



LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING – Thursday, June 12, 2014

The Legal Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Kevin Gobel, at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2014 in room 308 of the Courthouse Annex.

Members Present: Kevin Gobel, Jerry Cade, Dennis Brault, and A. Richard Brose. Cade Cary was absent.

Others in attendance were Gregory M. Lunde, Tena Fredrickson, Ole Yttri, Gail Muller, Pam Eitland, John Spears, Linda Kica, and Herb Cornell

Affirmed proper public notice of meeting.

Review of the April 10, 2014 meeting minutes:

Motion by Brose/second by Cade to approve the minutes as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next was Review of vouchers and Corp. Counsel Budget status: Lunde explained to the committee that they were provided with copies of the budget from both April and May.

Motion by Cade/second by Brose to approve the vouchers/transfers. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next was Audience to Visitors: Yttri stated that regarding agendas, “they seem like they aren’t properly done much of the time and stated he felt someone should watch over them a little better”; That the policies/procedures are off and that “we need to keep educating ourselves”. Lunde stated that is a topic already planned to be covered later, during the current meeting. Lunde also stated the Wisconsin Counties Association is coming in to make a presentation to the Board at the July meeting regarding policies and procedures. Kica stated she will do additional, more localized, training as well.

Next was report into allegations concerning County Board Members: Gobel read an insert from a report which he read to the County Board Committee at the last meeting of the County Board. See attached statement. Gobel stated that he did not initiate this investigation, but was handed this issue when the County Board Chair became involved and that legal counsel could not be involved because he was a witness in the investigation. Lunde questioned if anyone wanted to see the report, if it would be available and Gobel stated that he has a single 13 page copy of it if anyone wants to view it, but that it would go on record/file with the County Clerk’s Office. Gobel stated that he personally hopes this ends this as he is not directly involved, and the report concluded no wrong doings in regards to the allegations.

Lunde suggested since Yttri and Muller were present and interested in the Rules, that they skip out of order.

Motion by Cade/second by Brault to move out of order on the agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next was Robert Rules of Order: Lunde stated the Department heads, for the most part, put together the agendas, but they are not legally responsible; the Committee Chair is ultimately responsible. He noted that recently, four agendas could potentially have had issues, such as, specifically, not enough information/very unclear information, whereas they could have been worded a lot better, as they were too vague and generalized.

Sheriff Spears stated that his Committee puts down "Operation & Maintenance issues concerning the jail", and asked if that was acceptable to be somewhat general like that and Lunde stated as long as it's a report only, it is. Kica asked if Lunde could put together a template or booklet for all Department Heads to use as she would like to see an instructional manual as a "How-to" of Agenda's and Minutes, so there is a uniform format among committees, and Lunde agreed. Brose noted conflicts of meeting dates and the discovery of meetings at near last minute and Lunde stated it is a lot easier to keep track of and remember various meetings when the meeting dates are consistent; for instance, having Legal Affairs meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month the way it currently does, provides a sense of consistency and reliance.

Yttri stated that the Vernon Manor agendas have also had some issues. Gobel noted that to save some municipalities some trouble, he proposed we provide them a copy of the proposed template/booklet as well once one is drafted. Cade questioned whether the opportunity for visitors to speak should be noted on the agendas at all as if 10 people come in wanting to speak, that's 40 minutes of discussion of something not even on the agenda and Lunde stated yes, it is a lot safer to have it on there ahead of time. Several noted it also is just common courtesy to allow it. Lunde commented that the Land & Water Committee had about 30 people all wanting to talk on a specific topic, but they were able to get through all of them in about 20 minutes simply by asking visitors to keep it short, noting the volume of those wanting to comment, and asking they not just reiterate what someone else had already stated.

Brault mentioned the recent Vernon County Board meeting and his asking to amend a request that was just brought to the floor and seconded, and Lunde stated Call for a vote had already happened, and that's a common problem as that the discussion happens before it's even a motion and seconded on the floor; should get the motion first, then have the discussion. Cade asked if the templates could be provided to pass along to the townships and Lunde stated yes.

Motion by Cade/second by Brault to move back in order on the agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Brose/second by Cade to enter into closed session regarding potential litigation at 11:27 a.m. Fredrickson left the committee for the duration of the closed session, and Ronald Hoff entered into closed session with the committee.

Motion by Cade/second by Brose to re-enter into open session at 11:45 a.m.

Next was Committee member's reports/questions:

Lunde stated the committee was basically informed and updates were discussed as part of closed session.

Next was reports/updates: Lunde briefly discussed emergency detentions, stating there was an individual at Winnebago as they spoke. He stated an increase in emergency detentions started occurring in November and it's been ongoing ever since. Lunde then updated the committee on grant writing, stating Michele had prepped a grant report (distributed to members) and stated she could come to a meeting to discuss it further if the committee so wanted. Cade noted the large dollar amounts and Lunde stated that a lot of it is for the Avalance/Bloomington buyout. Lunde noted that the grants the committee was currently reviewing were grants that have been submitted since her employment with the county began. Gobel stated he felt it was good that the committee, Yttri, etc., were being kept up to date on grant submissions.

Next meeting date was tentatively set for July 10, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

Motion by Brose/second by Cade to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tena M. Fredrickson, Corporation Counsel Administrative Assistant.