

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, October 10, 2011
County Administrative Center, Room 3220
11:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Brockmiller, Bridget Flood, Sharon Hampson, Monica Kruse, John Medinger, Don Meyer, Roger Plesha

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Tara Johnson, Robert Olson, Maureen McCollum, Nathan Franklin, Brad Walker, Toni Yeske, Peter VanLaarhoven, Irv Balto

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Brockmiller called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Brockmiller stated there was an incorrect report in the *La Crosse Tribune* regarding the Legislative Committee's ability to amend resolutions. He explained that the Legislative Committee is advisory, and can only make recommendations to the County Board. The following public comment in opposition to the CAPX2020 project was then received:

- Pete VanLaarhoven, stated there appeared to be confusion at the Planning, Resources & Development Committee, and asked if the resolution could go back to committee.
- Cynthia Peterson also asked for the Planning, Resources & Development Committee to review the resolution again.
- Toni Yeske stated there should be independent assessments.
- Robert Olson questioned why the plan was to place power lines near schools when there is a question about health issues.

Further public comment was received from Nathan Franklin, Dairyland Power, who stated they were not averse to having the matter go back to committee.

MOTION by Flood/Kruse to take the following agenda item out of order. **Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION RE: INFORMATION REQUEST CONCERNING THE CAPX2020 APPLICATION FOR A 345KV TRANSMISSION LINE

The Resolution was amended by the Planning, Resource and Development Committee from opposition to the CAPX2020 application to a request for more information pertaining to high voltage, low voltage, and efficient only solutions, to request a cost-benefit study of underground transmission lines, and to request an independent study of health concerns related to the electromagnetic field. Steve O'Malley reviewed the role of the Legislative Committee as explained to him by Corporation Counsel: Support the amended resolution, oppose the amended resolution, or direct staff to draft a new resolution to originate in Legislative Committee. He stated that Supervisor Marilyn Pedretti, who originally requested the Resolution, told him she would ask the County Board to refer 30 days. Supervisor Flood stated she would do so if Supervisor Pedretti did not. Lengthy discussion was held regarding procedure, and obtaining independent studies.

MOTION by Flood/Hampson to approve the Resolution Re: Information Request Concerning the CAPX2020 Application for a 345kV Transmission Line. Supervisor Medinger originally seconded the motion, but withdrew his second, and Supervisor Hampson seconded the motion. **Motion failed 3-4.** Plesha, Hampson, Kruse, Medinger opposed.

APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

MOTION by Hampson/Plesha to approve the Minutes of September 12, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.**

OKTOBERFEST IN THE CAPITAL, OCTOBER 19, 2011

County Board Chair Johnson reminded committee members of the opportunity to speak with legislators at the event that is organized by the La Crosse Area Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce.

RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSITION TO ASSEMBLY BILL 146

The Resolution is in follow-up to discussion held at the September, 2011, Legislative Committee meeting. It states that current law allows for renewable resource credits with a restriction that they cannot be used after the fourth year after the credit was created. Assembly Bill 146 will eliminate that restriction, which will greatly diminish the value of the credit and reduce the incentive for new projects. The Resolution opposes Assembly Bill 146. **MOTION** by Medinger/Flood to approve the Resolution Re: Opposition to Assembly Bill 146. **Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION RE: INFORMATION REQUEST CONCERNING AMERICAN TRANSMISSION COMPANY'S 345KV TRANSMISSION LINE OPTION

The Resolution states that the American Transmission Company (ATC) proposal for a high voltage transmission line from North La Crosse to Madison would require condemnation of property and loss of property value. It requests further information pertaining to high voltage, low voltage, and efficient only solutions. The Planning, Resources and Development committee added a paragraph to request an independent study of health concerns related to the electromagnetic field. **MOTION** by Hampson/Kruse to approve the Resolution Re: Information Request Concerning American Transmission Company's 345kV Transmission Line Option. **Motion carried 6-1.** Medinger opposed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None requested.

NEXT MEETING: TO BE DETERMINED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Kruse/Meyer to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Approved, January 9, 2012, Margaret Norden, Recorder