

Chairperson: Supervisor James Schmitt
Clerk: Carol Mueller, 278-4228
Research Analyst: Steve Cady, 278-4347

COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Monday, January 31, 2011 - 9:00 A.M.

Milwaukee County Courthouse - Room 201-B

MINUTES

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

PRESENT: Supervisors Borkowski, Weishan, Cesarz, Broderick, Dimitrijevic and Schmitt (Chair)

ABSENT: Supervisor Holloway*

*Supervisor Holloway is currently in the capacity of County Executive.

1. 11-87
(11-63) A resolution by Supervisor Mayo, seeking a change in State statutes to permit Milwaukee County to establish a health care expenditure stabilization fund.

APPEARANCE(S):

Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., District #7

Supervisor Mayo said this resolution allows Milwaukee County to be proactive to create a fund that could be used when the cost of health care fluctuates yearly. Milwaukee County operates a self-insured insurance benefit.

Questions and comments ensued on when this may be approved and possible funding options.

ACTION BY: (Borkowski) Approve the said resolution. Vote 6-0

AYES: Borkowski, Weishan, Cesarz, Broderick Dimitrijevic and Schmitt (Chair)-6

NOES: -0

EXCUSED: Holloway-1

2. 11-84
(11-52) From the County Executive, requesting adoption of a resolution urging the State of Wisconsin to redirect or designate any revenue generated in Milwaukee County from the eighteen-dollar rental car tax as a local dedicated funding source for transit, to the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS).

APPEARANCE(S):

Terry Cooley, County Board Chief of Staff
County Executive, Lee Holloway

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Ken Yunker, President, Southeastern Regional Planning Commission
Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr. District #7

The County Executive said that MCTS will be in serious trouble with possible transit cuts in the State budget. He wants Milwaukee County to be on record to request/receive any funds from car rental fees that may be available through legislation approved to fund the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SERTA).

Mr. Yunker spoke to the Committee in favor of the request. It is feasible that SERTA will be dissolved without Federal and State support. It is good to have Milwaukee County on record requesting these monies to fund the Milwaukee County Transit System.

Questions and comments ensued.

ACTION BY: (Broderick) Approve the said request. Vote 2-4

AYES: Broderick and Dimitrijevic -2

NOES: Borkowski, Weishan, Cesarz, and Schmitt (Chair)-4

EXCUSED: Holloway-1

The motion to approve failed.

3. 11IGR01 Update on Legislative matters. **(INFORMATIONAL ONLY, UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COMMITTEE)**
(INF 11-38)

APPEARANCE(S):

Roy de la Rosa, Intergovernmental Relations

Anita Gulotta Connelly, Managing Director of Milwaukee County Transit Service

Lisa Marks, Director, Child Support Enforcement

The Chair spoke to the Committee regarding the Milwaukee County delegation of five supervisors that were part of the Wisconsin Counties Association ambassador program. They met with State legislators on three priority points. They are the Juvenile Justice System closing; the \$6.8 million payment for the old GAMP program that only Milwaukee County pays, that is now a part of Badger Care, a State program; and a dedicated funding source for MCTS.

Each Supervisor tried to meet with his/her own representative. The clear response from Madison is no new taxes or spending. The delegation spoke to the merits to keep Ethan Allen facility open opposed to Lincoln Hills. It will be fiscally imprudent to keep both centers open. On the second priority, Senator Darling understands the money paid by Milwaukee County for the Badger Care program does not seem fair. Hopefully the Governor will concur. On the final point regarding a sales tax for transit, parks and EMS services the response was that if

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

this could not get passed in the last Democratic administration, it will not be going forward now.

A discussion ensued on state shared revenue cuts that may be forthcoming.

Mr. de la Rosa updated the Committee on a series of legislative sessions that took place where bills passed in one branch on the creation and expansion of jobs, the deductibility of health savings accounts, tax credits for businesses that located in Wisconsin and tort reform.

The Governor in his State of the State address will make public his ideas to reduce the State deficit. They will be two-fold, ideas that affect his budget and recommendations to the current budget deficit that ends in June of 2011. There will be exposure to County programs. Everything is on the table.

Ms. Connelly addressed the possibility of mass transit operating assistance being pulled out of the Transportation fund and put into the General Fund and not funding transit services. These funds are an essential part of Milwaukee County's infrastructure for transit. There is an argument in Madison that Public Transportation isn't public transportation but a service. This change would affect all state-wide transit systems. A wide-spread group of transit advocates across the state are working together to mobilize the elderly, disability and environmental concern to fight this perception.

Questions and comments ensued.

Ms. Marks informed the Committee that in June 2010, the Department received a preliminary notice from the State regarding their allocation of the \$8.5 million of continuing general purpose revenues for Department of Children and Families for 2011. This assumption was used for the 2011 Milwaukee County Budget. Later in 2010, Milwaukee County was notified that the general purpose revenue was only \$4.25 million state wide. IGR, along with the legislative assistance from Representative Grigsby and Senator Taylor was able to suggest another source of revenue that was available for the Department of Children and Families. This additional funding allowed the State to provide both the \$4.25 and an additional \$4.25 in program money. For 2011, all 72 Counties were eligible for the \$8.5 million in matchable funds. The State allocation for 2011 has been received by Milwaukee County.

The Committee took no action on this informational report.

SCHEDULED ITEMS (CONTINUED):

Staff Present:

Roy de la Rosa, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, County Board
Kelly Bablitch, Assistant Director, Intergovernmental Relations, County Board
Anita Gulotta Connelly, Managing Director of Milwaukee County Transit Service
Steve Cady, Fiscal and Budget Analyst, County Board
Lisa Marks, Director, Child Support Enforcement

This meeting was recorded on a tape. Committee files contain copies of communications, reports and resolutions, which may be reviewed upon request to the Chief Committee Clerk. The official copy of these minutes, along with the audio recording of this meeting, is available in the County Board Committee Services Division.

Length of the meeting 9:02 a.m. to 10:22 a.m.

Carol Mueller

Chief Committee Clerk

ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 278-3932 (voice) or 278-3937 (TTD), upon receipt of this notice.