

Organizational Committee Agenda
County Board Room, Polk County Government Center
100 Polk County Plaza
Tuesday, March 22, 2011 - 1:00 PM

Open Session

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of February 22, 2011 Minutes

Public Comments

Discussion of duties and responsibilities of County Board Chair

Review Policy 10 Revisions

Discussion of Committee Structure Reorganization

Discussion of staggered terms (if time permits)

Committee Observations

Set future meeting date

Adjournment

Committee Members:

Herschel Brown, Chair

Russell Arcand

William Johnson IV

Harry Johansen, Secretary

Larry Jepsen

Patricia Schmidt

Wendy Rattel, Vice Chair

This meeting is open to the public according to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.83. Persons with disabilities wishing to attend and /or participate are asked to notify the County Clerk's office (715-485-9226) at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting time so all reasonable accommodations can be made. Requests are confidential.

Minutes of Meeting

Polk County Organizational Committee
Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 1:00 p.m.
Board Room, Government Center
100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake, WI

Present: Herschel Brown, Larry Jepsen, Harry Johansen, William Johnson IV, Patricia Schmidt

Absent and excused: Wendy Rattell, Russell Arcand

Guests present: Bob Kazmierski, Dana Frey

Herschel Brown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

A motion to approve the Agenda, Johnson/Schmidt, carried.

A motion, Johnson/Schmidt, to approve the minutes of the meeting on February 22, 2011 with some minor corrections, carried.

Public Comment: Linda Leaf of the Renewable Energy Committee requested that the Organizational Committee meet with the Renewable Energy Committee to discuss future actions. Brown will schedule a meeting.

Duties and responsibilities of the County Board Chair – Schmidt expressed an opinion that the Chair should be compensated at a higher level than the present \$5000 per year salary because of the burden of attending many out of county meetings. Jepsen suggested the salary might be lower, but that meetings be more fully covered. Johnson will report at a future meeting on this topic and about in-county committee duties of the Chair.

Policy 10 – Frey distributed a draft of the compilation of the duties and responsibilities reports from all of the standing committees except the Golden Age Manor committee, which will finalize theirs at their meeting next week. Organizational Committee members are charged with reviewing the reports prior to the next meeting.

County committee structure/reorganization – Kazmierski reviewed his summary of the discussion at the last meeting. Schmidt presented a report of research she had done about the present committee structure. Jepsen presented the options he had formulated for a board of the current size. The committee discussed whether, in the current system, the departments and their governing committees are suitably aligned. Committee members are to review the current committee structure per Frey's summary distributed at the last meeting.

Discussion followed about how committees could be more efficient in the new era of the County Administrator:

Should we reduce the number of supervisors on standing committees?

How can committees operate more efficiently regarding the time supervisors spend in meetings?

What elements of current committee agendas are essential and what elements could be eliminated?

Consensus was reached that we should continue with five board members on standing committees to facilitate better discussions. Consensus was also reached that the present committee structure is good and to create super-committees might have too many negative aspects. The committee also agreed board members and department heads need to have a discussion about committee agenda items and committee responsibilities. Kazmierski will arrange for a professional development session for the board and department heads led by a specialist from the Extension Office to help in implementation of these ideas. The committee will review appointed committee memberships in a future meeting.

Staggered terms – A brief discussion led to the consensus that to try to implement staggered terms for County Supervisors would be impossible before state laws regarding it are changed.

Redistricting – The Organizational Committee will devote at least two meetings to the process to consider options it will receive from the County Clerk.

The next meeting of the Organizational Committee will be April 18 at 1:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn, Johansen/Johnson, carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Submitted by Harry Johansen, secretary