

**Legislative Committee
November 24, 2014
JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER**

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

Also Present: State Representative Michael Schraa – 53rd District, Mark Harris – County Executive, Melissa Konrad – Clerk of Courts, John Bellows – District Court Administrator, Morgan Hinkley – Park View Health Center Director and John Casper – Oshkosh Area Chamber of Commerce

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

Election of Officers

Chairman - Motion by Supervisor Finch and seconded to nominate Bill Wingren for Chairman. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast.

Vice – Chairman - Motion by Bill Roh and seconded to nominate Jerry Finch for Vice-Chairman. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast.

Secretary - Motion by Chuck Farrey and seconded to nominate Mike Norton for Secretary. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast.

Motion by Supervisor Robl and seconded to approve the minutes from February 24, 2014. Correction noted by Supervisor Eisen that he should not have been marked absent from the February meeting, he was not a member of this committee. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

State Representative Schraa reported that Senator Gudex sends his regrets for not attending the meeting. After the November election, the Senate came back with a 19 – 14 advantage, and the Assembly picked up three additional seats, 63 Republican and 36 Democratic seats. The fiscal 2015 numbers were down 3.17% over October, 2014 fiscal numbers.

Representative Schraa stated that there is a large hole in the transportation budget. He feels that a gas tax increase would be a hard sale, possibly looking at an increase in registration fees or streamlining some projects.

Representative Schraa reported on the proposed structural deficit. Many departments have submitted their budgets to the Governor and it is looking like a deficit of 2.1 billion dollars. The Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Instruction together make up half of the money that is looked at for increases.

Representative Schraa then took questions from the committee members regarding committee structure, drunk driving and drug laws, transportation and the public service commission.

Chairman Wingren thanked Representative Schraa for his regular attendance to the Winnebago County Legislative meetings.

Supervisor Ellis inquired about the start time of the Legislative meeting. Chairman Wingren asked that it be added to the December agenda.

County Executive Mark Harris made an observation on a discussion regarding the movement of monies between the General Purpose Revenue and the Highway Funds. There was a fiscal study done, it used to be that the Highway funds were moved into the GPR, now it has changed that GPR has moved funds to the Highway.

Executive Harris is concerned with the current fiscal year at the State. The Department of Administration has issued a report regarding state finances. They are projecting a \$100 million dollar shortfall this year, and a 5% increase in revenues over the prior fiscal year. He is concerned that in January when the fiscal

bureau updates their numbers, that there will be close to a billion dollar shortfall. Counties are worried that there will not be enough money in the General Purpose Revenue and that this will affect schools and universities.

Resolutions from Other Counties

Opposition to Proposed Lapse in State Funding to Circuit Court System

John Bellows stated there is a \$12 million lapse to state funding. With the lapse, the State froze salaries and hiring for State positions with the Court System. The only place to come up with the \$12 million funding lapse was to cut state support payment to Counties that is made throughout each biennium. The State now has lifted the freeze on hiring and has given the Counties the full support payment. Mr. Bellows then took questions from the floor.

Motion by County Board Chairman Albrecht and seconded to forward this to the County Board for approval or disapproval. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

Support the State Funding for County 911 Services/Designated Public Service Answering Point per County

County Board Chairman Albrecht read the resolution from Juneau County regarding the County 911 services. Committee members discussed where and how the technology fees that are assessed should be used to support this system.

Motion by Supervisor Finch to have Chairman Albrecht add this to the County Board agenda. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

Supervisor Finch would like to have copies of the resolutions sent with the agenda, if possible.

County Board Chairman inquired about the ability to have extra microphones for the meeting.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Items for the Next Agenda

To set a time for the Legislative meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:
Bill Wingren
Secretary

Recorded By:
Julie Barthels
County Clerk's Office