

WCUTA October 21, 2016 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT:

Supervisors John Tramburg, Larry Willkom, Linda Sinkula, Chuck Hoffman, William Goehring and Don Pazynski by phone; Bob Yeoman, Rock County, Robert Keeney, Grant County; Rick Gundrum Washington County, Nick Osbourne, Rock County, Kurt Gibbs ,Marathon County; Don Pazynski, Marinette County attempted by phone

EXCUSED: WCA staff

Staff: Alice O'Connor.

The meeting was called to order at 10:38 by Chairman Willkom. Alice apologized for difficulty with the call all in phone number and will correct this problem before the next meeting,

President's Report – Supervisor Larry Willkom

Supervisor Willkom said their will likely be some changes in the Wisconsin legislature next session so WCUTA will have to re-educate lawmakers about the importance of the utility tax to their individual counties. He also said when WCUTA board members appeared before the Assembly Utility Committee last year, it made a huge difference in the outcome. We defeated bad legislation for counties that would have reduced the county utility tax payment. He said Supervisors maybe called up on to do so again in 2017.

He said that members may be called upon to contact your own lawmakers or to make contacts in the capitol as well.

He also said at the next board meeting discussion about the compensation for the WCUTA executive director should be put on the agenda since her retainer has not been increased in 3 years.

MINUTES APPROVED The minutes of the August 19, 2016 WCUTA board meeting were approved on a motion by Supervisor Tramburg, seconded by Supervisor Hoffman.

2017 officers

Officers from 2016 will remain the same for 2017 based on an approved motion from Supervisor Rick Gundrum, seconded by Bob Yeomans.

Continuing in 2017 as officers are current officers:

Board chair: Supervisor Larry Willkom

Vice chair: Supervisor John Tramburg,

Secretary: Supervisor William Goehring

Treasurer: Supervisor Linda Sinkula

Officers approved.

The Audit committee

The Wisconsin Counties Utility Tax Audit Committee, consisting of Supervisor Linda Sinkula, John Tramburg and Bill Goehring reviewed the books from April 1, 2015 to September 20, 2016. The opening balance consists of the Association's Money Market Checking Account and one Certificate of Deposit. The Audit verified that since last year, dues generated regular income of \$26,841.24 and \$40,343.77 in the money market CD. The Association checking account as of September 30, 2016 with invoices paid through September 2016 is \$28,877.52.

A one year CD matured on July 31, 2015 and was rolled over with its next maturity date of January 2017. (Park Bank account number 737 9279). When it matured its last renewal value was \$40,343.77. This six month CD was previously \$40,192.58 and has continuously rolled over since the initial \$40,000 was invested October 13, 2011.)

The Association assets (checking and CDs) through September 2016 is \$65,369.61. This amount is similar to where the Association was last year at this time. (The balance was \$68,358.08 in 2015 and \$68,655.54 in 2014).

The Audit report was accepted on a motion from Supervisor Sinkula seconded by Supervisor Goehring.

Executive Director Report-Alice O'Connor

All Dues letters were mailed and then emailed based on the estimated payments from the Dept. of Revenue from October 2016. Dues is projected at a rate of .0015, the same it has been the last few years.

Revenue is flat with some counties getting a few more dollars, some getting a bit less. But no one county had a dramatic reception in their county utility tax dues.

Alice shared the recent 2016 state fiscal report and said the state collected an additional \$556 million in revenue than it expected showing a 3.8% growth rate for the state. Good news. But, despite the extra revenue, Governor Walker has repeatedly said he will not raise any taxes to make the DOT budget whole. This means other than the zoo project in Milwaukee, most transportation projects will be delayed. This is not sitting well with some GOP policymakers. A diverse coalition of about 65 groups is holding hearings around the state trying to draw attention to road and bridge projects that won't be completed if Governor Walker or the legislature do not raise the gas tax and find other sources of revenue. Without this, the DOT has no choice but to increase fees and look for other ways to increase revenue. It seems that purchasing vehicles could be more expensive.

Supervisor Sinkula said only 20 people showed up at the hearing in Kewaunee County. She said there weren't many fireworks.

After some discussion, it was decided Alice should talk to WCA to see if they would be supportive of some sort of sliding scale to have the state keep less than 83 percent of what it collects for the utility taxes that are returned to local government as a part of a shared revenue payment ten ones the collect from the utility tax so there would be more revenue to counties. Anything greater than 17 percent up to 30 percent was suggested. Alice will report back at the next meeting .

Alice was asked to prepare a chart showing the money collected by the state over the last five years and what total amount was returned to counties. It would have suggested Alice share the Legislative Fiscal Bureau paper 18 that has figures through 2015 about the utility tax and how the formula works)

Speaker: Rep. Melissa Sargent (D-Madison, member of the Assembly Utility Committee)

Rep Sargent provided background on herself personally and indicated that as a child she had benefited from the many services offered by government as well as the ability to get a college education. She is in her third term and served on the Assembly Utilities Committee last session.

She shared a report from the US Dept. of Transportation Highway Trust fund (attached) that ranks states based on the condition of their roads and bridges Wisconsin is second to the last with Wyoming being the only state lower than Wisconsin.

She said even though she is in the minority she passed five bills last session and hopes to have more collaboration with the GOP next session as well.

Treasurer's Report – Supervisor Linda Sinkula

The Treasurer's report was accepted as amended on a motion from Supervisor Bob Yeomans and seconded by Supervisor Hoffman.

The balance as of September 30,2016 is \$28,877.52 in the checkbook with a CD in the amount of \$40,343,77 that matures next January 2017. The total is \$69,233.62. Expenses since August 1 in the amount of \$1910.00 leaves a corrected checkbook balance of \$65,369.61 plus \$1954.01 since the September expense check should not be counted in the balance.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date was set for February 17, 2017 at the WCUTA offices,

It was suggested as a speaker for our next meeting we have someone from the Dept. of Revenue come and explain how the state calculates the wind and solar revenue returned to counties. The formula is a mystery.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 on a motion by Supervisor Goehring, seconded by Supervisor Hoffman.

Minutes Prepared by Alice O'Connor