VOTE

2018 RESOLUTION 74

Advisory Resolution in Support of Updating Statutory Provisions for Bidding Requirements, County’s Ability to Utilize Design-Build Construction Method and Public Private Partnerships

WHEREAS, the legislature could make three crucial reforms to ensure competition and efficiency within county public works projects: increased bidding thresholds, authorized design-build construction method, and improved public private partnership (P3) statutes; and

WHEREAS, after decades of bidding thresholds of $25,000, last session Senate Bill 236 would have increased bidding thresholds for all local governments and passed the State Senate on a bi-partisan voice vote, but failed to pass in the State Assembly; and

WHEREAS, with an increased bidding threshold to $50,000, Washington County could perform maintenance and other small projects on a quicker timeline; and

WHEREAS, additionally, while the State of Wisconsin may utilize the advantages of the design-build construction method on state-controlled building projects, Wisconsin counties are not authorized to use the method for construction projects; and

WHEREAS, under the design-build construction method, counties could contract with a single entity to provide both the design and the construction of a public work project as opposed to having those projects bid separately; and

WHEREAS, other advantages of design-build include enhanced creativity, guaranteed costs, faster project completion, improved risk management, fewer change orders and less administrative burden; and

WHEREAS, in addition to reforms to bidding threshold and design-build, the legislature could look to several Public-Private Partnership (P3s) models which exist throughout the nation on public works projects; and

WHEREAS, P3s are forward thinking and are used as a method to offer solutions to financing and job completion while mitigating the risk of government funds; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has looked for partnerships in public, private and quasigovernmental entities including Ozaukee County, City of West Bend, West Bend Mutual Insurance, Quad-Med, the History Center, and Fair Park; and

WHEREAS, improved statutory language and a larger emphasis on P3s ensure taxpayer resources are spent competently; and
WHEREAS, all three reforms are more tools into the belt of a “well administered and governed” county;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington County Board of Supervisors that it supports the concepts of Design-Build and Public Private Partnerships as long as competition in the marketplace is maintained.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Supervisors supports legislation that increases bidding thresholds and ensures local governments play by the same bidding rules.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Office of the Governor, legislators representing Washington County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Advisory Resolution supporting legislative changes regarding statutory bidding requirements, County's ability to utilize design-build construction method and public private partnerships.

APPROVED: Introduced by members of the PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE as filed with the County Clerk.

(signed by Bradley S. Stern) (signed by John H. Bulawa)
Bradley S. Stern, County Attorney John H. Bulawa, Chairperson

Dated 2/18/19
Considered 2/13/19
Adopted 2/13/19
Ayes 24 Noes 0 Absent 2
Voice Vote ________________

(Fiscal effect unknown at this time.)