

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
CLARK, LANGLADE, LINCOLN, MARATHON, PORTAGE,
WAUPACA, WAUSHARA, AND WOOD COUNTIES
MINUTES

Date and Time: Monday, March 13, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: Central Wisconsin Airport, Lower Level Room 017, Mosinee WI

Attendees: Kurt Gibbs, Joe Waichulis, Wayne Hendrickson, Mary Kay Poehlman, Bill Clendenning, Brent Vruwink, Dona Gabert, John Durham, Keith Langenhahn, Bill Leichtnam, Brian Grefe, Fred Zaug, Ed Wagner, Brad Karger, Sen. Jerry Petrowski, Sandi Cihlar, Peter Weinschenk, Mary Palmer

1. Call To Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Silent Cell Phones
4. Approval of the December 12, 2016 Minutes
MOTION BY JOE WAICHULIS; SECOND BY WAYNE HENDRICKSON BY TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 12, 2016, MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.
5. Update By and Discussion With Visiting Area Legislators
 - A. Discussion of the impact on Counties in our Region of the Governor's State Biennial Budget proposal including these key items:
 - An addition \$825,000 annually for county conservation activities.
 - An increase in funding for broadband of approximately \$30 million in FY 18 and \$10 million in FY 19
 - A return to a block grant model for the County Veteran's Service Office Grant Program.
 - An increase in the Children and Family Aids allocation of \$1.25 million in FY 18 and \$5 million in FY 19.
 - An allocation of \$2 million in each year of the budget for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) program.
 - Authority for counties and municipalities to enter into contracts to establish joint agencies or commissions to carry out certain functions that will fulfill each of the participating local governments' obligation to establish such an agency or commission for that function.
 - An increase in funding for general transportation aids, routine maintenance agreements, and the local road improvement program.

Senator Jerry Petrowski

He is working toward solutions on the hot topic of transportation. The Governor will not consider an increase in gas tax or registration fees. We need a long term solution. Paying down debt is imperative. Governor has requested to borrow an additional \$500 million dollars. Petrowski would like some things shifted back into the GPR column. He supports a long term solution.

Comments from the Committee:

In the past 6 years all the state has done is borrow money. A comment was that the legislature has not taken the responsibility. It can't be fixed by gas tax alone. (2002 – 2011

\$1.2 billion was taken out of transportation). We need a positive influence to move it forward.

The audit showed that commitments for funds were not true costs. Departments would numerate a project based on the current cost, but when the project was finished 18 years later, the department did not build in cost of living dollars based on the length of the project. Nor were changes or expansions taken into consideration. Some changes and expansions ended up being 2 ½ times more than the original project was costed. These factors have to be taken into consideration during costing.
Schools – additional \$200 per student per year.

Upcoming legislation:

Local government – annexations, TIF, and extraterritorial zoning are some areas of legislation that will come up again,

Recycling – he has not heard anything about this subject at all.

High capacity well bill – is coming up on Wednesday. One bill last year was comprehensive and it didn't go anywhere. The bill coming up on Wednesday has to do with existing wells. He thinks senate will pass the basic bill and the assembly will make changes. Prospects are better this time. A study should be done on lakes going dry.

Nothing is happening with TIF's yet.

6. Updates from Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Representative

Field Operative Keith Langenhahn stated that WCA supports all items listed under 5A listed above.

- Counties got treated well in this budget.
- The first district meeting is in Milwaukee today, that's why no WCA representatives were available to come today. The Clark County (Western) meeting will be in Eau Claire next Wednesday and the Eastern meeting will be in Keshena this Wednesday.
- Resolutions committee will be approved shortly.
- If you have any questions, please let Keith or one of the WCA representatives know and someone will get back to you.

7. Update On Federal Issues By Senate And Congressional Representatives

There were no Federal Senate or Congressional Representatives in attendance.

8. Thank you Waupaca County for Hosting Today's Meeting

9. Next Meeting Date June 5, 2017, Hosted by Wood County

Both Keith Langenhahn and Kurt Gibbs on behalf of the committee thanked Senator Petrowski for coming this morning.

10. Meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m. MOTION BY ED WAGNER; AND SECOND BY FRED ZAUG TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary Palmer