

Call to order:

This joint meeting of the Executive, Ethics and Insurance Committee and the Legislative & Judicial Committee was called to order by E,E & I Committee Chairman Stephen Favorite at 10:00 A.M. in Vilas County Courthouse conference rooms, 330 Court Street, Eagle River, Wisconsin, with the following committee members present.

E,E & I Committee: Alden Bauman, Christopher Mayer, Charles Rayala and Linda Thorpe.

L & J Committee: Jim Behling and Ron De Bruyne. Sig Hjenvick and Kathleen Rushlow were absent. As S. Favorite is a member of both committees, he asked that Erv Teichmiller act as a replacement for him on the Legislative & Judicial Committee.

Others present at this meeting: Edward Bluthardt, Jr., Dennis Nielsen, Martha Milanowski, Ken Anderson, Joe VanDeLaarschot and County Clerk David Alleman.

Proper notification of meeting and quorum present were verified.

Approve Agenda to be discussed in any order by the Chair:

Motion by C. Mayer, 2nd by A. Bauman to approve the agenda. All voted aye. Carried.

Approve minutes of February 28, 2012 joint meeting:

Motion by C. Mayer, 2nd by R. De Bruyne to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2012 joint meeting as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Committee and Department Head responses:

Two additional written responses were received from committees/department heads. The responses were discussed. The Chair recognized the value of the department head suggestions and commended the department heads who responded.

Ozaukee County model:

The Chair reviewed copies of Ozaukee County agendas and minutes. Ozaukee County seats thirty one County Board Supervisors, yet has reduced the number of their committees to seven. The Chair feels that this format is a good starting point for Vilas County committee restructuring efforts. E. Bluthardt feels that Ozaukee County may not be a good comparable to Vilas County, due to the fact that they employ a County Administrator and a Finance Director. Ozaukee County's population is also four times greater than Vilas County's. He went on to recommend that Vilas County hire a County Administrator, citing the administrative efficiencies that he feels could be gained. The Chair replied that he felt that with the approval to hire a Finance Manager, an administrative team comprised of a Finance Manager, Corporation Counsel, Human Resource Director and the County Clerk will be adequate for the foreseeable future.

Committee restructuring:

a. Identify Vilas committee functions and activities:

The Chair reported the recent changes to the Standing Rules, regarding purchasing, that were submitted by the Public Property Committee. He described those changes as great examples of committee streamlining. R. De Bruyne spoke about the need for committee

chairs to limit discussion to speed meetings up. The Chair replied that committee chairs may benefit from some training on how to properly conduct meetings. C. Rayala submitted his proposal to reduce county committee numbers to twelve. This was discussed. The Chair cautioned the members not to prematurely decide on a certain number of committees; he also stated that his recommendation of seven committees was a starting point, recognizing that a greater number of committees may be needed. The Chair led a discussion of a Public Works Committee, comprised of the Highway and Public Property Committees. C. Rayala does not believe that concept to be workable. This was discussed. E. Bluthardt also questioned that concept due to the requirement that Highway Dept. finances be kept separate from the General Fund. E. Teichmiller proposed a Human Services Committee comprised of Social Services, Commission on Aging, Child Support, Public Health and Veteran's Services. This idea was discussed. R. De Bruyne reported that the Circuit Court Judge wanted Child Support kept as a court function. A. Bauman is concerned about statutorily required committees. J. Behling foresees no impediment to restructuring due to statutory requirements. The functions of statutory committees could still be combined together; the statutory requirements could be met by the use of separate sub-committees. Committees requiring citizen participation could be accommodated in the same manner. A. Bauman used the County-Tribal Concerns Committee as an example, stating that it could be restructured as a citizen based committee, led by a county board member. E. Teichmiller questioned the function of the Legislative & Judicial Committee. J. Behling proposed combining Economic Development with Finance, citing the primarily financial function of Economic Development since the formation of a separate Vilas County Economic Development Corporation.

At 11:19 A.M. E. Bluthardt excused himself from the meeting.

b. Group committees by functions and activities:

The Chair asked that all members submit their ideas on which committees could be consolidated, based upon similar function and activity. Results are to be submitted to the Clerk. The Chair will use this information to create a second draft proposal of committee consolidation, for discussion at the next meeting.

Letters and Communications:

Nothing presented.

Set next meeting date and time:

A joint meeting of the Executive, Ethics & Insurance and the Legislative & Judicial committees will be held at 9:45 A.M., Tuesday, April 24, 2012.

Adjournment:

Motion by C. Rayala, 2nd by S. Favorite to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

David R. Alleman

Vilas County Clerk

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.