

**Joint Executive, Ethics and Insurance Committee and Legislative & Judicial
Committee meeting minutes**

February 28, 2012

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Prior to this meeting being called to order, it was observed by the press that a quorum of the Vilas County Board was in attendance. As the clerk had not posted this meeting for a possible quorum of the County Board, five Supervisors were asked to leave the meeting room. Five Supervisors voluntarily left the meeting room.

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 Chris Mayer at 10:00 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, Charles Rayala and Linda Thorpe. Erv Teichmiller is replacing Steve Favorite during the latter's absence.

L & J Committee: Chairman Sig Hjemvick, Jim Behling and Ron De Bruyne. Kathleen Rushlow was excused.

Others present at this meeting: Edward Bluthardt, Jr., Dennis Nielsen, Janna Kahl, Martha Milanowski, Ken Anderson, Joe VanDeLaarschot and County Clerk 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. Rayala to approve the agenda. All voted aye. Carried.

Approve minutes of January 31, 2012 joint meeting:

Motion by L. Thorpe, 2nd by C. Rayala to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2012 joint meeting as presented. All voted aye. Carried.

Committee and Department Head responses:

C. Mayer began the discussion by presenting the responses received from committees and department heads regarding committee and department consolidation. The responses were discussed. Corporation Counsel provided a list of committees required by statute. This list was referred to throughout ensuing discussions.

Committee restructuring:

a. Ideas and solutions:

b. Elimination of unnecessary oversight activities:

C. Mayer urged the committee to forego speculating on the number of committees ultimately needed. He asked the members to focus instead on which committees were conducive to consolidation. E. Teichmiller responded with his own draft of committee consolidations. He urged consideration of current committee function and activity, as a prerequisite to any combining of committees. J. Behling concurred and thanked him for his draft. S. Hjemvick is concerned about retaining necessary checks and balances over financial matters. Financial oversight and policy was discussed at length. E. Bluthardt is encouraged by the discussion pointing to the need of a Financial Manager. The consensus of the committee is that any major changes in financial oversight policy need to be

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postponed until the proposed hiring of a Financial Manager becomes reality. C. Mayer cited the written response composed by the Zoning Director.

The Zoning Director suggested ideas to streamline Zoning operations by allowing the Director to set dates for public hearings and to approve plats of subdivision and condominium. The elimination of unnecessary monthly committee meetings was also discussed. E. Bluthardt is concerned that combined committees will be cause for longer meetings. J. Behling would like the committee to model the agenda of a hypothetical combined committee, as an exercise to help illustrate how an agenda could be shortened to eliminate unnecessary committee tasks and actions, thus saving time. The clerk also pointed out steps that could be taken to shorten meeting length, including the training of committee chairs to limit repetitive discussion and unnecessary action items. L. Thorpe and A. Bauman both agree that committee chairs can be very instrumental in shortening the duration of committee meetings. L. Thorpe also feels that supervisor training would be beneficial. E. Teichmiller spoke about identifying and eliminating committees and practices that amount to "sacred cows". J. Behling wants to move on to what he describes as the next step; drafting hypothetical agendas for consolidated committees. E. Teichmiller again urged members to first consider committee function and activity when combining committees. J. Behling urged the committee to be ready to move forward with preliminary committee structure at the next meeting. C. Mayer asked the committee to bring their committee consolidation recommendations back to the next meeting.

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 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, March 27, 2012.

Adjournment:

Motion by C. Rayala, 2nd by A. Bauman to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 A.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.