

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 10:46 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, Erv Teichmiller and Linda Thorpe.

L & J Committee: Jim Behling, Ron De Bruyne, Chuck Hayes, Gary Peske and Kathleen Rushlow were absent. Others present at this meeting: Edward Bluthardt, Jr., Jason Hilger, Janna Kahl, Martha Milanowski, Judge Neal Nielsen, Ken Anderson, Joe VanDeLaarschot and David Alleman.

Proper notification of meeting and quorum present were verified.

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

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

Approve minutes of March 27, 2012 joint meeting:

Motion by L. Thorpe, 2nd by E. Teichmiller to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2012 joint meeting as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Creation of a Human Services Dept.:

S. Favorite opened discussion by stating the reasons why the time may be right to consolidate existing human service activity departments into a single Human Services Department. Two vacancies now exist in directorships of two human service related departments. The Schenck study also recommended consolidation of human service activities.

a. Consolidation of existing departments engaged in Human Service type activities – resolution to County Board:

E. Teichmiller presented his model of a consolidated Human Services Department. J. Kahl presented data on ten Wisconsin counties in which human service activities have been combined into one Human Services type department. The report included data in regards to types of services offered and department management structure. E. Bluthardt is concerned about a number of issues, including licensing requirements for a Human Services Director and costs of adding another high value position. These issues were discussed. J. Kahl expects some savings due to managerial efficiencies gained. Directors of the departments under discussion also perform many non-managerial duties. Establishing one Human Services directorship should allow those department heads greater field time. A single director will have the opportunity to create a more cohesive financial and service structure. E. Teichmiller concurred, noting that many clients are recipients of more than one type of human service provided by Vilas County. He also sees the potential for enhanced efficiencies, as the result of consolidating all human service activities under one directorship. C. Hayes recommends the development of a job description and salary range for the proposed position as an aid to deliberations. G. Peske is concerned about the status of current department heads. C. Mayer stated that this idea was not being considered as a means to eliminate current department heads. He

also views the creation of a Human Services Director position as a method whereby current department heads can be freed from certain managerial burdens, allowing for more time to provide services directly to the public. E. Bluthardt feels that the proposed position requires a lengthy learning curve for a new hire. He fears that any haste in creating this position will ultimately prove to be detrimental. A. Bauman would like more cost information regarding this position. He feels that this may not be an opportune time to proceed with this idea. K. Rushlow stated that current Social Service and Commission on Aging case loads remained at very high levels. She feels that any department consolidation undertaken at this time will only impair the ability of the affected departments to provide services. Judge N. Nielsen recommends that Juvenile Intake not be considered for inclusion into a Human Services Department. He presented reasons as to why he considers Juvenile Intake to be a court related function. He also asked to be part of all future discussion regarding that subject. The function of the Juvenile Intake Department was discussed at length. Committee oversight of the Juvenile Intake Department was also discussed. Current practice requires Juvenile Intake to report to Social Services for purchasing and budget purposes. R. De Bruyne noted that the Standing Rules divide Juvenile Intake oversight between the Social Services Committee and the Court. The question was then asked regarding which committee performed oversight duties over the Circuit Court. During that discussion E. Teichmiller stated that these deliberations simply underscored the need to proceed with consolidation of departments, if only for the purpose of determining which committee should have oversight of Juvenile Intake activities. G. Peske stated his view that Juvenile Intake is primarily a law enforcement function.

A. Bauman was excused from the meeting at 11:57 A.M.

**b. Recommendation to Personnel Committee to create a Human Services
Director job description:**

This issue was discussed. **Motion by C. Mayer, 2nd by K. Rushlow to recommend that the Personnel Committee develop a Human Services Director job description. All voted aye. Carried.** The Chair asked for discussion on whether or not direction over the Juvenile Intake Department needed to be included in that job description. The consensus of the joint committee was that the Juvenile Intake Department should not be included a human services department.

Committee restructuring – second draft:

E. Teichmiller presented his model of restructured county committees. His model was discussed at length. S. Favorite recommended that a seven committee format remain the starting point for deliberations. C. Mayer spoke about the need for county board members to focus on policy making and not the management of day to day county activities. He would like to implement some form of committee restructuring by August 2012. J. Behling stated his view that the number of committees was not important. All importance needs to be focused on committee quality – what can each committee accomplish in a timely and efficient manner. This concept was discussed. **Motion by J. Behling, 2nd by C. Mayer to accept the seven committee model and to move forward to create policy to implement same. Discussion. 7 voted aye. 2 voted no: R. De Bruyne and K. Rushlow. Carried.** R. De Bruyne and K. Rushlow each stated their reasons for opposing the subject of the motion.

a. Committee functions and activities:

Nothing presented.

b. Citizen membership on subcommittees:

The Chair asked the assembly to consider this subject as restructuring efforts continue.

C. Sample agenda:

Nothing presented.

G. Peske was excused from the meeting at 12:43 P.M.

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 1:00 P.M., Tuesday, June 19, 2012.

Adjournment:

Motion by C. Hayes, 2nd by C. Mayer to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 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.