

Open meeting law complied with. Quorum verified.

**Call to order:**

The Legislative & Judicial Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Vilas County Courthouse conference rooms by Chairman Chris Mayer with the following committee members present: Jim Behling, Charles Hayes, Gary Peske and Linda Thorpe. r Charles Rayala, Jr. and Al Bauman represented the Highway Committee. Ralph Sitzberger and Sig Hjemvick represented the Forestry, Recreation & Lands Committee. Other persons present at various times during this meeting: Martha Milanowski, Jason Hilger, Jarred Maney, Ken Anderson and David Alleman.

**Approve agenda to be discussed in any order by the Chair:**

**Motion by L. Thorpe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Hayes to approve the agenda, with the agenda order to be presented at the Chair's discretion. All voted aye. Carried.**

**Committee restructuring:**

C. Mayer led the discussion by explaining the impetus behind today's meeting. Restructuring efforts have been proceeding, albeit slowly, and meeting with some resistance. The Legislative & Judicial Committee felt that the wanted to "jump start" the process by proposing the restructuring of three major committees. The group discussed the draft Public Works Committee document provided.

**a. Public Works Committee:**

J. Behling explained the structure of a proposed Public Works Committee, which would combine the existing Highway, Forestry and Public Property Committees. Efficiencies could be realized, as this committee structure could facilitate greater utilization of human resources. C. Rayala voiced concerns over meeting lengths. He feels that this committee structure would result in unusually long meetings. S. Hjemvick is concerned about combining the Forestry Committee into this structure. R. Sitzberger explained that Forestry meetings remain lengthy – in spite of his efforts as committee Chair to shorten the meeting. He went on to voice his opinion that the work of the Forestry Committee is about providing "very good and necessary services". He opposes combining Forestry with the other committees into a Public Works Committee. He also feels that paying supervisors a salary is one way to mitigate the effect of long meetings. J. Behling countered that his research indicates no substantial increase in meeting lengths, in counties that have reduced the number of existing committees. S. Hjemvick proposed the combination of Forestry, Land & Water and Land Records committees. C. Rayala recognizes the benefit of reducing the number of committees; however, he opposes the current proposal. C. Hayes stated that committee restructuring needed to start someplace. He added that committee consolidations need to occur as the current number of committees is inefficient. Supervisors need to re-assume their elected duty to function as policy makers and not practice direct management. He feels that there is too much negativity on the part of board members regarding this initiative. He also wants board members to discuss how restructuring will affect services. G. Peske supports committee consolidation. He would also consider reducing the number of county board districts. S. Hjemvick supports committee restructuring but wants the L&J Committee to consider other committee restructuring models first. He stated "This is too much too soon". He proposes combining Forestry, Land & Water and Land Records

committees. He also proposed the combination of the Highway and Public Property committees. Lastly, he proposes that seven members serve on each of those combined committees. C. Rayala feels that there is too much emphasis on county board expenses, stating "County board is only 1% of the total county budget". R. Sitzberger proposed combining Land & Water with UW Extension, Forestry with Land Records and Highway with Public Property. J. Behling spoke on the methods and benefits of sharing resources within a combined committee structure. J. Hilger feels that efficiencies could be realized by simply creating policy that allows managers to "do their jobs". The Clerk stated that "lots of time" is wasted trying to coordinate committee functions. G. Peske supports R. Sitzberger's committee restructuring proposal. He also supports seven member committees, as does C. Rayala. C. Mayer would like committee membership to remain at present levels, subject to increase based upon identifiable need. J. Behling asked the group if there was consensus in support of going forward with exploring the combination of Land & Water with UW Extension, Forestry with Land Records and Highway with Public Property. The group indicated consensus with supporting that path forward. C. Mayer will have that committee restructuring proposal placed upon the May Legislative & Judicial Committee agenda. He thanked the members present for their participation.

**Letters and Communications:**

Nothing presented.

**Future meeting date:**

The next regular meeting will be held at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday, May 8, 2013

**Adjournment:**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:25 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

David R. Alleman

Vilas County Clerk.