

Legislative Advisory Committee

August 2, 2016

Call to Order: Edwin Kelley, Larry Neuens, Holly Wahlstrom-Stratton, Edward Wenger, and Ron Yadro.

Excused: Fred Erwin

Absent: None

Approval of the Agenda: Wenger moved, Stratton supports. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Stratton moved, Yadro supports. All in favor.

Department and Partner Agency/Organization Recommendations:

School Legislation:

Yadro reported nothing at this time.

Town concerns:

Kelley reported nothing at this time

Forestry concerns:

Yadro asked for a letter of support from the County Board for the WI DNR division of Forestry Headquarters to relocate Rhinelander.

Wenger reported that Paul Strong, Chequamegon-Nicolet NF Forest Supervisor, has moved.

Yadro moved, L. Neuens supports a letter from Pat Smith, Florence County Forestry and Parks Administrator, to the DNR to relocate the WI DNR Forestry Headquarters division to Rhinelander. All in favor.

Volunteer Firefighter & Emergency Medical Technician Shortage concerns:

Kelley reported concerns with finding local volunteers to be firefighters and emergency medical technicians, (EMT). A long discussion took place.

Chief Deputy Dave Gribble reported that Sheriff Jeff Rickaby applied and was appointed to the State Joint Legislative Council working on identifying the recruitment and retention of firefighter and emergency medical service (EMS) as a challenge, especially for rural providers. The study committee will examine the issues in the state and propose measures to address the shortage. The committee does not believe that money is an issue. The issue is that people are not taking the time to volunteer. Several different options were discussed to peak interest in volunteering.

Stratton moves. Erwin supports to keep this volunteer issue on future agendas. All in favor.

S.H.I.P – State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP).

Stratton - reported that the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee introduced a budget for federal fiscal year (FY) 2017 cutting all funding for the SHIP. Currently Wisconsin receives \$1 million annually through this program. The program supports toll-free Medigap Helpline, Medigap Part D and Prescription Drug Helplines; Elder Healthcare Advocates, transitions for BadgerCare Plus, the Health Insurance Marketplace and Medicare; Elder Benefit Specialist services in 72 counties. Florence County would lose over \$6000 in aid.

Stratton moves. L. Neuens supports to have Lori Friberg, ADRC/Aging Director, write a letter of support from the County Board to keep the funding. All in favor.

Update from area Legislatures:

L. Neuens - reported that he is a member of the Wisconsin Counties Association Agriculture Committee. He recently attended a meeting that prioritized an outline for the upcoming legislative session. He raised concerns for ACT 55 changes to Shoreland Zoning. Some of the changes do not allow counties to enact ordinances stronger than the states shoreland zoning standards.

L. Neuens moved. Wenger supports sending this issue on to the Zoning Committee. All in favor.

Stratton - reported the Governor is recommending freezing the tuition for another year for University Wisconsin students. Her concerns are the cuts that will have to be made if this freeze is implemented.

Set date for next Legislative Advisory Committee meeting and adjourn: September 6th, 9am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Kelley

Ed Kelley, Chairman