

KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY BOARD CHAMBERS COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

The **Regular Meeting** was called to order by Chairman Rose at 7:30 p.m., in the County Board Room located in the Administration Building. Roll call was taken.

Present: Supervisors Grady, Rossow, Rose, Kessler, Huff, Kubicki, Marrelli, Booth, Carbone, Faraone, Ronald Johnson, Michel, O'Day, Singer, Nudo, Moore, Molinaro, Jackson, Clark, Noble, West, Roger Johnson, Breunig, Haas, Elverman, Ekornaas.

Excused: Supervisor Wisnefski.

Absent: Supervisor Arrington.

Present. 26 Excused. 1 Absent. 1

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor, John M. Antaramian, 8318-25th Avenue. He wanted to make a couple of things clear regarding Joint Services, specifically the communications part of Joint Services. For 4 years the City has requested, through the administration that a settlement be agreed upon due to duplication that exists and the City has over-paid for Joint Services. It is time to look at how the structure is being paid for. The City is willing to help pay for the study as long as they are part of the study. When government sues government the losers are the taxpayers.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Supervisor Marrelli reminded everyone to show up at 6:30 P.M. on September 18th for the installation of the Youth & Governance. OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 48

48. From Legislative Committee The State of Indiana for Permitting Grievous harm to Lake Michigan.

WHEREAS, the state of Indiana Governor has signed a permit allowing British Petroleum Corporation's Whiting refinery to increase dumping of their waste into Lake Michigan by 1,584 pounds of ammonia and 4,925 pounds of sludge per day. This has been done with out the consideration of neighboring states and municipalities.

WHEREAS, Kenosha County gets a large percentage of their drinking water from Lake Michigan and known carcinogens are carried in these suspended solids. Increased amounts of ammonia have known effects on fish population production.

WHEREAS, Kenosha County has invested heavily in the improvement of our Lake front and boating industry. This increased dumping by BP, just 80 miles from our fishing and boating waters, creates hazards to the economic future of this industry.

WHEREAS, the ecological stress put upon Lake Michigan with lower Lake levels totaling 17inches coupled with invasive species problems and increased applications for water diversions puts our Lake in a precarious environmentally delicate situation. No added stress is needed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors do hereby condemn the dumping by British Petroleum's Whiting refinery in the state of Indiana into Lake Michigan as undesirable for the health and water quality of the surrounding shoreline states, village's, towns and cities. We hereby censure the allowance of such a permit as grievous harm to our economic future and the future health of our citizenry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors asks that a meeting of Southeastern Wisconsin Mayors, County Executives, Legislators and the Governor of Wisconsin be held in support of our resolution as quickly as possible to prevent further pollution from occurring.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board also requests a copy of this resolution be sent to every Federal Congressperson and Senator from the State of Wisconsin and those states bordering Lake Michigan the State of Indiana Governor.

Submitted by:
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
James Huff
James Moore
Ron Johnson
Gordon West
Jennifer Jackson

It was moved by Supervisor Huff to adopt Resolution 48. Seconded by Supervisor Jackson.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions - one reading.

RESOLUTION 57

57. From Legislative Committee regarding Opposition to 2007 Assembly Bill 438.

WHEREAS, 2007 Assembly Bill 438 creates a nine-member task force to study the responsibilities and obligations of county government and to develop a plan to reduce the number of counties in this state from 72 to 18 or fewer, and

WHEREAS, 2007 Assembly Bill 438 requires that the task force's proposal regarding a reduction in the number of counties be prepared by 2011, and

WHEREAS, the suggestion of 18 counties or fewer is an arbitrary number that lacks substantiated research to support the proposition that Wisconsin citizens would be better served by 18 counties or fewer, and

WHEREAS, numerous commissions and task forces such as the Kettl Commission have devoted a great deal of time, energy, and resources to the state and local government partnership and the delivery of services, and

WHEREAS, the Kettl Commission provided a substantive and innovative report with numerous worth-while recommendations regarding local government service delivery and efficiencies that were never considered by state Legislature, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin citizens would be better served by a discussion relating to local government issues in their entirety, rather than creating a committee charged with attempting to implement a subjective reduction in the number of Wisconsin counties, and

WHEREAS, the state/local government partnership, how local government services are provided and funded, and Wisconsin's taxation structure and system are issues that should be discussed before state policy makers arbitrarily modify the number of Wisconsin counties, and

WHEREAS, any examination of the number of counties and structure of county government in Wisconsin should consider the current and future social and economic trends, current and future demographics and the examination should consider a practical and lasting solution that serves Wisconsin citizens for generations to come, and

WHEREAS, numerous issues have to be considered and implemented for the reduction of counties to occur, and

WHEREAS, issues that must be resolved include but are not limited to: existing labor contracts between a respective county and its labor unions, real estate documentation such as deeds and plats, zoning authority and land use issues, human service contracts and services, general contracts between a respective county and services provider, and more, and

WHEREAS, the initial costs of transforming from 72 counties to 18 counties or fewer would be substantial to Wisconsin taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, the costs borne to taxpayers to implement such a reduction in counties would come at a time when the state of Wisconsin has continuous structural budget deficits and other pressing issues such as an aging population and an antiquated taxation system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors opposes 2007 Assembly Bill 438.

Submitted by:
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
James Huff
James Moore
Ronald Johnson

Gordon West
Jennifer Jackson

It was moved by Supervisor Huff to adopt Resolution 57. Seconded by Supervisor Moore.
Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 58

58. From Supervisor Clark regarding Response to the Unilateral Action by the City of Kenosha to Cut Funding for the Joint Services Board.

It was moved by Supervisor Clark to adopt Resolution 58. Seconded by Supervisor Ron Johnson.

It was moved by Supervisor Faraone to Substitute Resolution 48 with a Resolution Establishing a Negotiating Committee to Work with the City of Kenosha to Resolve Issues surrounding the Joint Services' Budget. Seconded by Supervisor Kubicki.

It was moved by Supervisor Moore to refer both resolutions to Finance and Judiciary & Law Committees for a joint meeting and bring a resolution to the September 18th County Board Meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Singer.
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATION

11. From Michael K. Higgins, City Clerk-Treasurer regarding Attachment and Temporary Zoning District Classification of Land in the Town of Somers.

It was moved by Supervisor Singer to approve the August 21, 2007 minutes. Seconded by Supervisor Faraone.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Supervisor Kessler to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Ron Johnson.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Prepared by: Pam Young
Chief Deputy
Submitted by: Edna R. Highland
County Clerk