

**MINUTES OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Friday, June 16, 2017

9:00 A.M.

Members Present: Chair Matthew Budde; Supervisors Heather Gibler, Ed Kleckner and Dave LaShay

Members Absent: Supervisor James Stecker

Also Present: Alice Connors, County Board Chair; Todd Romenesko, County Administrator; Brian Glaeser, Highway Commissioner; Lindsay Hansen, Office/Program Manager; Rep. Paul Tittl; Senator Devin LeMahieu; and Victoria Halbach, Human Resources Coordinator.

Chair Budde called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

The meeting was properly announced, roll call taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Supervisor LaShay and seconded by Supervisor Kleckner to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Supervisor LaShay and seconded by Supervisor Gibler to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2017 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Supervisor Kleckner reported that he along with Health and Human Services staff attended the 2017 Aging Advocacy Day sponsored by the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network on May 17, 2017, to help educate state legislators about issues affecting Wisconsin's aging population.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

DISCUSS THE 2017-2019 WISCONSIN STATE BIENNIAL BUDGET

Proposed Funding Increase for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)

The legislators reported approval of an increase in the Wisconsin Economic Development (WEDC) funding of \$6,300,000.00 to provide the corporation with greater ability to assist Wisconsin businesses. The increase will come from segregated funds, not general purpose revenue.

Funding for Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Soil and Water Resource Management Staffing Grant

The legislators reported that the Joint Finance Committee has not taken up this issue yet.

Dark Store Legislation

There was a general discussion on "Dark Store" legislation. In essence, the Dark Store strategy is a tax loophole being used by Big Box retailers and other national chains to lower the amount they pay in property taxes. There are two bills to support legislation banning the dark store strategy, to

protect local tax payers. The bills may be taken up after the budget process.

Business Taxes

Personal Property Tax on Business

General discussion on legislation to repeal personal property tax on businesses, to give Wisconsin companies a competitive break. The current tax is assessed to businesses only, on furnishings and fixtures. The budget process is being watched before it gets rolled out. The money to make up the tax loss may come from the general purpose revenue.

Closing Loopholes on Business Tax

Short discussion on closing the loopholes on taxes for businesses. The legislators reported that there is a possibility of a comprehensive tax evaluation.

Transportation Issues

Funding

General discussion on transportation funding. The legislators reported that they can agree on the need for an increase in transportation funding.

Infrastructure

General discussion on heavy loads on highways. The highways are consistently subjected to heavy loads; therefore, the life span of a highway may be significantly shortened. The town and county roads were not built for this type of transportation. Brian Glaeser reported that only one permit has been issued since the Implements of Husbandry (IoH) law had been passed.

Tax Levy Limits on Counties

General discussion on eliminating the tax levy limits for counties. The current tax levy limits do not provide counties with the needed budget flexibility. The legislators reported that the levy limits will not be addressed with this budget and reminded the Committee that Calumet County still has available the one-half percent (0.5%) county sales tax.

Legislators' Budget Predictions for the 2017-2019 Wisconsin State Biennial Budget

The legislators gave their prediction that the budget will not be passed by July 1.

Prediction about the best thing to come out of the budget:

- Increase in local road funding
- Increase in K-12 educational funding
- Property tax relief

At 10:08 a.m. Senator Devin LeMahieu left the meeting.

Circuit Court Judge

Representative Tittl reported that the second Circuit Court Judge was not approved.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

No meeting date was set.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 a.m., **moved** by Supervisor LaShay and seconded by Supervisor Gibler to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Victoria Halbach
Recording Secretary