

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Legislative Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Don Zillig
DATE/TIME: April 20, 2016 @ 11:00 am
PRESENT:

Don Zillig Merri Berlage Brad Petersburg Steve McIntyre
 Terry Stoffregen Ron Smith Randy Jobgen

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: None

Others: Gary Diedrick and Kevin Turner

1. Minutes Approval

- a) Steve McIntyre made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2016 Legislative Committee meeting. Seconded by Terry Stoffregen. Motion carried.

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) Update on Prevailing Wage Legislation - No action has been taken on Prevailing Wage Bill, HB1525 since it was re-referred to the Rules Committee on March 27, 2015. It was discussed and decided to drop this bill from our "Unfinished Business" category due to the lack of progress. It was suggested we discuss this bill and the inaction regarding this bill with Representative Stewart at our June 15th Legislative Committee meeting.
- b) Update on Economic Development Edge - Chairman Zillig reported that Lisa McCarthy traveled to Springfield to join Representative Stewart in advocating for HB4736 before the Income Tax subcommittee and reported that they thought the bill would move out of the subcommittee. This morning McCarthy sent an e-mail to Zillig and advised that she had spoken to Representative Stewart on April 16th and was advised by Stewart that 1,000 bills were sent to the rules committee. Stewart told McCarthy he hadn't heard of any objections. Lisa advised that they will continue to introduce bills until they are successful. Ron Smith said he would talk to Stewart regarding this bill.
- c) Update on State tax on utilities - Ron Smith checked with the state and was told the state refers to this state tax on utilities as an "excise tax" and as such there doesn't appear to be any way for the County to be exempt from paying this tax. Chairman Zillig advised that he had sent e-mails to John Hay and Dan Gilbert regarding Municipal Utility Tax. They have all the information and will take a look at our options. Smith gave a brief description of steps we can take regarding these taxes.
- d) Discussion on 2016 Legislative priorities submitted to IAC – Chairman Zillig passed out an update on our Looking Glass as of yesterday evening, April 19th. This was an update of our April 5th Looking Glass posting. The majority of both House and Senate bills ended up being re-referred to the Rules Committee. Ron Smith mentioned that the State Treasurer suggested that the Lawmakers salaries be held up pending the passing of a budget. There were questions if this holding back of dollars could be accomplished.

4. **New Business:**

- a) Steve McIntyre advised that Brian Stewart said that he would attend our June 15th Legislative Committee meeting. It was on his schedule, but not on his secretary's schedule. Ron Smith will contract Representative Stewart's office to make sure they are aware of the meeting.

5. **Legislative Looking Glass** – Copies of an updated listing was put out on April 5th by Hal Gilpin.

6. **Citizens' Comments:** Kevin Turner said he had attended to see what action was being taken on the Municipal Utility Tax options. This tax was discussed at length but no action will be taken until we receive an opinion from John Hay.

7. **Board Member Concerns:** There was discussion concerning the upcoming NG-911 program. Steve McIntyre suggested we discuss the cost of this program with Representative Stewart and Senator Bivins. Kevin Turner advised that some of the counties were looking to combine on this project in order to achieve better results at a less costly price. Ron Smith suggested we look at the UCCI report regarding pending legislation.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m. following a motion made by Terry Stoffregen, seconded by Brad Petersburg and motion carried.