

February 17, 2017 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Chelsea Filbert – WCUTA Tax and Finance Lobbyist WCA, William Goehring – Sheboygan County Board, Chuck Hoffman – Manitowoc County, Rick Gundrum – Washington County Board Chair, Robert Keeney – Grant County Board Chair, Alice O’Connor – WCUTA Executive Director, Linda Sinkula – Kewaunee County Board Supervisor, John Tramburg – Columbia County Supervisor, Lawrence Wilkinson – Chippewa County Supervisor, VIA PHONE Don Pazynski, Marinette County Board, Bob Yeomans, Rock County Supervisor.

EXCUSED: Nick Osbourne (Asst. to the County Administrator Rock County, Bob Yeomans – Rock County Supervisor. **Staff:** Alice O’Connor.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 by Chairman Willkom.

The minutes of the October 21, 2016 were approved on a motion by William Goehring seconded by Supervisor Hoffman. Minutes approved.

President’s Report – Supervisor Larry Willkom

He requested that discussion about the Executive Directors salary be discussed at the next meeting. A copy of the 2009 contract with Alice O’Connor was shared.

WCA report Chelsea Filbert

Chelsea shared that Dan Bahr was in the hospital and expected to be out soon. She also shared a handout from a recent WCA Tax and Finance meeting that showed how tax cuts have impacted county government. Overall, she said the governor’s budget contains no cuts to county programs and services. (Handout)

Treasurer’s Report – Supervisor Linda Sinkula

She reported that the balance in the Association checkbook as of January, 31 2017 \$ 30,898.99, CD (#7379279). \$ 40,343.77 next matures Jan 31,2017, interest paid in 2016 on the checkbook is \$15.04. Interest paid in 2017 YTD is \$1.27 leaving a total for the Association of \$71,259.07 Expenses since October 2017 totaled \$9,444,01. (October 2016, \$ 2,128.00; November 2016, \$ 1,954.01; December 2016, \$ 2,592.00; and January 2017, \$ 2,770.00.) The balance in the checkbook is \$71,259.07

Supervisor Sinkula shared the chart of dues paid by counites for 2017. Remaining counties who have still not paid their 2017 dues are: Ashland, Dunn, Kenosha LaCrosse, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marinette and Ozaukee.

CSI is paid \$1900 per month. At the next meeting services of CSI will be discussed.

The Treasurer’s report was accepted a motion by Supervisor Chuck Hoffman seconded by Supervisor Rick Gundrum. Motion carried.

Executive Director Report-Alice O’Connor

Alice shared that a recent Assembly Ways and Means information hearing referencing a February 9 Fiscal Bureau memo showed how much the state collected in motor fuel consumption tax, beer and wine and cigarette taxes and public utility taxes. She said the legislature wants to find a way to fund 911 call centers. Under current law while the PSC should oversee the collection, no police and fire

protection fee equal to 75 cents per month on every active voice communications service has gone to do this. Telephone companies have used the funds. They are put into a segregated pot and used to make payments under county and municipal aid programs which reduce the amount of GPR to local governments. The fee generated about \$45 million in 2009-2010 and has been at \$53.3 million in 2015 and 20126.

Overall Alice said Governor Walker's budget bill again proposes a lot of bonding to try to resolve some of the transportation defect issues. He balances his budget based on many assumptions that are flawed. The legislature has already said they will be making considerable changes to Governor Walker's budget bill. Joint Finance Committee hearings are likely to start in March and finish in April.. It is not clear if the legislature will work off the Governor's budget this time (SB 30) or work form a base budget from 2015-2016.

SPEAKERS

Dept. of Revenue: Julie Raes, Deputy Division Administrator Local Governments, 266 9579 (Julie.Raes@revenue.wi.gov) Jeremy Wedige, DOR Auditor state and lco9a finance 264-6885and Zach McClelland, DOR utility taxation 608-264 6889 (Zachary. McClelland @wisconsin.gov)

Each made presentations explaining how the Dept. of Revenue collects, then distributes wind assessments back to local units of government. (handouts shared re revenue utility aid; four types of gross revenue, license fees and We Energies generating system (Monforte Wind Energy center.)

They said wind farms have name plate capacity and it is determined by the generator on the windmill. Gross revenue is all totaled up so it would make sense to ask the Dep.t of Revenue to single out wind so each county knows how much the state is collecting, then returning to counties. There is some talk about only paying when wind mills are running but that has not moved forward yet. Solar is exempt from per capita payments.

Local payments are capped even though the state can collect ore money and keep it. The state always keeps a percent of whatever it collects even though local units of government are capped in what they receive. The state tax only supports forestry account. The WCA has talked about eliminating the state utility tax (put both the utility tax and gross revenue money in the same pot. DOR spokespeople said there really is no direct connection between utility aid payments and the state utility tax. It would be about \$600 million hit to the state if the state property taxes were eliminated

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 on a motion by Supervisor Sinkula seconded by Supervisor Tramburg.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date was set for April 21, 2017 at the WCUTA offices,

Minutes Prepared by Alice O'Connor