

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, March 5, 2012

Room 3220, Administrative Center, 400 4th St. N.

11:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Brockmiller, Sharon Hampson (arr. 11:39 a.m.), Monica Kruse, John Medinger (exc. 11:56 a.m.), Don Meyer

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Roger Plesha

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bridget Flood

STAFF & GUESTS: Gary Ingvalson, Margaret Norden, Steve Doyle

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bill Brockmiller called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2012, MEETING

MOTION by Kruse/Medinger to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012, meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.** Hampson, Plesha excused; Flood absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORT THE REOPENING OF THE BANGOR, WISCONSIN, POST OFFICE

The Resolution addresses the closure of the Bangor Post Office, which negatively impacted the community of Bangor. Residents are circulating a petition, and have asked for the County's support. A copy of the resolution is to be mailed to the Postmaster General, U.S. Senators Johnson and Kohl and U.S.

Representative Kind. **MOTION** by Meyer/Kruse to approve the Resolution Re: Support the Reopening of the Bangor, Wisconsin, Post Office. **Motion carried unanimously.** Hampson, Plesha excused; Flood absent.

RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSITION TO THE CLOSURE OF THE USPS PROCESSING CENTER IN LA CROSSE

The Resolution opposes the closure of the U.S. Postal Service processing center in La Crosse, which would result in the loss of 27 local jobs, and the transfer of 19 local positions. It would also result in two to three day mail delivery in La Crosse and surrounding area. A copy of the resolution is to be mailed to the Postmaster General, U.S. Senators Johnson and Kohl and U.S. Representative Kind. Supervisor Medinger pointed out that a decision to close the processing center had not been finalized, and Congress may yet work to reorganize the Postal Department, rather than proceed with closure.

MOTION by Kruse/Meyer to amend the Be It Further Resolved paragraph to insert the phrase, "requesting that they be encouraged to do whatever is possible to keep this processing center open."

MOTION by Kruse/Meyer to approve the Resolution Re: Opposition to the Closure of the USPS Processing Center in La Crosse, as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.** Plesha excused; Flood absent.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SCOPE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITY (AUTHORITY)

Chair Brockmiller asked for committee input regarding the purpose and authority of the Legislative Committee. Supervisor Kruse expressed her hope to have an active committee that communicated regularly with elected officials. Supervisor Doyle stated that, as a state representative, he saw resolutions from local governmental bodies as a good way to be educated on the effect of legislation, and Supervisor Medinger stated that local input and feedback was also important on the federal level. Supervisor Hampson stated that the committee took the place of having a lobbyist. Doyle stated he saw the function of the committee to be twofold: To collect information about legislative bills and disseminate that information to the County Board; to advise legislators on local impact of legislation. Discussion was held about the need for a separate committee since resolutions originating in the Legislative Committee must also go through a standing committee. Discussion was also held about the need for the Wisconsin Counties Association to advocate for counties on legislative issues.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Invitation to three area legislators

Discussion with legislators on establishing a system to be aware of legislation, and to gather and disseminate information

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: TO BE DETERMINED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hampson/Meyer to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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