

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

Members Present: Supervisors Molinaro, Ekornaas, Elverman, Clark and Noble

Excused: Supervisors Michel and Breunig

YIG Present: Rende

Absent: YIG Jekot

- 6:30 pm
1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Molinaro at 6:30 pm in the second floor committee conference room at the Administration Building. Legislators present at the meeting were Senators Wirch and Wanggaard and Representatives Barca, Steinbrink and Kerkman. Molinaro said he would like the opportunity for everyone to ask questions. He would like to talk about the State budget and the IM issue.

- 6:35 pm
2. Citizen Comments: None

- 6:35 pm
3. Chair, Supervisor and YIG comments: None

- 6:36 pm
4. Legislative Round Table:
Representative Kerkman handed out and explained a graphic illustration of the State budget and explained the cut Kenosha County received in the IM program. Representative Barca said under the system we had, we were able to maximize additional federal dollars. He asked regarding the delivery of services, how much more do we need to provide? He is not clear what the plan will be, the consortium or us. He doesn't know how it's all going to shake out. Senator Wirch said when he was on the county board, he was a member of the social services committee. We worked together on these wrap around services which helped us get federal grants. Social Services was always given direction to collaborate with other groups out there.

Molinaro talked about fraud in the Food Share Program and asked what is being done to step up enforcement. Kerkman said she served on the audit committee. The Racine Journal Times did a story on the fraud and she found out it was rampant. We are doing the audit now. It should be done by mid-winter.

Barca talked about Child Care fraud. He doesn't know if progress has been made in Kenosha County. He would like to hear feedback from the county. Kerkman said one of the things you are doing here that no one else is doing is you have implemented a contract.

Molinaro asked about a broadband initiative at the federal level. Wisconsin stands to lose money under our current arrangement if they move forward. Senator Wanggaard said this is the first he's heard of changes. He will talk to Racine County people and check into it further.

Barca talked about Brookside doing rehab and trying to balance budgetary issues with private pay users. Wanggaard said Racine County looked at getting out of the nursing home business a few years ago. They have consolidated services with other units of government to address their budget such as food services, buying and purchasing and laundry service. Racine and Kenosha need to continue to talk and share ideas.

Supervisor Clark talked about creating and retaining jobs and asked the legislators what we should be doing. Barca said in their last session, they passed over 50 economic development initiatives and he wants to build on those. Wirch said you have had phenomenal growth in Pleasant Prairie. The TIF bill will bring 800 family supporting jobs within a year. Representative Steinbrink said businesses are looking for cash. Wanggaard said he likes nonrefundable tax credits and talked about the \$1.6 Billion Bioscience industry. He wants to create a reserve created from the growth from our bioscience companies in Wisconsin. Payroll taxes would be put into that fund. Steinbrink said we are quick to give incentives to companies coming into the State which can put our companies already here at a disadvantage. He also pointed out that we just cut funding to Gateway. Companies need a trained workforce.

Supervisor Elverman said these things sound nice. Most of our citizens are concerned with jobs but they also want to know if anything is going to get done in the State of Wisconsin. Small business is suffering and some are gone. Can the Senate get anything done? Wanggaard said yes. Almost all of his bills have passed with bi-partisan support. Our staffs are working together too. Wirch said it is important to go beyond the headlines. We have worked together on economic development. Steinbrink said government does not create jobs, but we create the environment to create jobs.

Molinaro said all of you should not get caught up in the recall effort if it comes up in January. It is not a solution to go after the Governor. He asked all of the legislators to move Wisconsin forward.

Supervisor Underhill said he is all for Pleasant Prairie getting jobs but we need to be able to get inner city people out to those jobs. Supervisor Hallmon said we should have county-wide transportation services like Milwaukee County has. Wanggaard said Racine and Kenosha should work together on transportation.

8:00 pm

5. Any other business: None

8:00 pm

6. **Supervisor Elverman made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Ekornaas. All aye. YIG voted aye. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Haney
Legal Assistant