

MARCH 9, 2010 SESSION
OF THE
WALWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Walworth County Board Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Chair Russell at 5:07 p.m. at the Government Center, 100 W. Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted and the following Supervisors were present: Vice-Chair Jerry A. Grant, Claudia J. Holst, Daniel G. Kilkenny, Joe Schaefer, Jim Van Dreser, David A. Weber, and Chair Nancy Russell; Supervisors Absent: Mark Bromley, Randy Hawkins, Kathy Ingersoll, and Rick Stacey.

- **Legislative Roundtable**

Representatives Scott Gunderson, Tom Lothian, and Steve Nass were present. State Senator Mary Lazich arrived at 5:25 p.m.

The Representatives each introduced themselves, gave an overview of the activity of the State Legislature over the past year, and also explained the current bills they are working on and the committees on which they are serving.

Representative Lothian stated that he will not be running for re-election this year. He said he has enjoyed his years of representing Walworth County in the State Legislature and as a Walworth County Board Supervisor.

Representative Gunderson discussed the bills he is working on. He said that we owe Tom Lothian a great deal of thanks for serving in the State Legislature and also as a prior member of the Walworth County Board. He said all of his colleagues appreciate what Tom has done for the County and State. Gunderson said that Senator Kedzie was on vacation in Florida and could not make the meeting tonight.

Representative Nass discussed his concern with the significance of the State debt. He said there are only six days left in the legislative session.

Senator Lazich arrived at 5:25 p.m. She said that they are nearing the end of the session which will end April 22, 2010 and any bills that have not passed both houses will be dead. She said she hopes we focus our attention on getting people back to work.

Supervisor Grant expressed his concern regarding American companies hiring people from overseas and not being able to understand them when a person calls for assistance. He wanted to know if there is a way to get those jobs back in the United States. Lothian said he did not think that would happen as it will interfere with trade. Gunderson said the business owners here have

to have a new mind set to get the jobs back. He said there are plenty who believe that the bottom line is all that matters. He said unless we keep jobs here, our economy will never be back the way it was. He said it will take strong leaders to say we have to keep those jobs here. Nass said we are in a world economy where things can be produced cheaper in other countries. Lazich said anything that can be reproduced cheaper has gone overseas. She thinks the U.S. can work on robotics. There is still a market for large manufacturing as that is too expensive to send overseas. We can retain one-of-a-kind items which are not mass produced. She said we have to nourish those markets where we have strength.

Supervisor Weber asked if there is a Legislative committee involved with the barriers we have for businesses. He said he has business colleagues who wanted to grow their businesses but couldn't get any help in training people so they shut down their business in Wisconsin and moved to Tennessee where there is a friendlier environment.

Supervisor Holst expressed concern about over-regulation. Supervisor Grant expressed concern over campaign finance.

Chair Russell thanked the Legislators for coming.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Grant, seconded by Supervisor Van Dreser, the Committee of the Whole adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Kimberly S. Bushey
County Clerk

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS
COUNTY OF WALWORTH)

I, Kimberly S. Bushey, County Clerk in and for the County aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the County Board of Supervisors Committee of the Whole for the March 9, 2010 meeting.