

**Legislative Committee
November 25, 2013
JAMES P. COUGHLIN CENTER**

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

Also

Present: Mark Harris – Winnebago County Executive, State Representative Penny Bernard Schaber, John Casper – Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Jennifer Semerau – Winnebago County Recycling Specialist, Jerry Bougie – Director of Planning & Zoning, Larry and Debbie Last

Excused:

Absent: Nancy Barker, Shiloh Ramos, Patrick O'Brien, James Koziczowski, Representative Dean Kaufert – 55th Assembly and Manny Vasquez – Senator Johnson's office

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Brennand. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Brennand had those present at the meeting introduce themselves.

Supervisor Robl moved to approve the minutes from July 22, 2013. Seconded by Supervisor Finch. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

State Representative Schaber told the committee that this year has been quite contentious. The Legislature ended the year with issues regarding limitations to early voting and restriction on the hours that polling places will be open. She has blue books available. She reported on all the committees that she is currently on. One committee that she wishes would meet more often is the Joint Survey on Tax Exemptions Committee regarding how effective or ineffective the tax exemptions are. Feels Aging and Long Term Disability is a committee that is important to Counties. Ms. Schaber then took questions and concerns from the committee.

UPDATE FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE

County Executive Mark Harris told the committee that a couple of weeks ago, Fond Du Lac, Outagamie and Winnebago County Executives had a press conference to urge Governor Walker to allow three extra months for those who are being phased off of Badger Care to apply for exchanges to the Affordable Care Act. Current deadline was December 15, 2013 to be signed up to have coverage by January 1. The Governor has allowed a three month delay on removing the 77,500 from Badger Care who are above the poverty limit, but his proposal is to pay for this by denying Badger Care for the 80,000 people who are below the poverty limit who are single/childless adults. Executive Harris handed out a letter that was sent to Governor Walker from the three counties listed above and gave an example of a situation regarding insurance situations.

OPPOSE SENATE BILL 349/ ASSEMBLY BILL 476 – LOCAL REGULATION OF NONMETALLIC MINING

Jerry Bougie – Director of Planning and Zoning spoke in opposition of this bill. This bill has received a lot of attention at the State level. It is currently in Committee, the bill revolves around the frac sand mining that has been going on in many parts of the State. The mining companies would like to make the ordinances standard across the state instead of municipality by municipality. There is a lot of interest and concerns that have been voiced across the State in having this bill be re-written. Jerry took questions from the committee. Current law restricts ability to manage air and water quality. A letter was drafted by western state representatives, Dean Knudsen, Kathy Bernier, Tom Larson, Howard Marklein and Mary Williams opposing this bill. Representative Schaber voiced concerns with taking away local control, to be able to vote on expansions, life of mine or quarry, and hours of operation. Really need to have this bill rewritten. Hopes committee will oppose this bill. Feels the need for the Towns and Counties to work together to make this possible.

Supervisor Finch moved to oppose this and move it forward to the County Board. Seconded by Supervisor Farrey. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 444 / SENATE BILL 355 – FEES IMPOSED ON DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE AND HAZARDOUS WASTE AT SOLID WASTE AND HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Jennifer Semerau – Recycling Specialist for Winnebago County spoke in support of this bill. This bill would expand exemptions that exist for certain fees that are attached to every ton of solid waste that is disposed of in the landfill. \$13.00 per ton disposed in the landfill goes to the State to pay for various programs. Jennifer spoke in regard to materials that this involves.

Supervisor Robl moved to support this and move it forward to the County Board. Seconded by Supervisor Wingren. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 349 / SENATE BILL 259 – AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A FOX CITIES REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS

Representative Penny Bernard Schaber spoke in support of this bill and hopes the committee/ county will pass a resolution to support the RTA bill. This bill needs to be passed to allow Valley Transit to be successful and to continue to provide service to people who need public transportation. RTA is the authority for a local municipality to put a sales tax in place of a certain percentage and that sales tax money would go directly to the public transportation system of the municipality. This sales tax needs to be approved by the citizens of the municipality by a referendum. Highest amount that could be imposed for this tax is ½ of \$.01. The exact amount of sales tax would need to be written in to the referendum. Any time the tax would need to be changed would require another referendum. Currently, Representative Ellis, Kaufert and Steinke support this bill but have not signed on to it. Representative Schaber hopes the committee will support this bill. She then took questions from the committee members.

After discussion among the committee members a question arose in regard to the processing of this tax, Supervisor Farrey moved to lay this over until the January 27, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Smith. Motion carried by Voice Vote. Nays: 4.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

Chairman Brennand has received complaints from Legislators in regard to posting/not posting Legislative meetings and notifying them if a meeting has not been scheduled. He noted that we will not post if a meeting is not scheduled. Chairman Brennand noted that there would not be a meeting in December and asked that letters be sent to the representatives alerting them to this.

It was moved by Supervisor Farrey and seconded by Supervisor Smith to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Bill Wingren
Secretary

Recorded By:
Julie Barthels
County Clerk's Office