Legislative Committee Minutes
April 16, 2008, 9:00 AM

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Blake, at Delta Charter Township Hall on 4/16/08.

Present: Todd Blake, Chris Swope, Sharon Tischler, Kathy Dornan, Betty Morlock, Tonni Bartholomew, Terri Kowal, Janice Vedder, Heidi Isakson, Ann Marie Becker, Joan Raap, Bill Zaagman (Government Consultant Services) and Evan Hope (MAMC 3rd VP)

Absent: Ann Ulrich, Lorna Wilson and Susan Morrow

Agenda. The agenda was approved with the addition of “Discussion on HB 4774 & 5739.”

Minutes. The minutes of February 20, 2007 meeting were approved. The CEO minutes of February 20, 2008 were reviewed.

Early In-Person Voting

Kathy Dornan reported testifying against Representative Vagnozzi’s most recent version of his bill to allow for early voting. House Ethics & Election Committee Chair Corriveau was not pleased with the lack of coordination with local clerks as had been agreed on by Rep. Vagnozzi’s office and sent the bill back to sub-committee with stipulations that local clerks must be involved in the revised legislation.

Kathy noted that since the hearing, several clerks and herself coordinated the drafting of proposed legislation to change various sections of election law to allow “Early In-Person Voting.” She also noted “No Reason AV’s” would not be a part of the new bill, as to not bring too much opposition to the new bill.

Terri Kowal noted the MTA will support early in-person voting if its permissive, so as to not create a hardship of rural townships throughout the state.

Bill Zaagman suggested letting the legislature’s legal services office perform legal preparations of the proposed bill to ready it for legislative consideration.

Bill Zaagman – Government Consultant Services, Inc. & Review of Bill Matrix

Bill reported that is was unlikely that the Legislature will approve any legislation effecting the 2008 elections, whereas Representative Corriveau and Senator McManus have not been able to mutually agree on any issues the year. They both chair the committees on elections.

Bill briefly reviewed the following new bills, of which the Committee took the noted position on them:

- SB 1087 - Constitutional amendment to modify eligibility for circulator of a petition proposing a constitutional amendment, initiative of legislation or referendum of legislation (no position)
- SJR(K) 11- Requires a geographic distribution of signatures for filing a petition (no position)
- HB 5792 - Provide for pre-registration at 16 years of age (MAMC Supports)

Status of HB 4774 & 5739

Chris Swope asked Bill Z. if Sen. McManus’ Campaign and Election Oversight Committee has had any discussion on the approve House Bills. The House Ethics & Elections Committee tie-barred the two bills together and the House approved them. Both bills address MAMC priorities and simplify the voter registration and first time voter processes.

Bill reported there has been no discussion regarding consideration of the bills, but he’ll contact Sen. McManus to express MAMC’s concerns.
**Attendance and “Voting” Member Roll-Over**

Todd noted some committee member’s attendance continues to be a problem and their removal from the committee will be necessary for the benefit of the Legislative Committee.

Todd noted he’ll forward MAMC Standing Rules 27 & 28 and a proposed revision, to address the non-correlation of the two rules.

**New Business**

Janice Vedder requested MAMC Board members to consider making public service announcements to help make the public aware of the Association and its mission. She suggested hiring a public relations person/firm for some initial announcements, from which the Association could further expand on in the future. Todd noted he’d discuss it with the Board at their meeting scheduled later that day.

Tonni Bartholomew requested an early email notification of the next meeting agenda and minutes because some of the committee members will miss the next meeting, whereas they’ll be attending the IIMC Region meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:35 AM and the next meeting was scheduled for May 21st.

Respectfully,
Todd Blake, Committee Chair