

MANITOWOC COUNTY AD HOC COUNTY SALES TAX EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE
Communications & Technology Building
May 30, 2019

Attendance: Chair Jim Baumann, Supervisor John Brunner, Supervisor Paul Hansen, Supervisor Chuck Hoffman, Supervisor Rita Metzger, Supervisor Jon Neils, and Supervisor Ken Swade. Also in attendance: County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer, Corporation Counsel Peter Conrad, Supervisor Kevin Behnke, Supervisor Susie Maresh, and Supervisor Don Zimmer. County Board Chair Jim Brey and Supervisor Mike Williams were excused.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Baumann at 4:15 p.m.

Approval of the minutes of the April 30, 2019 Ad Hoc County Sales Tax Exploratory Committee meeting: Supervisor Brunner moved to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Supervisor Hansen. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda: Supervisor Hoffman moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Supervisor Neils. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Chairperson Baumann declared public comment open at 4:15p.m.

Maura Yost, Town of Centerville, wanted clarification on whether or not the County Executive would prevent the enactment of a sales tax if the Attorney General concludes that school districts can be excluded from sales tax revenue distribution.

No one else present wished to speak, subsequently Chairperson Baumann closed public input at 4:16 p.m.

Discussion and possible action on Resolution Requesting Corporation Counsel to Seek Attorney General Opinion: Chairperson Baumann opened discussion on the resolution. Supervisor Hansen informed the committee that he would not support the resolution because it would be a waste of time. He supported the Ordinance Chapter 33 County Sales and Use Tax as it read.

Supervisor Zimmer does not agree with excluding the school districts. If the school districts could be excluded, then we could pick and choose what municipalities could be excluded from the distribution based on the wording and who interpreted the statute. Corporation Counsel's opinion stands as the school districts need to be included in the distribution for the ordinance to be legal.

Supervisor Hansen appreciated Corporation Counsel's opinion, however there are Corporation Counsels are two counties, who distribute to municipalities only, which did not have a concern with excluding the school districts. Corporation Counsel Peter Conrad (CC Conrad) stated those Corporation Counsels did not issue a formal written opinion on the issue and do not represent Manitowoc County.

Chairperson Baumann mentioned it would be difficult to figure out the distribution amount for the outlying school districts. Another concern would be that half the sales tax distribution would go towards the school districts if they were to be included in the ordinance, which would leave minimal funds to distribute to the county and municipalities.

Supervisor Hoffman moved, seconded by Supervisor Neils to adopt Resolution Requesting Corporation Counsel to Seek Attorney General Opinion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried with 6 ayes and 1 no. The resolution will be brought to the County Board at the June meeting.

Discussion on Manitowoc County Half-Percent Sales Tax: Supervisor Swade questioned if the County were to keep 100% of the sales tax, would it be legal to apply half to road improvement and half to provide property tax relief. CC Conrad stated that it would be legal. The funds have to be applied to reduce the levy (property tax relief) or capital projects (non-operational expenses). It could be used towards debt reduction as well since the debt was incurred to procure capital projects.

Supervisor Hansen questioned if the sales tax funds were used to pay off debt, then those funds that would have been budgeted towards debt services could now be budgeted for operational expenses. CC Conrad mentioned that could be a possibility.

Supervisor Brunner mentioned the City of Two Rivers, City Manager Greg Buckley reported the City Council unanimously voted to support the half percent sales tax. They would have liked to have seen the distribution based on population rather than equalized value, but supported it regardless.

Adjournment: Supervisor Neils moved to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Hoffman and the motion passed unanimously. The committee adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Backus, County Clerk