



**Meeting:** Village Board  
**Meeting Date:** 02/25/13  
**Agenda Item:** 5g

**Mission Statement**

Delivering quality services in a courteous, cost-effective and efficient manner.

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## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING STAFF REPORT

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**REPORT TO:** Burt R. McIntyre, President  
Village Board of Trustees

**REPORT FROM:** Paul F. Evert, Village Administrator

**AGENDA ITEM:** Review and take action on the formation of a Legislative Agenda Committee

**ACTION REQUESTED:**  Ordinance  Resolution  Motion  Receive/File

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### **POLICY ISSUE**

Should the Village Board create a committee to make recommendations to the Board regarding legislative matters at the federal, state, and county level?

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At the January 28, 2013 Village Board meeting, Trustee Widiger referred the idea of creating a committee to make recommendations to the Board regarding legislative matters. The majority of communities around the state rely on the League of Municipalities to represent their interests on the state level. Previously a separate organization, The Wisconsin Alliance of Cities, represented most of the larger communities in the state.

Over the last two years, the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities was folded into the Wisconsin League of Municipalities and their previous members are part of a subgroup of the League called the Urban Alliance. However, the League does not always champion issues of immediate importance to the Village of Howard. For example, the Village is not allowed to participate in the state's Expenditure Restraint Program because the current mill rate in the Village is under \$4 per \$1000 of value. The League is in no position to champion a change in that program that would benefit the Village because it would be at the detriment to some of its current members. And in other cases, the League has supported legislation that is of concern to the Village when proposed as a separate piece of legislation, such as the bill last year that would have allowed billboard companies to relocate their signs almost anywhere they wanted to as part of a highway project, but when the legislation did not move forward there was no follow up to make sure it was not in the recently proposed state budget.

### **PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW**

The only prior action was the referral from Trustee Widiger.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

1. Is There A Fiscal Impact? No
2. Is it Currently Budgeted? No
3. If Budgeted, Which Line? No

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Village staff recommends the Village Board create Legislative Agenda Committee that consists of the Village Board President and two trustees appointed by the President and approved by the Board. Their mission would be to make recommendations to the Board on an annual legislative agenda and also make recommendations when legislation appears throughout the course of the year that could impact the Village. It is recommended that this committee be subject to a one-year sunset clause so its effectiveness is reviewed to see if it should be continued after one year.

If the Village Board agreed with this action, the following motion could be used, *“Motion to create a Legislative Agenda Committee that consists of the Board President and two trustees appointed by the Board President and approved by the Board whose objective shall be to recommend an annual legislative agenda and also make recommendations on new legislation that is introduced throughout the year. This committee would expire after one year unless renewed upon review by the Board.”*

### **POLICY ALTERNATIVE(S)**

The Village Board could take the following actions:

- Approve with revisions
- Deny the suggested motion
- Table the suggested motion and request additional information