

Legislative Committee
Monday, September 28, 2015
James P. Coughlin Center

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

Also

Present: Rep. Gordon Hintz; Rep. Mike Rohrkaste; Rep. Amanda Stuck; Mark Harris, County Executive; Jackie Trudell from Congressman Grothman's Office; Representative from the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce; Ernie Winters, Highway Commissioner; Jim Erdman, Town of Oshkosh Chairman; Jerry Bougie, County Planner; Cary Rowe, Zoning Administrator; Bill Topel, Human Services Director; Supervisors Nancy Barker, Guy Hegg, Mike Norton, Kenn Olson, Robert Keller and Larry Lautenschlager; John Casper, President/CEO, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce; Sue Ertmer, County Clerk

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

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded by Supervisor Finch to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2015 meeting. Carried by voice vote.

Public Comments:

- Supervisor Kenn Olson voiced his support of a resolution that would urge the Wisconsin legislature to move 17-year-old offenders back into the juvenile justice system. However, he did express concern about increased costs to the county if such a law is passed and urged the committee to wait on this issue until the cost issue has been addressed.
- Jim Erdman, Chairman, Town of Oshkosh; expressed his concerns about the county making recommendations to the State of Wisconsin that the legislature should repeal statutory provisions enacted in the 2015-2017 state budget regarding shoreland zoning standards.

Resolution to Return 17-year-old juvenile offenders to the Juvenile Justice System: Supervisor Tom Widener explained why he feels it is important that the State of Wisconsin enact legislation that will move 17-year-old juvenile offenders back into the juvenile justice system in Wisconsin. He explained that there is strong support for this change and that the costs associated with the change are negligible.

Motion by Supervisor Widener, seconded by Supervisor Farrey, to present a resolution to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors encouraging the Wisconsin legislature to enact legislation that will return 17-year-old juvenile offenders to the juvenile justice system. Ayes: 9. Nays: 3 – Smith, Roh and Albrecht. CARRIED.

Polk County Resolution No. 29-15, "Resolution to Repeal Statutory Provisions Enacted in the State of Wisconsin 2015-2017 Budget Concerning Shoreland Zoning Standards (Sections 1922am-1922L of 2015 Wisconsin Act 55

Updates on Legislative Matters: Supervisor Tom Egan asked that Jerry Bougie, Winnebago County Planner, give his perspective on this issue. Mr. Bougie explained that the county did pass a resolution in June asking that these provisions not be included in the budget bill. However, those provisions were left in the budget bill and are now law. Mr. Bougie further explained that part of these provisions was the requirement that counties' shoreland zoning standards could not be more restrictive than the state's standards and in Winnebago County that was not an issue. Winnebago County's standards were never more restrictive than the state's and these provisions were not an issue for the county.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Farrey, seconded by Supervisor Egan, to not take action on this issue. Chairman Wingren asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to bring a resolution on this issue to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors. Motion by Supervisor Albrecht to bring a resolution to repeal statutory provisions enacted in the State of Wisconsin 2015-2017 Budget concerning shoreland zoning standards to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors. There was no second to the motion. A resolution will not be brought to the Board on this issue.

Updates from State Legislators:

- Rep. Gordon Hintz – thanked everyone for their input on the shoreland zoning standards issue and the 17-year-old juvenile justice issue. He also discussed the impact of Governor Walker's presidential campaign on provisions in the state's budget, such as transportation funding and Medicare expansion. Rep. Hintz feels that there are issues with the budget that should be revisited, such as transportation fees. Rep. Hintz stated that

the legislature will be back in session in October and hopes their focus can be shifted to issues affect the public—not politicians.

- Rep. Mike Rohrkaste - thanked everyone for their input on shoreland zoning standards. He also appreciated the comments on the 17-year-old juvenile justice bill, of which he is a co-sponsor. He will look into the funding issues with this piece of legislation. Rep. Rohrkaste then discussed the three taskforces that Speaker Voss commissioned: Workforce Readiness Taskforce, Urban Education Taskforce and Alzheimer's & Dementia Taskforce. Rep. Rohrkaste explained that the state is looking into making changes to the civil service hiring and human resources administration processes in an effort to improve how the state fills open state job positions.
- Rep. Amanda Stuck – discussed the legislature going back into session and what she hopes will be discussed—student loan debt relief, student loan refinance, child care tax credits and allowing more people to participate in the state retirement program.

Ernie Winters, Winnebago County Highway Commissioner, expressed his opposition to AB 330 that would take away the Department of Transportation's ability to put up permanent message signs, ramp gates and other safety tools. Reps. Hintz, Rohrkaste and Stuck all stated that they do not support AB 330.

County Executive Updated: Executive Mark Harris reported that the 2016 County Budget is available on the county's website. He discussed the impact of the small increase in the county's equalized property values and the shrinking personal property tax base on the county's budget. Executive Harris also reported on his attendance at last week's Fox Valley Chamber of Commerce's meeting where they discussed their new economic development efforts and how they've shifted those efforts from recruiting businesses and jobs to the Fox Valley to retaining those jobs and workforce readiness. Executive Harris also discussed two-year colleges and technical schools and expressed his concerns about:

- the possibility that two-year colleges and technical schools might be consolidated
- having multiple two-year college campuses under one dean and the impact that will have on programs
- the diminishing commitment of Outagamie County to UW-Fox Valley

Jackie Trudell – Congressman Grothman's Representative: Congressman Grothman would like to receive comments and suggestions regarding the Highway Reauthorization Bill.

After discussion, Chairman Wingren announced that there will not be a meeting on Monday, October 26 and that they will wait until after that date to decide if they'll meet in November.

Motion by Supervisor Farrey and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Susan T. Ertmer
Recording Secretary