

Organizational Committee Agenda
County Board Room, Polk County Government Center
100 Polk County Plaza
Thursday, August 12, 2010, 2:00 PM

Open Session

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of July 8, 2010 Minutes

Public Comments

Redistricting outline – Carole Wondra

Cost of county Board in Past Years – Jeff Fuge

Size of County Board Discussion – Bob Kazmierski

Conveying Information to Public

Committee Observations

Set future meeting date

Adjournment

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
Thursday, August 12, 2010, 2:00 p.m.
Board Room, Government Center
100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake, WI

Present: Russell Arcand, Herschel Brown, Larry Jepsen, Harry Johansen, William Johnson, Wendy Rattel, Patricia Schmidt

Herschel Brown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

A motion to approve the Agenda (Johnson/Arcand) carried.

The minutes of the meeting on July 8, 2010 were approved (Schmidt/Jepsen).

Carole Wondra, Polk County Clerk, presented information about redistricting in the county and a timeline for the project. Wondra stressed pertinent timeline requirements for the committee:

- February, 2011, establish or re-affirm the size of the county board
- Early 2011, establish redistricting committee
- April, 2011, receive census data
- June, 2011, county board approval of redistricting plan

Greg Westigaard supplied information about the history of redistricting in Polk County.

Bob Kasmierski, Community Resource Director, UW Extension, presented "Options to Reduce the Size of the County Board" including the basics of Wisconsin Act 100, 2006, and four alternative board sizes, that is boards of 5, 9, 12, and 15 members, with the positive and negative aspects of each. He provided the committee with data on the sizes of the boards of all counties in Wisconsin and passed out a study done by Ozaukee County about re-sizing of their county board.

Jeff Fuge, Corporation Council, provided information about the annual costs of sustaining the Polk County Board since 1998 with explanations why the costs varied significantly from year to year.

The previous presentations led to a long discussion of how best to approach the issue of the size of the county board. Johnson will solicit information from St. Croix County about their recent discussions about downsizing. The committee agreed the task is too large in scope to handle with only one meeting per month.

The committee wishes to keep the public informed about the issue of the size of the county board and the process of our discussions. Pat Schmidt volunteered to write a series of articles for local papers to help citizens to understand the inherent problems associated with it.

The next meeting will be held on August 26 at 2:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn (Schmidt/Johansen) carried.

Submitted by Harry Johansen, secretary