human Services Director, Jim Koziczowski – Human Services Board, Nancy Barker, Tom Snider, Kenn Olson and Mike Norton

Excused: Chuck Farrey and Bill Roh, State Representative Mike Schraa – 53rd District, State Representative Gordon Hintz – 54th District, State Representative Mike Rohrkaste – 55TH District, Representative Dave Murphy – 56th District and State Representative Amanda Stuck – 57th District,

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Bill Wingren. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Introductions were made of all members present.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded by Tom Ellis to approve the minutes from February 23, 2015. Supervisor Eisen requested to have excused and absent members included with the minutes, and he questioned verbiage used for minutes regarding the universities. Motion Carried by Voice Vote.

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE SUPPORT OF TAP FUNDING

Rob Way, Winnebago County Parks Director, presented a resolution regarding TAP funding and the effect it will have if removed from the Governor’s budget. If this resolution is approved by the County Board it will be forwarded to the Joint Finance Committee. Mr. Way went into detail regarding this resolution. He feels removal of funding for this would be detrimental for the county as well as the municipalities. The stewardship programming allows properties to be purchased to continue trails.

Senator Gudex reported that Stewardship costs the taxpayers \$228,000.00 per day.

Supervisor Eisen questioned whether the resolution should be split in to two parts, making the Stewardship and the TAP program two separate items.

Motion by Supervisor Finch and seconded by Supervisor Norton to approve the resolution as is and forward it to the County Board. Motion by Supervisor Smith and seconded by Supervisor Widener to amend the resolution by removing paragraph #7 – “Whereas, the Governor’s budget would essentially eliminate the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund which works to purchase and protect land for future generations” and wording in the last paragraph – “and restoring the funding for the Stewardship Fund”. The amended motion was Carried by Voice Vote. Nays: 1 – Finch. Vote on the Resolution with Amendment: Carried by Voice Vote. Nays: 1 – Eisen.

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE MOVE OF 17 YEAR OLDS BACK IN THE JUVENILE SYSTEM

Supervisor Tom Widener commented on his feelings regarding this Resolution. Wisconsin is one of nine states where 17 year olds are tried in adult court. Over 10,000 17 year olds are tried in the adult system each year and Supervisor Widener feels depending on the severity of the crime that was committed, it affects their lives and their futures drastically. Mr. Widener stated that this resolution would not be brought to the State level until this fall. Discussion on the cost of this program ensued. If a juvenile is tried as an adult, the cost is at the state level. If tried as a juvenile, the cost would be at the county level. Bill Topel, Human Services Director, reported that 1 social worker is required per juvenile. Currently each social worker is responsible for 20 juveniles. He feels if this is put in to place, they would need to add at least two more social workers.

Motion by Supervisor Norton and seconded by Supervisor Smith to refer this back to the Human Services Committee. AYES: 6, NAYES: 6. Motion Failed.

Motion by Supervisor Widener and seconded to approve and forward this resolution to the County Board. AYES: 2, NAYES: 6, ABSTAIN: 4. Motion Failed.

**RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO WISCONSIN'S CURRENT LONG TERM CARE SYSTEM
(ADRC, FAMILY CARE AND IRIS AND SENIORCARE)**

Supervisor Mike Norton reported on the changes and possible elimination of the programs related to the long term care system.

Jim Koziczkowski, Human Services Board, has been involved with Lakeland Care District since 1995. A system was developed by Governor Tommy Thompson that was very beneficial for the people receiving the benefits, and at the same time, economical for the state and taxpayers. With the current budget, there is a provision that would expand Family Care to the entire state which could provide a \$14 million dollar savings. If Family Care gets expanded to the entire state, and nothing else happens, there is a caveat in the budget that after the State goes to Family Care, it would be dissolved and given to insurance companies.

Senator Rick Gudex feels this will be removed from the budget for this year; he feels there are too many questions that are unanswered regarding this matter.

Supervisor Paul Eisen would like to see this resolution divided into four separate units.

Motion by Supervisor Smith and seconded by Supervisor Olson to approve and forward this resolution to the County Board. AYES: 10, NAYES: 0. Motion Carried.

PARK VIEW HEALTH CENTER CONCERNS OF STATE BUDGET

Morgan Hinkley, Park View Health Center Director, voiced her concern regarding the budget and the cuts to nursing home services. The proposed budget fails to allow sort increase for nursing home care and fails to include an acuity rate adjustment. Ms. Hinkley provided statistics for how many nursing homes would be affected by these cuts and the percentage of residents that are currently funded by medical assistance. She commented that money generated from tax money that was supposed to go nursing homes has been portioned to other areas of the state budget. Ms. Hinkley urged support of this resolution for the return of the bed tax scale.

Chairman Wingren announced that the committee could not act on this resolution, but encouraged sending it back to the Park View Committee for a few wording changes. After that it could be brought back to the Legislative Committee.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

State Senator Rick Gudex represents District 18. Senator Gudex reported that at this time the budget is very fluid and he invites any concerns regarding the budget. He said this is the Governor's budget, not the Legislators, and he expects many changes.

Senator Gudex is part of a study committee relating to TIF Districts. He stated that eight pieces of legislation have been brought forward from this study.

Senator Gudex commented on the 24/7 program and the Safe Streets program. He has conversed with Joe Yana and plans to take pieces of these programs hoping to have them funded statewide. Mr. Gudex appreciates the support that he received from committee members of the Winnebago County Safe Streets program. He encouraged members to contact his office with any concerns they may have.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE REPORT:

County Executive Mark Harris expressed that the Legislators have a tough task at hand trying to balance the budget. He feels there is an underestimated problem with the current budget year that will end in June; it is in financial trouble as well. The fear is that this year's budget shortfall will drastically affect next years.

Executive Harris would like to reinforce the bed task skim. The federal government reimburses the county nursing homes for their losses. Bed taxes are used to help draw down money from the federal government. This money is received by the State and used for different sources rather than reimbursing the nursing homes for their losses. He feels as much as 70% of money received is used for other purposes and only 30% is given to the nursing homes.

UPDATE FROM FEDERAL LEGISLATORS:

Jackie Trudell, representative from Congressman Glenn Grothman's Office, thanked the committee for the invitation to attend the Legislative meeting. Congressman Grothman is currently serving on the Budget Committee, Education and Workforce Committee, the Oversight Committee and

the Joint Economic Committee. Congressman Grothman hopes to be able to attend a Legislative meeting sometime. Their focus is on constituent services and feels that the ADRC is a great resource.

Correspondence

Supervisor Paul Eisen testified at the Wednesday, March 18th Joint Finance Public Hearing in Brillion. He voiced his opinion to the Committee regarding a number of issues.

On March 19th, Supervisor Eisen attended the WCA Regional Legislative meeting in Appleton. He has provided a copy of the business at hand to the recording secretary. A copy of this report is on file in the County Clerks' Office with the minutes of this meeting.

Supervisor Norton announced that there will be a "Town Hall Meeting" on Monday, April 13th at the Human Services Building, Room 33 regarding Family Care, Senior Care, IRIS and ADRC. He encourages everyone to attend this meeting.

Motion by Supervisor Finch and seconded by Supervisor Egan to adjourn until April 27, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Tom Ellis
Secretary

Recorded By:
Julie Barthels
County Clerk's Office