

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

1:15 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Doyle, Jill Billings, Sharon Hampson, Tara Johnson, Marilyn Pedretti (1:30 p.m.), Roger Plesha, Charles Spiker

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Vicki Burke, Don Meyer

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Margaret Norden, Bill Shepherd, Gary Ingvalson, Ginny Dankmeyer, Ron Chamberlain, Mary Marco, John Parshall, Betsy Bloom

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Doyle called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Plesha/Billings to approve the March 9, 2011, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer, Pedretti excused.

CONSENT AGENDA: FEBRUARY INVESTMENT REPORT, MONTHLY ACCOUNT TRANSFERS, CHECK REQUISITIONS

MOTION by Spiker/Johnson to receive and file the February Investment Report, Monthly Account Transfers, Check Requisitions. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer, Pedretti excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORTS

None reported.

RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE INDIAN RESERVATION ROADS PROGRAM

The Resolution states that upkeep of some roadways is eligible for funding for tribal transportation projects, but funding is in jeopardy of being reduced or eliminated. Ron Chamberlain reported that continued funding that could impact maintenance of 50.8 miles of Indian Reservation roads in La Crosse County. **MOTION** by Spiker/Johnson to approve the Resolution to Express Support for the Indian Reservation Roads Program. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer, Pedretti excused.

RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CREATION OF A JOINT CITY-COUNTY HOUSING TASK FORCE

The Resolution was requested by a group of local citizens, and addresses the devaluation of housing assessed values within the City of La Crosse, and recognizes the current trend of declining housing stock, neighborhood deterioration, and increased property tax burden on City of La Crosse residents. It calls for a joint City-County task force to identify and report on the most cost effective ways of reversing this trend, including program examples from other communities, regulatory options, practices to stimulate investment, inspection code enforcement, and capital priorities. Chair Doyle stated that Supervisor Kader, who is La Crosse City Council president, has asked to have the item held over a month to give the Council further opportunity to review. There was no objection. Supervisor Spiker asked to have a fiscal note added when the item is brought back to committee in May, 2011.

RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSITION TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S 2012-13 PROPOSED BUDGET WHICH CUT SHARED REVENUE TO COUNTIES WITHOUT PROVIDING ANY SIGNIFICANT MANDATE RELIEF OR REFORM

The Resolution addresses the reduction in Shared Revenue payments as proposed in the Governor's 2011-13 budget, which is an estimated \$1,006,010 cut to La Crosse

County, which is roughly equivalent to the amount received in 1992. Shared Revenue is a fundamental element of providing mandate relief, and 100% of the Shared Revenue to La Crosse County is used to reduce property taxes. The Resolution calls for repeal of 2009 Act 28, Public Safety maintenance of Effort Requirements and Prevailing Wage Laws, receipt of an equitable share of County surcharges for Counties to pay for State court operations, reduction and streamlining of Health and Human Service State reporting requirements, and revival of the County Mandate Waiver program. **MOTION** by Hampson/Spiker to approve the Resolution Re: Opposition to the Provisions of the Governor's 2012-13 Proposed Budget Which Cut Shared Revenue to Counties Without Providing Any Significant Mandate Relief or Reform. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer excused.

RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSITION TO FUNDING CUTS FOR CHILD SUPPORT IN 2011-13 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

The Resolution states that the Governor's 2011-13 budget includes a \$71,056 per year cut to the General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funding for Child Support. This would result in cuts in federal funds, as well, for a total of \$208,988 per year. If that deficit is to be made up it would have to be through tax levy, staff cuts, or other revenue source. Bill Shepherd reported that the La Crosse County Child Support Agency has the highest case load per support specialist in the state, and any cuts would affect the level of service that could be provided. Chair Doyle noted that there would be a ripple effect in the community from people whose child support is eliminated, and would place more demands on County economic support. **MOTION** by Billings/Johnson to approve the Resolution Re: Opposition to Funding Cuts for Child Support in 2011-13 Executive Budget. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer excused.

RESOLUTION RE: HONORING PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND CALLING FOR REPEAL OF PORTIONS OF ACT 10

The Resolution recognizes the vital work of public employees, and affirms support for them to organize and collectively bargain. It calls for a repeal of sections of Wisconsin Act 10, which eliminated public sector collective bargaining. **MOTION** by Hampson/Johnson to approve the Resolution Re: Honoring Public Employees, Affirming Support for Collective Bargaining and Calling for Repeal of Portions of Act 10. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer excused.

RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSING CHANGES TO SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION AND OPPOSING VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS IN WISCONSIN AND SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 6

The Resolution states that proposed legislation would negatively impact the high rate of voter participation by not accepting college or university ID's, requiring copies of photo ID's with absentee ballots, increasing residency requirements from 10 to 28 days, eliminating corroboration as alternative proof of residency, and placing additional burdens on poll workers. Ginny Dankmayer stated that voter fraud has not been shown to be a problem. Constraints on voter ID will disenfranchise student, elderly, disabled, and minority voters. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Billings to approve the Resolution Re: Opposing Changes to Same Day Voter Registration and Opposing Voter ID Requirements in Wisconsin and Specifically Expressing Opposition to Senate Bill 6. **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer excused.

RESOLUTION RE: IMPLEMENTING COUNTY PICK-UP OF EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PURSUANT TO 26 U.S.C. SECTION 414(H)(2)

The Resolution states that when the State Budget Repair Bill is enacted, it will require public employees to pay 50% of their Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) contributions, which would be 5.8% of their pay for 2011, unless employees are covered under a valid agreement under Wis. Stat. s. 111.70. The Resolution states that contributions to the WRS will be designated as employee contributions. They will be picked up on a pre-tax basis by the County in lieu of contributions by the

affected employees, and the wages of such employees will be reduced by a corresponding amount for federal and Wisconsin income tax purposes, but not FICA purposes. Bill Shepherd explained that his counterparts and professional association have learned that this can be done if the employer passes a resolution. This is acceptable to the IRS. Supervisor Johnson suggested sharing the information with municipalities and townships in the county. **MOTION** by Hampson/Johnson to approve the Resolution Re: Implementing County Pick-Up Of Employee Retirement Contributions Pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Section 414(H)(2). **Motion carried unanimously.** Burke, Meyer excused.

DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR NON-UNION EMPLOYEES REGARDING THE EFFECT OF ACT 10, WRS CONTRIBUTION

Gary Ingvalson provided a list of options for a pay equity adjustment for non-union employees in 2011. Discussion was held regarding the risk of losing key employees, such as department heads, nurses, and information technology personnel, who came to work for the County because of the benefits, and who could be prompted to leave the County for private sector employment when Act 10 is enacted. Steve O'Malley noted that 2011 wages and benefits are already budgeted. The item will come back to the Executive Committee for further discussion, and if a resolution is requested, it will be considered at a special meeting before County Board meeting.

DISCUSSION REGARDING ROTATING THE COMMITTEE ORDER ON THE COUNTY BOARD AGENDA

Supervisors Spiker and Pedretti noted that some employees who report to the County Board will consistently have to stay later than other employees because the agenda lists the committees in the same order each month. The consensus of the committee was to move the order up each month. Committee chairs will be responsible for noting members of the public that are present, and asking to have their items of interest moved forward on the agenda.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF ETHICS BOARD MEMBERS

Two members of the Ethics Board have appointment renewal dates of April 30, 2011. Steven Mader, Ethics Board First Alternate, has agreed to be reappointed to a three-year term to expire April 30, 2014. Roland Solberg declined reappointment. Committee consensus was to direct the Chair's office to ask Richard Mial to serve on the Ethics Board, and to consider both appointments at the May 11, 2011, meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Spiker/Pedretti to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Margaret Norden, Recorder