

DOWNSIZING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Administrative Center, Room B390, 400 N. 4th St.

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Berns (4:03), Sharon Hampson, Vicki Burke, Ray Ebert, Ralph Geary, Monica Kruse, Andrea Richmond

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve O'Malley, Dave Lange, Margaret Norden, Jill Billings, Marilyn Pedretti

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Co-Chair Hampson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2011, DOWNSIZING COMMITTEE MEETING

Supervisor Burke pointed out a correction to Staff Reports, paragraph c.i.: There were six out of eight counties holding elections, rather than five out of eight; she also asked to have the words "mixed with" deleted. **MOTION** by Kruse/Geary to approve the Minutes of December 13, 2011, Downsizing Committee Meeting, as corrected. **Motion carried unanimously.** Berns excused.

REPORT ON RESULTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS ON STRUCTURE, MEMBERSHIP, AND MEETING TIMES

Chair Hampson provided a summary of the portions of committee minutes about discussions regarding membership numbers and meeting times, as follows:

- Planning, Resources & Development: Voted to keep seven members; pointed out that statutory regulations prevent changing their meeting date;
- Public Works & Infrastructure: Preferred having an odd number of members, and keeping their meeting time at 4:00 p.m.;
- Judiciary & Law: Were not opposed to having five members, and preferred to adjust their meeting time according to the needs of the committee;
- Aging & Long-Term Care: Were not opposed to having a six-member committee, and preferred to keep their morning meeting time;
- Health & Human Services: Had no changes to the suggested size or meeting time;
- Executive: Had general agreement with the current meeting time; expressed different ideas regarding committee composition.

Supervisor Billings offered a suggestion to eliminate Judiciary & Law Committee, and transfer some of their responsibilities to the Criminal Justice Management Council, and to have one more county supervisor on the CJMC membership. She then suggested standing committee membership of six or seven on Health and Human Services, seven each on the remaining three standing committees, and the 28th supervisor serving on CJMC. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the responsibilities of Judiciary & Law with regard to department oversight and budget, numbers of members on each of the standing committees, relying on ad hoc committees for specific purposes, and having supervisors serve on more than one standing committee. The following motions were made:

MOTION by Burke/Richmond to reconsider the motion on committee size recommendation. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION by Burke/Richmond to recommend the following committee membership numbers: Health and Human Services – six; Public Works & Infrastructure – seven; Planning, Resources & Development – seven; Aging & Long-Term Care – six; Judiciary & Law – five.

Upon further discussion, the following amendment was made:

MOTION by Richmond/Burke to amend to have five members on Aging & Long-Term Care. **Motion carried 6-1.** Hampson opposed.

A vote was then taken on the Motion to recommend the following committee membership numbers, as amended: Health and Human Services – six; Public Works & Infrastructure – seven; Planning, Resources & Development – seven; Aging & Long-Term Care – five; Judiciary & Law – five. **Motion carried 5-1-1.** Hampson opposed; Kruse abstained.

MOTION by Geary/Berns that no supervisor will serve as a permanent member on more than two standing committees, including Executive Committee. **Motion carried 6-1.** Hampson opposed.

DISCUSS COMPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Hampson reviewed the current composition, as follows: The County Board Chair and two Vice-Chairs (elected positions); five standing committee chairs (appointed positions); an at-large member (appointed); and, potentially, the former County Board Chair for one year following election of a new County Board Chair. Discussion followed regarding the need for a diverse committee, and having the at-large member elected by the full County Board. Supervisor Burke raised questions regarding the wording and intent of Ordinance 2.02(8) b. and f., and 2.02 (10), which address ordinances and ad hoc committees. Discussion was held about the ability of the Executive Committee to amend an ordinance before it is forwarded to the County Board, and the ability to introduce a minority report on the Board floor. Dave Lange clarified that any proposed legislation from an ad hoc committee must go to a standing committee. **MOTION** by Burke/Geary to keep Executive Committee composition as it currently stands. **Motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSS TERM LIMITS FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Discussion was held regarding the importance of encouraging new leadership and contributions. Suggestions were made to look at training of chairs, and to have vice-chairs occasionally run committee meetings. Further discussion was held regarding the necessity of term limits if chairs were to be elected, and whether elections and term limits would necessarily create diversity. No recommendation was made.

DISCUSS APPOINTMENT OF ANOTHER SUPERVISOR TO ATTAIN QUORUM. 1.41 (3)

Chair Hampson proposed that, in addition to the County Board Chair having the authority to appoint a supervisor to substitute for another supervisor to meet quorum requirements, committee chairs should have the same authority since there can be occasions when the Board Chair cannot be reached.

MOTION by Geary/Richmond to change 1.41 (3)(d) to allow committee chairs to appoint one more to ensure a quorum.

MOTION by Geary/Richmond to amend to change 1.41 (3)(d) to allow the county board chair or committee chairs to appoint one or more to ensure a quorum. **Motion carried unanimously.** A vote was then taken on the Motion, as amended. **Motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE DRAFT OF LA CROSSE COUNTY ORDINANCE 1.41-1.49

Dave Lange provided a draft of Ordinance 1.41-1.49 showing proposed changes that were voted on by the Downsizing Committee. Steve O'Malley pointed out housekeeping changes to provide language conformity. He also said that, at his request, certain committee appointments that are under the authority of the County Administrator would be changed to the County Board Chair. **MOTION** by Richmond/Berns to approve the draft of the La Crosse County Ordinance 1.41-1.49, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Survey by the County Clerk of all counties regarding elections vs. appointments of committee chairs.

DETERMINE NEXT MEETING DATE

To be determined.

ADJOURN

MOTION by Richmond/Kruse to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Margaret Norden, Recorder